



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**
2009-0061



Van Buren Conservation District

Telephone: (269) 657-4030

Fax: (269) 657-4925

Email: erin.fuller@mi.nacdnet.net

Paw Paw & Black Rivers Wetland Protection and Restoration

October 2009 through April 2013

This project builds off watershed management plans for the Paw Paw and Black River Watersheds, in which wetland protection and restoration was identified as key pieces in improving water quality in our watersheds. The project had three main focus areas:

- **Wetland Protection:** Grant funds and local match were used to permanently protect 874 acres (418.6 of which are existing wetlands).
- **Wetland Restoration:** 6.4 acres of land that had been drained in the past were restored to wetland conditions with grant funds. Project partners restored an additional 63 acres of wetland.
- **Outreach & Education:** Brochures, letters and other outreach materials were developed and distributed to educate landowners and municipalities about the importance of preserving and restoring wetlands. A variety of workshops and field days were also held.



Grant Amount: \$698,917.15
Match Funds: \$723,654.05

Total Amount: \$1,422,571.20

Best Management Practices:

- Conservation easements on 5 separate properties
- 874 acres permanently protected (418.6 of which are wetlands)
- 69.4 acres restored to wetland

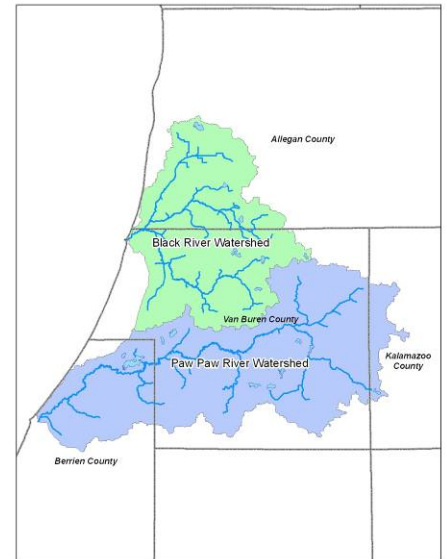
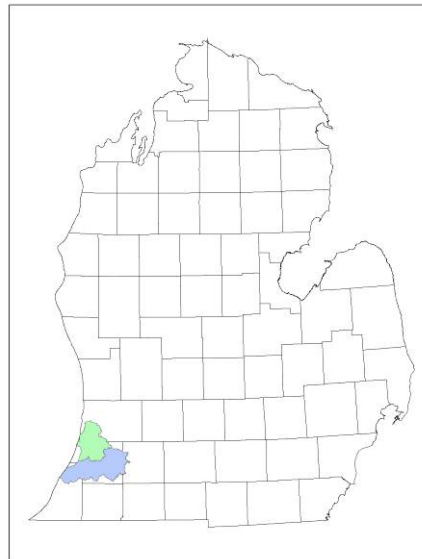
Annual Load Reduction/Prevention:

- Total suspended solids: 120,512 pounds/year
- Phosphorus: 138.3 pounds/year
- Nitrogen: 2,234.2 pounds/year



I&E Activities:

- Mailed letters/brochures to top 300 wetland landowners
- Held 8 workshops for landowners and municipal officials
- Held 20+ meetings with municipal officials
- Created a GIS-based wetland prioritization model
- Developed educational video clips
- Installed educational signage



Partners involved:

- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- Two Rivers Coalition
- Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
- Van Buren Co. Road Commission
- Landowners
- Ducks Unlimited
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Sarett Nature Center
- Harbor Shores
- Revolution Designs
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- And more!

Sora Meadows Wetland Restoration



April 2013



Sora Meadows Restoration, Before: This 60-acre property was donated to the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy. The property was a mixture of existing wetland and fallow farm fields, with significant potential wetland restoration area.



Sora Meadows Restoration, After: 6.4 acres of wetland were restored on this site and an additional 2.25 acres were restored on a neighboring property (with funding through the US Fish and Wildlife Service).



Camp Ronora Conservation Easement: Protects 210 acres and a variety of habitats, including fen, scrub-shrub wetland, forested wetland, emergent wetland, lake shoreline and forested uplands.



Eureka! Conservation Easement: Protects 341 acres of some of the highest quality floodplain forest in Southwest Michigan, as well as a 2.2 mile stretch of the Paw Paw River and frontage on several drains and ponds.



Hering Conservation Easement: Protects 16 acres and 1,000 feet of shoreline on Lower Jephtha Lake; adjacent to a 49-acre nature preserve.



Heuser Conservation Easement: Protects 71.5 acres of wetlands, forested uplands, natural shoreline and 2,600 feet of frontage along the Shafer Lake Outlet.