



**Federal Clean Water Act  
Section 319 grant**  
2005-0108



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## Black River Watershed Implementation Project

April 2006 through September 2009

The Black River Watershed encompasses approximately 287 square miles in Allegan and Van Buren Counties. The Black River flows into Lake Michigan at South Haven. The overarching goal of this project was to implement holistic long-term protection and improvements to water quality in the Black River Watershed. The project met this goal by: 1) implementing storm water and stream bank best management practices in Lions Park in Bangor and Shady Brook Park in Bloomingdale; 2) providing many opportunities for information and education on water quality issues; 3) conducting land use planning review and outreach, after which eight communities committed to making changes to their master plans and/or zoning ordinances to make them more protective of water quality; and 4) developing land protection models to help guide preservation efforts in the future. The project also updated the watershed plan to meet federal Nonpoint Source Program standards.

**Grant Amount: \$360,089.83**  
**Match Funds: \$141,198.92**

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**Total Amount: \$501,288.75**

**Best Management Practices:**

- 1 recreational access site installed
- 1 culvert replaced
- 16,953 sq. ft. of porous parking surface installed
- 2 rain gardens installed (5,277 cu. ft)
- 1,325 linear ft. of streambank stabilized

**Annual Load Reductions:**

- 71.96 tons of sediment
- 85.12 lbs of phosphorus
- 290.05 lbs of nitrogen

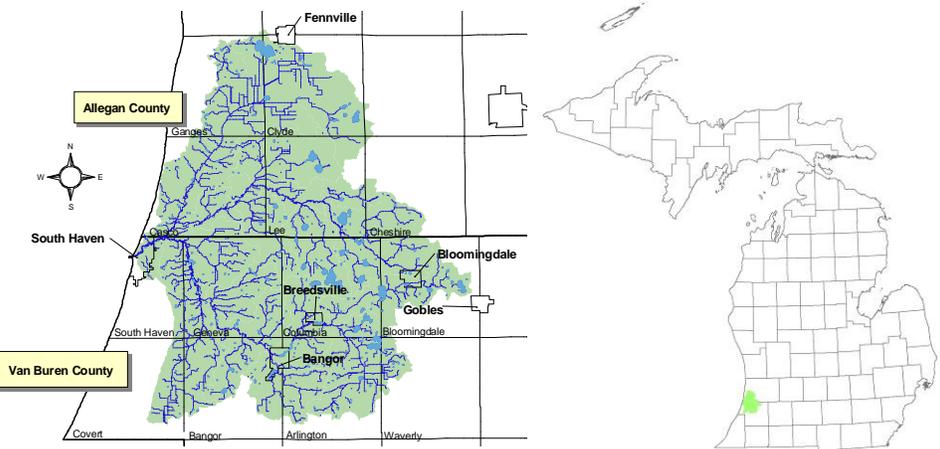


**I&E Activities:**

- Wrote and distributed watershed newsletters.
- Held 11 watershed workshops.
- Held 2 municipal summits.
- Marked storm drains in 3 communities.
- Maintained project website.

**Land Use Planning and Protection:**

- Land use planning review and recommendations for 4 communities.
- Developed a high quality natural area and agricultural conservation planning models.



**Partners involved:**

- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- MSU Extension
- Two Rivers Coalition
- Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
- City of Bangor
- Bloomingdale Township and Village
- ...and many more!



**Lion's Park, Bangor Before:** This public park had steep, eroding river banks. Additionally, the city's storm water flowed directly into the river.



**Lion's Park, Bangor After:** River banks were re-graded and replanted with native vegetation. A rain garden was installed to filter storm water.



**Shady Brook Park, Bloomingdale Before:** This public park had eroding stream banks and runoff from a large gravel parking lot.



**Shady Brook Park, Bloomingdale After:** BMPs installed at this site included a rain garden, tree revegetations, crushed concrete resurfacing of the parking areas, and a public access.

