



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

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Mona Lake
Watershed Project
Muskegon, MI

Mona Lake Watershed Management Plan Project

Johnny O. Harris Park Demonstration Project
"A Day in the Park" - May 4, 2005

The Mona Lake Watershed Council was awarded a \$167,571 Clean Water Act Section 604(b) planning grant (#2004-0116) in October 2004 to develop a watershed management plan for the Mona Lake Watershed. Several small-scale demonstration projects were included in the project to address watershed impairment issues while incorporating information and education (I&E) activities. The Mona Lake watershed is a mix of rural-residential and agriculture use in the upper watershed, rural-residential and industry in the middle watershed, and commercial and urban-residential in the lower watershed. The primary impairments to the watershed are a result of sedimentation, high nutrients, stormwater runoff, pathogens, and contaminated sediments. Through the I&E incorporated into our demonstration projects, we are increasing awareness of the watershed impairments and engaging people to do more in their community and on their own properties to reduce nonpoint source pollution. This is one of four project fact sheets.

Project Highlights:

- Planted trees/shrubs/native grass & wildflowers for nutrient uptake, stormwater filtration, and erosion reduction adjacent to Little Black Creek
- Had 5th graders from Muskegon Heights Elementary School and juniors & seniors from Hudsonville High School working together for "A Day in the Park"

I&E Activities:

- 35 students and their teachers, Yale Lift-Tech, Muskegon Heights city officials, MDEQ, and Grand Valley State University staff participated in the event
- Students learned about water quality in the creek, how to use invertebrates to gauge stream health, why buffer zones around streams/creeks are important to reducing nonpoint source pollution, and how they can protect their environment.
- Post-event evaluation



Clockwise from top left: Netting and identifying invertebrates; planting trees and shrubs in the new creek buffer area; water quality testing; wildflower and native grass planting to stop erosion; "I helped keep our water clean" T-shirts given to all students by sponsor Yale Lift-Tech; unveiling of new safety signs developed through a poster contest warning of creek pollution.

Plan Project
Johnny O. Harris Park Demonstration Project
Before & After Photos

BEFORE



Riparian area on the northwest side of Creek

AFTER



Riparian area on the southwest side of Creek



Hillside erosion on west side of creek

