



Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source 319 Grant

2002-0021



Hillsdale Conservation District

Contact: Robin Ryan

Phone: 517-849-9890

Email: robin.ryan@mi.nacdnet.net

Hog Creek Watershed Planning Project

October 21, 2002 - June 30, 2005

The Hog Creek Watershed covers 68,928 acres or 108 square miles. The Hog Creek originates in Hillsdale County and flows into Branch County following a north-westerly course. The watershed is ultimately a tributary of Lake Michigan, which underscores the importance of protecting its water quality. Although the Hog Creek does not appear on any of the state's impaired water lists, a comprehensive watershed management plan was developed in response to the concern expressed by long time residents that the quality of the natural resources throughout the watershed is declining. Some of the pollutants that have been documented include sediment and nutrient run-off from uncontrolled livestock access, agricultural and residential locations. The goal of the comprehensive watershed management plan is to protect and improve the water quality of the Hog Creek Watershed.

Grant Amount: \$ 166,842

Match Funds: \$ 24,596

Total Amount: \$ 191,438

I&E Activities:

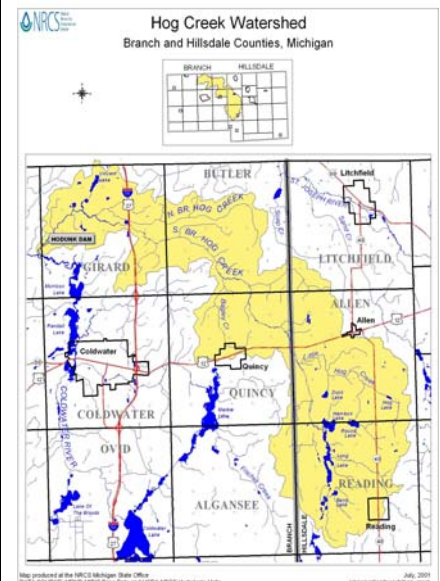
- * Two-year, full-color informational calendar
- * Amish Field Day
- * Aquatic Weed Workshop
- * Forestry Workshop
- * Wetlands Workshop
- * Native Plant Workshop
- * In-school water quality presentations (over 1000 students reached)
- * Developed website - www.hillsdalecd.org/index.html
- * Quarterly newsletters to target audience
- * Full-color display board used at various venues
- * Farmers Day- Branch County
- * Informational Meetings for general public input
- * Interactive Fair Displays
- * Informational Brochures
- * Media Releases
- * Streambank Stabilization Project (Berry LK.)
- * DVD developed of Berry Lake Project
- * Natural Resource Inventory conducted in Reading Township resulting in current development of Master Plan

Project Objectives

- * *Generate a written Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.*
- * *Prepare a detailed watershed inventory and land use analysis*
- * *Identify and prioritize non-point source pollutant and, their sources and sites.*
- * *Determine and map the critical areas of non-point source pollution, target as priority.*
- * *Identify and prioritize Best Management Practices*
- * *Develop public education programs*
- * *Coordinate roles of cooperating resource agencies*

Partners involved:

- *Hillsdale Conservation District
- *Branch Conservation District
- *Potawatomi RC&D Council
- *Hillsdale Road Commission
- *Hillsdale Drain Commission
- *Branch Road Commission
- *Branch Drain Commission
- *MSU-Extension-Hillsdale
- *MSU-Extension-Branch
- *County Health Dept.
- *Village of Reading
- *Reading Township
- *Branch County GIS
- *Kellogg
- *Butler Township





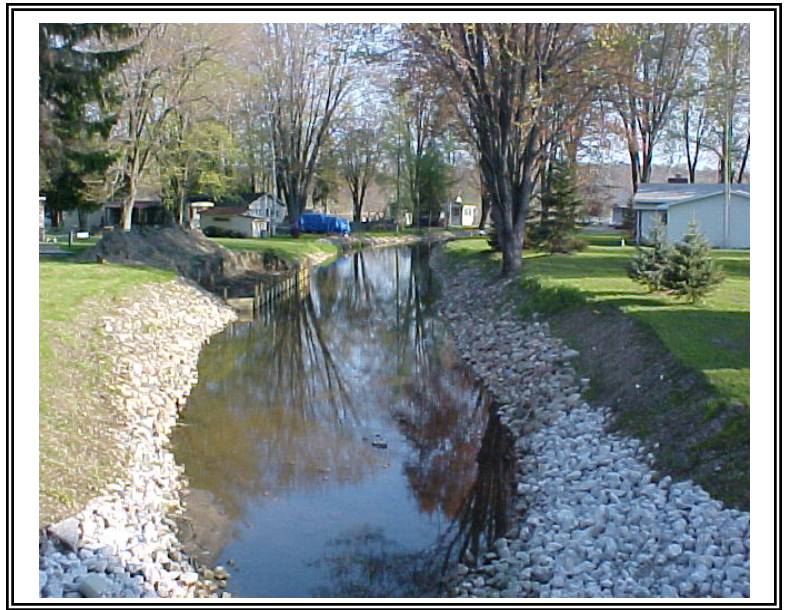
As a spin-off of this planning project, the Hog Creek Watershed Project partnered with Berry Lake residents in an educational streambank stabilization and sediment reduction project. The project took place in the fall of 2004. The inlet of Berry Lake was receiving over 400 tons of sediment per year.

Berry Lake had a seventy foot sediment plume extending into the lake. Lake residents feared water quality was greatly degrading. The lake residents and Reading Township joined the project and contributed over \$30,000 in match funds.





The upstream section of the Berry Lake inlet after stabilization and the placement of a rock weir took place.



The project was a grand success. More work up stream is in the planning stages to be completed through other agency programs and funding. To view a DVD documentary of the Berry Lake Project please access:
<http://www.hillsdalecd.org/index.html>