



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant
2009-0046



Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy

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South Branch Flint River Riparian Education Project

January 4, 2010 - December 31, 2012

Primary goals of this project were to deliver comprehensive education to communities within a priority subwatershed, building the community knowledge about water quality, and encouraging best practices such as private land conservation, native plant landscaping and buffers, and improvement of equestrian stream crossings. Educational programs reached the general public through three target audiences: local landowners and farmers, local governmental officials, and local school populations (children, teachers, and parents).

Grant Amount: \$75,300.00

Match Funds: \$37,000.00

Total Amount: \$112,300.00

I&E Activities:

This project created several products for educational use in the watershed.



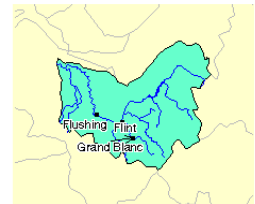
Created by Six Rivers staff:

- Planting plan and plant list for School Native Plant Garden and Earth Partnership for Schools curriculum basics
- A project poster used at both community events and Conservancy outreach events.
- 5 Quarterly newsletters, "Stream Currents", delivered via mail to riparian and agricultural landowners in the project focus area.

Created by EDCO, our educational consulting partner:

- 3rd grade curriculum materials including a "Fun Folder" aligned with Michigan Department of Education's Grade Level Content Expectations for 2010.

Flint River Watershed



Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy Conservation in the South Branch Flint Watershed



Springbrook Farm

Metamora Twp, Lapeer County



Freeman Farm

Metamora Twp, Lapeer County



Lake George Nature Park

Addison Twp, Oakland County

Partners involved:

Partners were critical to the success of this project. This project leveraged the professional capacity of local government agencies, universities, educational consultants, and design professionals. Some of our partners included:

- University of Michigan - Flint University Outreach
- EDCO Publishing
- Celeste Pollman, design professional
- USDA Lapeer Conservation District
- Flint River Watershed Coalition
- Oakland County Planning and Economic Development
- Kingsbury Country Day School
- The Chatfield School
- Oakland Wildflower Farm

Our partners supported this project in many ways - providing content for quarterly publications, providing design services, placing native plant gardens on school property, assisting the Conservancy with locations for our project survey interviews and public outreach events, and overall guidance for project outcomes, etc.

Social Indicators Study:

- Similar but separate surveys were mailed to selected farm households and riparian residential households in the watershed both before and after the project I&E activities.
- Some slight improvements were noted in attitudes and behaviors post I&E.
- Results indicate the riparian residential respondents were more aware of the appropriate BMPs than the farm respondents.
- The riparian residential respondents also ranked slightly higher than the farm respondents for general water quality attitudes and a willingness to take action.
- Constraints to changing behaviors and adopting key practices by the riparian residential respondents were slightly lower.
- A slightly higher percentage of riparian residential respondents are implementing BMPs.

Best Management Practices
(Outside the Grant Requirements):



- Six Rivers completed a 130 acre conservation easement, protecting wetlands, farmland, and 500 feet of South Branch Flint stream

Project Photos

Photos below depict outreach events which served as the best opportunity for public landowner interviews and our native landscape planting at Kingsbury School in Oxford, MI.



Plants labeled and ready for planting at Kingsbury School



7th & 8th grade students plant their butterfly Garden



Sara McDonnell, UM Flint-University Outreach staff discusses the watershed at Wild Lapeer at the Chatfield School in Lapeer.



The finished garden at Kingsbury School