

# Michigan Areas of Concern

## Project Highlight: Kalamazoo River



Portage Creek Toxic Source Reduction | July 2010-Dec. 2011

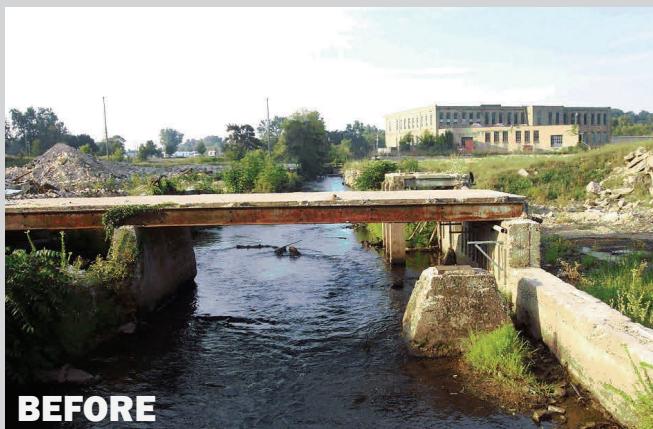
**Project Type:** Cleanup/Restoration  
**Location:** Kalamazoo County



**GLRI Funds:** \$3.3 Million  
**Local Match:** \$530,000

### Project at a Glance

This project restored habitat in an industrialized section of Portage Creek, a primary tributary in the Kalamazoo



**BEFORE**

River Area of Concern. Workers removed the deteriorating cement channel walls that held the creek in place and removed contaminated fill material from the upland floodplain area.

The project implemented a natural stream design and restored a floodplain with gentle slopes populated with native species. Workers also restored significant habitat for fish and important microscopic riverbed animals. This progress will contribute to the future restoration of three beneficial uses: Degradation of Benthos, Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations.

In addition, the project successfully eliminated the physical hazard of the cement walls, increasing property values in this urban stretch of Portage Creek. Projects like these demonstrate beneficial reuse of brownfields and create sustainable jobs in the community as well.

### Local Perspective

*"The Portage Creek relocation and naturalization work on the former Performance Paper property is the most transformative phase of work yet completed at the site. The effort changed the property from a dangerous nuisance with enormous tangles of piping, steel and concrete with a creek hidden within, into a valued community asset with scenic vistas and restored wildlife habitat. While additional site preparation work remains, the City of Kalamazoo and its Brownfield Redevelopment Authority remain committed to the eventual redevelopment of the property with enhanced open space, pedestrian/bike pathways and mixed-use developments."*

**-Jerome Kisscorni, Executive Director  
Kalamazoo Economic Development Corporation**



Portage Creek meanders following contaminant removal and liberation from its concrete channel. Native plantings along the shoreline provide habitat for wildlife.

### Partners:



Department of  
**Environmental Quality**  
PURE MICHIGAN



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