



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 funds
and CMI NPS funds**

2007-0142



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Pere Marquette Planning and Land Protection Project

February 1, 2008 - June 30, 2011

The Pere Marquette River is a State-designated Blue Ribbon Trout Stream and Natural River, and a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. The watershed encompasses an area of 755 square miles and contains 380 lineal miles of streams including 69.4 miles of main stem and over 300 miles of tributaries. The Pere Marquette River Watershed is comprised of five major streams including the main stem, the Baldwin River, Middle Branch, Little South Branch, and Big South Branch, and over 75 smaller feeder creeks. The Pere Marquette River flows through Lake, Mason, Oceana and Newaygo Counties, and enters Lake Michigan in Ludington.

The two goals of this project were to protect land and update the existing watershed management plan to EPA standards. The first goal was accomplished by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. In addition, a total of \$368,412 was utilized towards the processing and purchase of conservation easements on 239 acres in the riparian corridor, thus permanently protecting these lands from development. The second goal was accomplished by the Conservation Resource Alliance, The Watershed Center, the Pere Marquette Watershed Council, and the Land Information Access Association all working together with the greater Pere Marquette River Restoration Committee, which is made up of a combination of state, Federal and private organizations.

Best Management Practices:

- Permanent conservation easement on Smith property for 163 acres including 6,400 feet of river.
- Permanent conservation easement on Ohse property for 76 acres including 500 feet of river and creek.

Annual Load Reductions:

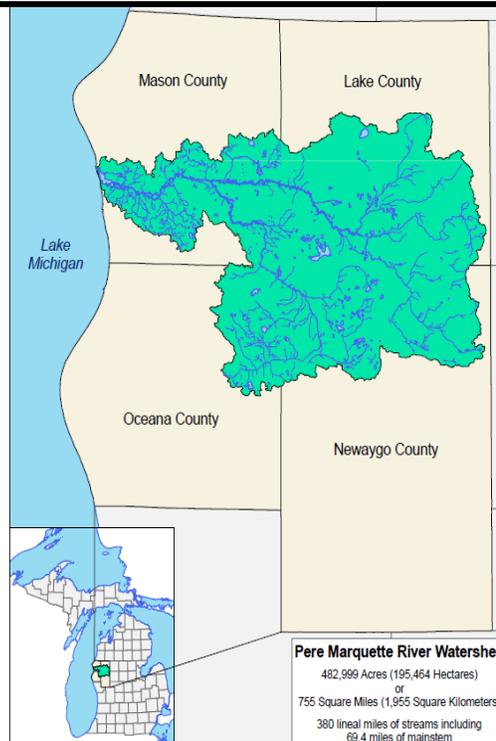
- Prevention of 16.01 tons of sediment from entering waterways.
- Prevention of 64.53 lbs of phosphorus from entering waterways.
- Prevention of 692.6 lbs of nitrogen from entering waterways.



Grant Amount: \$450,000.00

Match Funds: \$545,121.62

Total Amount: \$995,121.62



Partners involved:

- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- The Nature Conservancy
- Pere Marquette Watershed Restoration Committee
- Pere Marquette Watershed Council
- The Watershed Center
- West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
- Land Information Access Association
- Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality
- US Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Conservation Districts of Lake, Mason, Newaygo & Oceana Counties
- Road Commissions of Lake, Mason, Newaygo & Oceana Counties
- Local Townships and County Officials

I&E Activities:

- An information and education strategy was developed for the watershed plan.
- Twelve Restoration Committee meetings were held during which the management plan was discussed.
- Newsletter articles regarding land protection work were included in several organizations' newsletters.

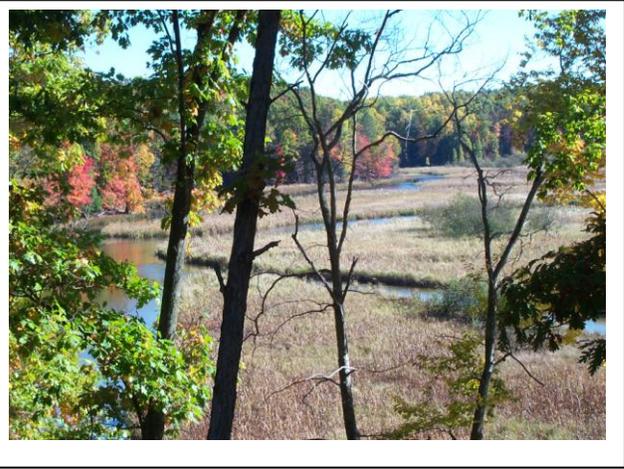


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Project Photos



The Smith property included 288 acres in the Pere Marquette riparian corridor. A conservation easement purchased for this land located near Ludington prevents development from occurring.



The Ohse property included 80 acres of upland and marsh along the Pere Marquette River, as well as part of Weldon Creek. A conservation easement on this land now protects it from development.



The Pere Marquette River Restoration Committee is a partnership of local, private, state and federal agencies and organizations that meets on a regular basis in an effort to manage and fund restoration activities in the Pere Marquette Watershed. The Pere Marquette Watershed Council is comprised of landowners and recreationists, and is an active member of this committee.