



Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund Grant
Tracking code #2006-0137



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Water Quality Management Division

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Grow Zones Across the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

October 1, 2007 through November 30, 2009

The primary purpose of the *Grow Zones Across the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds* was to implement Green Infrastructure improvement projects and low impact development best management practices (BMPs) at project sites along the waterways within the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW), a Phase 2 storm water area. The watershed area is 203 square miles. The predominant land use is single-family residential. Woodland and wetland areas comprise the second largest category. The project goals were to reduce nutrient loading and sedimentation by increasing infiltration, filtration and evapo-transpiration. Objectives included construction of 10 projects sites creating up to 25 acres of new grow zone area with woody debris management, as appropriate, and involving 80 people in the installations.

The plantings ranged in size from 800 square feet to 3 acres. Approximately 5.71 acres of native plant grow zones were installed in various locations across the ADW. Over 2,200 feet of riparian buffer were planted at three of the sites. Three sites were schoolyard habitats, three were native plant meadows within public parks and one site was a native plant garden adjacent to a municipal building. Approximately 573 staff and volunteers participated in the planting day events at the various sites. A total of 2,120 plants, 281 pounds of low profile native plant seed and 39 pounds of wet to mesic native plant seed was procured for the grow zone plantings. Two Detention Pond Maintenance workshops were held in the ADW communities. The Detention Pond Maintenance Manual was revised, reproduced and distributed to all the ADW communities. A Green Infrastructure display was created and staffed at the Downriver Operations Managers (DROM) 1st Annual Expo. Grow Zone Signs were procured and delivered to each of the site coordinators for installation at the grow zone sites. Baseline physical and biological data was gathered to help evaluate success and progress of watershed restoration efforts.

Grant Amount: \$ 163,200
Match Funds: \$ 163,200
Total Amount: \$ 326,400

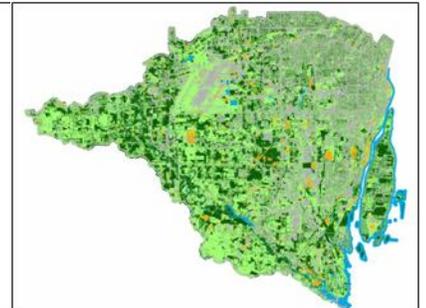


Project Accomplishments:

- 5.71 acres of native plant grow zones
- 2,200 feet of riparian buffer
- 3 school yard habitats
- 513 volunteers
- 2,120 native plants were planted
- 281 pounds of low profile prairie seed mix; 39 pounds of wet to mesic seed mix
- 26 12" X 18" metal Grow Zone signs and 70 5" X 8" plastic Boundary signs were delivered to the site coordinators.
- 2 Detention Pond Maintenance workshops
- Participation in 1st annual Downriver Operations Managers Expo. A new Green Infrastructure display was created.

Project Partners

Alliance of Downriver Watersheds
Friends of the Detroit River/Detroit River Keeper
Huron River Watershed Council
Stream Teams/ Downriver Citizens for a Safe Environment
Dearborn Heights Watershed Steward Commission
OW Best Middle School
Village of South Rockwood
International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
Wilson Middle School, Wyandotte
Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
City of Riverview
City of Flat Rock
Woodhaven/Brownstown School District





ADW GZ—5 Frank & Poet Riparian Buffer Before: This 500 foot site is a turf grass flood plain along the Frank & Poet Drain. A steep three-foot bank was cut back to a gradual slope and stabilized in anticipation of additional seeding and planting.



ADW GZ—5 Frank & Poet Riparian Buffer After: 17,000 square feet of both wet to mesic and low profile prairie seed mix along with five each of eight different shrubs make up this native plant riparian buffer. This buffer will now increase the reduction of storm water runoff and creates additional wildlife habitat in this urban setting.



ADW GZ—1 O.W. Best Middle School Before: This is a 1,600+ square foot mowed turf grass courtyard in the center of a school. There is a storm manhole in the center of this courtyard.



ADW GZ—1 O.W. Best Middle School Before: This school yard habitat is made up of 354 of 13 types of Michigan native plants. The school's science classrooms overlook this courtyard giving the students the opportunity to observe the new wildlife attracted to this area. This grow zone has reduced the cost of turf grass mowing and will act as an example of natural rainwater management.