



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**
2006-0101



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White River Watershed Planning Project

November 1, 2006 - August 31, 2009

The White River Watershed is located in west central Michigan and is approximately 83 miles long from its start in northeastern Newaygo County to its mouth at White Lake and, eventually, Lake Michigan. It is oriented in a southwesterly direction and covers 344,166 acres. The watershed spans three counties: Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana. The White River is divided into two branches, the North Branch and the South Branch. The North Branch has headwaters in central Oceana County while the South Branch originates in eastern Newaygo County.

The goal of this project was to reduce the negative impact that nonpoint source pollutants are having on the watershed through the development of a stakeholder-driven watershed management plan. To develop a meaningful, effective plan for the watershed, a dedicated group of local volunteers was intimately involved in its creation. These partners put in more than 300 hours of time to develop this management plan. They are committed to carry out goals and objectives outlined in the plan to protect the White River Watershed.

Grant Amount: \$154,823
Match Funds: \$24,195

Total Amount: \$179,018

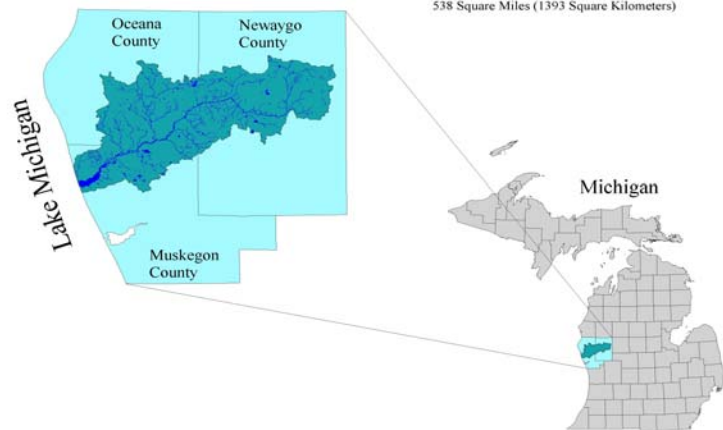
I&E Activities:

- A watershed survey was mailed out to 2,507 property owners in the watershed. Representing a 21.5 percent response rate, 538 surveys were returned.
- A Social Profile, and Information and Education Strategy were developed for the watershed management plan.
- Six newsletter articles about the project were included in the White River Watershed Partnership newsletter.
- Two project presentations were given at annual meetings of the White River Watershed Partnership.
- A website was created for the project (<http://gvsu.edu/wri/isc>).



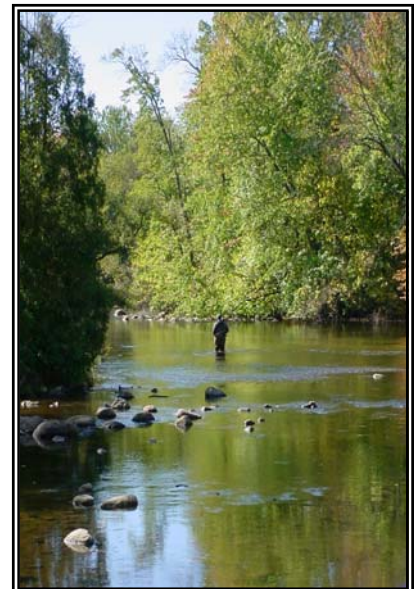
White River Watershed

344,166 Acres (139,279 Hectares)
or
538 Square Miles (1393 Square Kilometers)



Partners involved:

- Center for Environmental Study
- White River Watershed Partnership
- White Lake Association
- White Lake Public Advisory Council
- Muskegon Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- US Forest Service





Monitoring of fish and insects were completed for this project in a top ranked critical area.



For a watershed management plan to be successful there needs to be a dedicated group of local people involved in its creation. This involvement will ensure long-term success. In developing the White River Watershed Management Plan there were several committed individuals from the White River Watershed. Pictured from left to right: Mary Fales (MDEQ), Jay Peasley (White River Watershed Partnership), Tom Hamilton (White River Watershed Partnership/White Lake Public Advisory Council), Rich O'Neal (MDNR), Tom Thompson (White River Watershed Partnership), Phil Dakin (White Lake Association), Ray Schinler (White River Watershed Partnership). Not pictured: Jeff Auch (Muskegon Conservation District), Kelly Bishop (White River Watershed Partnership/NRCS), Terry Clark (White River Watershed Partnership), Dave Cordray (White River Watershed Partnership), Jim Cordray (White River Watershed Partnership), and Tom Walter (US Forest Service).