



Federal Clean Water Act  
Section 319 Grant  
Tracking Code: 2002-0022



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## Upper Rabbit River Watershed Implementation Project

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002-December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006

The Upper Rabbit River Watershed Implementation Project has been a great success in Allegan County, Michigan. The goals of the Project were to develop and implement Township water quality ordinances, advance the Student Stream Monitoring Program and to install best management practices to reduce sedimentation in the Rabbit River. The Project's Land Use Planning Partnership with local municipalities was able to cost-share the adoption of a Riparian Overlay District Ordinance in 6 out of 6 Townships and 1 City within the Watershed, permanently protecting water quality in the Upper Rabbit River. The Project also partnered with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office to combine cost-share efforts with many producers in the Watershed to reduce sedimentation to the Rabbit River. Ten best management practices were installed by the Watershed Project and the local NRCS Field office. One of the largest sources of sedimentation to the Rabbit River is from agricultural fields.



Grant Amount: \$ 241,884  
Match Funds: \$ 86,617

Total Amount: \$ 328,501

### Best Management Practices:



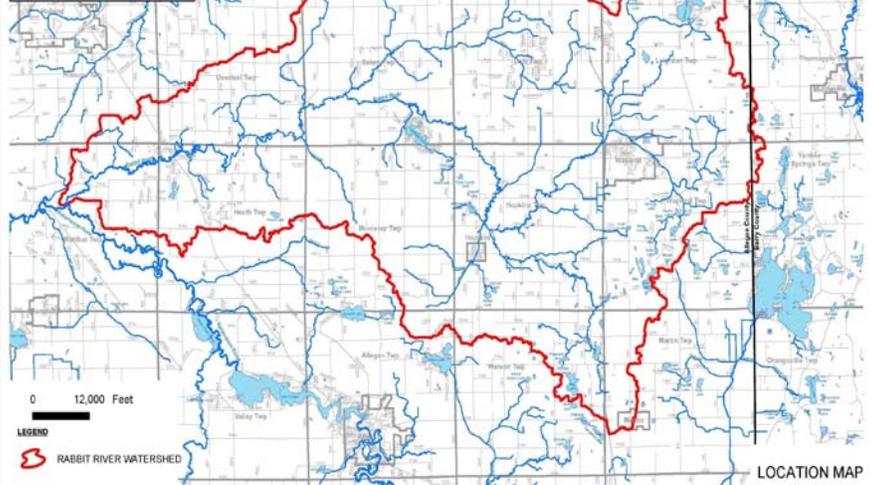
- 1 Rain Garden
- 1 Native Buffer Strip 1600' in length
- Cover Crops
- 1 Stream Bank Stabilization
- 4 Livestock Stream Crossings
- 2,000 Linear Feet Exclusion Fencing
- 2 Livestock alternate watering sources
- Planning Ordinances for Water Quality include - Funnel, Riparian Corridor, Floodway Regulations, Storm Water Standards, and Master Plan Update

### Annual Load Reductions:

- Sediment: 310 tons
- Phosphorous: 711 pounds
- Nitrogen: 607 pounds

### I&E Activities:

- Rabbit River Student Stream Monitoring Program
- Land Use Planning Seminars
- Water Quality Zoning Document
- How to Use a Watershed Management Plan for Land Use Planning Document
- Live Macroinvertebrate Education Booth (Eco Expo)
- Rabbit River Hoppings Newsletter
- Signage for the geographic boundaries of the Watershed and educational signs at applicable BMP sites



### Partners involved:

- Allegan County Drain Commissioner
- Allegan County Road Commission
- Allegan County MSUE
- Municipalities from the Watershed
- Allegan County Parks and Recreation
- Allegan County NRCS
- Local Township Planning Commissions
- Local Students and Teachers



Native Buffer Strip Planting/Pigeon Creek - Lake Monterey Golf Course, Dorr Michigan



Before: Native Buffer Strip Planting/Pigeon Creek.  
Lake Monterey Golf Course, Dorr Michigan



After: Native Buffer Strip Planting. Lake Monterey  
Golf Course, Dorr Michigan



Before: Dorr Township Park Stream Bank Erosion



After: Dorr Township Park Stream Bank Stabilization with rip-  
rap, seeding and native plugs.



Martin High School Student Stream Monitoring



Macroinvertebrate Education Booth (Eco Expo)