



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319**
2000-0018



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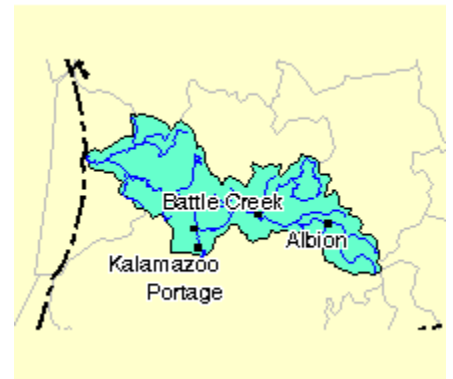
Upper Rabbit River Watershed Project

May 15, 2000 through January 31, 2003

The Upper Rabbit River Watershed is a 91,000 acre watershed in rural northeastern Allegan County. Water quality impairments include degraded indigenous aquatic habitat and biotic diversity, reduced fish populations, excessive nutrients and high flow. This project resulted in the development of a watershed management plan that met the Clean Michigan Initiative watershed planning criteria. The project held monthly meetings with partners, developed a presentation, 4 newsletters, a brochure, and elementary educational activity sheets. Outreach displays were held at 4 locations, school visits made at 4 schools and public presentations made at one lake association.

Grant Amount: \$ 116,400
Match Funds: \$ 15,100

Total Amount: \$ 131,500



I&E Activities:

- Volunteer water quality monitoring programs
- Stream/pond workshop
- Student Stream Science Program
- Distribution of "Rabbit River Hoppenings" Newsletters, brochures
- Articles appearing in MSU Extension and GREEN Newsletters
- Newspaper articles
- Multiple school presentations
- Monthly stakeholder meetings



Partners involved:

- Ebersole Environmental Center
- Allegan County Math and Science Center





Field Erosion in Hopkins Township, 18th St. :
 One of the sites identified in the Watershed Management Plan as contributing a large amount of sediment to the Upper Rabbit River.



Wayland New Directions Program, Red Run Drain at North Dorr Park:
 Students sample and identify macroinvertebrates. Numbers and types are recorded to quantify stream condition and water quality.



136th Avenue in Heath Township exhibits signs of excessive erosion and was identified in the Watershed Management Plan as a priority site for corrective measures.



Livestock Exclusion site with little or no buffer
 The water quality problems associated with unlimited livestock access can be solved by a simple system of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Several such sites were identified in the Watershed Management Plan.