



\$319 Nonpoint Source Pollution

#2004-0169

Mill Creek Blitz

August 15, 2004 to June 30, 2007



Protecting the river since 1965

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Project Background: The recommendations of the Mill Creek Subwatershed Management Plan, approved by MDEQ and U.S. EPA in 2003, provided the direction for the activities of this 3-year project in the largest tributary to the Huron River. The Plan identified the following problems impacting the Mill Creek system in descending order of importance: altered hydrology/ high stormwater peak flows; excessive soil erosion and sedimentation; high nutrient load (phosphorus); and oil/grease/metals/brine/salt. The project focused on three areas: reducing excessive soil erosion and sediment load; implementing a coordinated information and education campaign; and gathering baseline information on current Mill Creek conditions to gauge project success and complementary activity success.

Grant Amount: \$ 204,600

Match Funds: \$ 105,900

Total Amount: \$ 310,500



HRWC volunteers search for macroinvertebrates in Mill Creek. Photo: HRWC

Huron River Watershed



Huron River Watershed (HUC 04090005) in Michigan



I&E Activities:

- Introductory mailer to all 7,000 households in the Mill Creek watershed
- 2006 Calendar with local events and clean water tips to all households
- Advertising on nonpoint source issues in four local newspapers
- Tip card on proper lawn care, on-site water retention and toxics disposal to all households
- A mailing sent to all households explaining the study results in detail
- Two trainings for residents and municipal staff on spotting and reporting violations of soil erosion and sedimentation laws
- Cover stories on the project in two issues of the Huron River Report
- Two half-day trainings for volunteer stream monitors
- Two presentations to residents and elected officials covering the results of the Mill Creek study



Best Management Practices:

- Site designs completed for two eroding sites on Mill Creek which will address 360 feet of eroding streambank cumulatively

Annual Load Reductions expected:

- 37 tons of sediment
- 33 pounds of phosphorus



Partners involved:

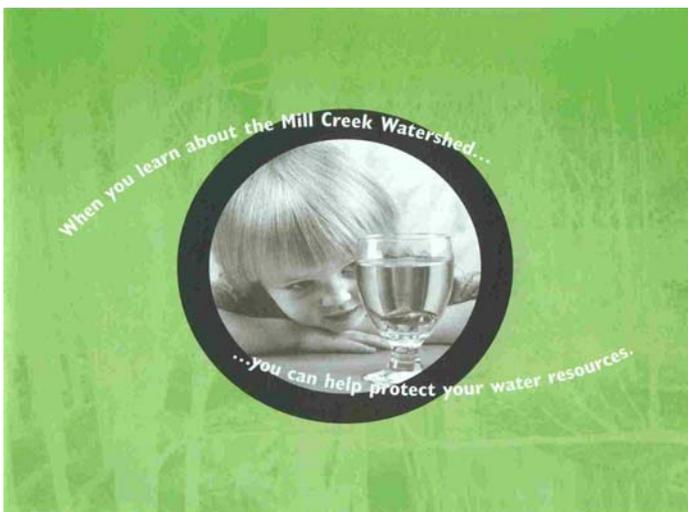
- Several hundred volunteers trained by the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC)
- Village of Dexter Wastewater Treatment Plant
- The Office of Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner Janis Bobrin
- The families of R. Heller and R. Fischer
- Christianson Design
- Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT)



(above) Site A: 180 feet of eroding streambank on the south branch of Mill Creek needs stabilization near Lima Center Rd., Lima Township, MI. photo: ECT



(above right and right) Site B: Another 180 feet of eroding streambank needs stabilization on the south branch of Mill Creek near Dancer Rd., Lima Township, MI. photos:



All households in the Mill Creek watershed received this introductory mailer about the simple ways to help protect local water resources. graphic: HRWC.



HRWC volunteers John Lillie and Don Rottiers perform stream flow monitoring in Mill Creek at Jerusalem Road. photo: HRWC.