



## Paw Paw Priority Wetland Riparian Conservation

August 1, 2015 through December 31, 2018

The Paw Paw River Watershed, located in southwest Michigan, is part of the greater St. Joseph River Watershed and includes a combination of natural, agricultural, and urban land uses. To protect high quality natural areas and help restore areas of Ox Creek impaired by sediment and flow regime alterations this project built on strategic partnerships targeting limited resources. The project had four main focus areas, including permanently protecting 582 acres and 7 miles of stream frontage, implementing a rain garden in a highly urbanized area, developing a technical update to the Paw Paw River Watershed Management Plan highlighting green infrastructure priorities in the Orchards Mall area of Ox Creek, and providing education and outreach materials about wetland restoration/preservation and agricultural best management practices to landowners.

**Grant Amount: \$600,000.00**

**Match Funds: \$798,000.00**

**Total Amount: \$1,398,000.00**

### Best Management Practices:

- Conservation easements on 6 separate properties permanently protecting 7.2 linear miles of frontage on the Paw Paw River and it's tributaries, 334 acres of wetland, and 582 total acres.
- One rain garden treating over 4,000 cubic feet of urban runoff.

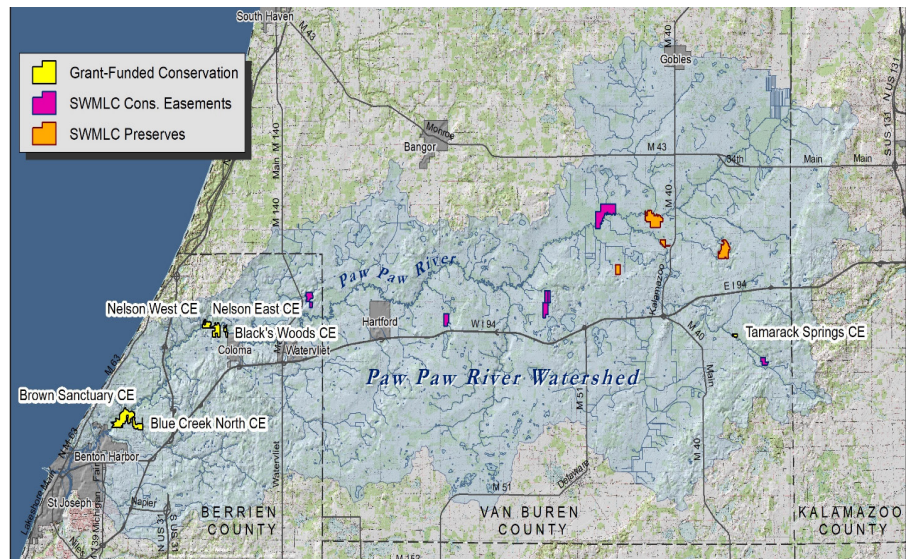
### Annual Load Reduction/Prevention:

- Sediment: 60 tons
- Phosphorus: 222.8 lbs
- Nitrogen: 1,806.1 lbs



### I&E Activities:

- Mailed letters/brochures to priority agricultural landowner/producers
- Held 3 field days/workshops for agricultural landowners
- Developed presentation display board highlighting target areas and best management practices
- Held follow-up visits with over 35 land owners, securing 3 MAEAP verifications



### Partners involved:

- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- Two Rivers Coalition
- Berrien Conservation District
- Private Landowners
- Wightman Associates
- Sarett Nature Center
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- And more!





**Black's Woods Conservation Easement:** This 35-acre easement permanently protects property owned by Sarett Nature Center. It has 3,400 feet of frontage on the Paw Paw River, and consists of a combination of wooded upland forest and critical forested floodplain.



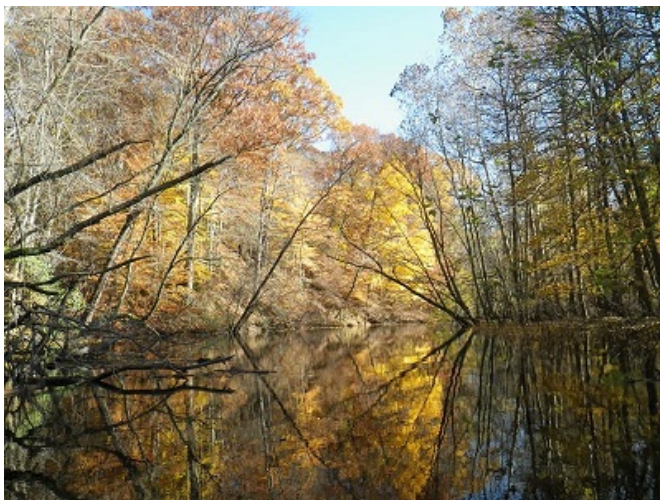
**Blue Creek North Conservation Easement:** 81 acres with over a mile of frontage along Blue Creek with a mix of upland fringe forest, old field, scrub-shrub, floodplain forest, and emergent wetlands.



**Brown Sanctuary Conservation Easement:** Permanently protects 280 acres of mature oak ravine forest, upland prairie and Great Lakes marsh habitat, with 3 miles of frontage along the Paw Paw River and Blue Creek.



**Nelson East Conservation Easement:** Protects 72 acres with nearly 1 mile of frontage on the Paw Paw River, 18 acres of high-functioning wetlands with southern floodplain forest, and oak-hemlock riparian bluffs.



**Nelson West Conservation Easement:** Protects 88 acres of upland and wetlands, including 1.3 miles of frontage on the Paw Paw River, nearly 60 acres of high-functioning wetlands – the majority classified as southern floodplain forest.



**Tamarack Springs Conservation Easement:** Protects 26 acres of upland and wetlands, including frontage along the East Branch of the Paw Paw River, 5 acres of wetlands, and mixed hardwood forest and savanna remnant with high-quality botanical species.