



Michigan's  
Nonpoint Source  
Program

Clean Michigan Initiative  
Nonpoint Source Grant  
Tracking #: 2007-0150



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## Lower Muskegon River Watershed Critical Land Mapping and Easements Project

October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010

The Lower Muskegon River Watershed covers 2,725 square miles in Newaygo and Muskegon Counties before emptying into Lake Michigan. The entire Muskegon River is the second longest river entirely within the state and faces many development pressures because of its close proximity to the second largest state metro area of Grand Rapids. As a result of this project, three permanent conservation easements now protect important land critical to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and views accessible to the public. Critical mapping, done by Annis Water Resources Institute (GVSU), allowed the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to focus on the parcels important to the lower watershed.



Grant Amount: \$ 770,600.00

Match Funds: \$1,031,100.00

Total Amount: \$1,801,700.00

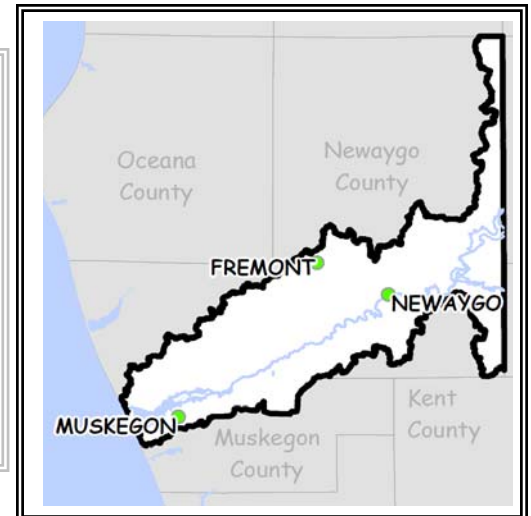
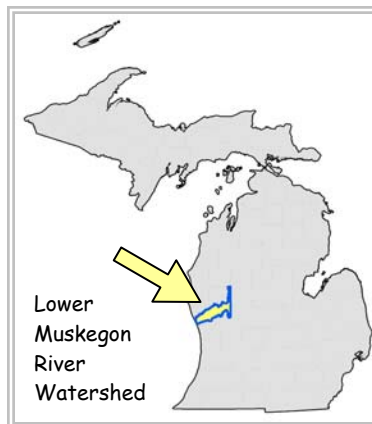
### Best Management Practices:

- 3 Permanent Conservation Easements covering 427 acres and 3.5 miles of mainstem Muskegon River frontage.



### Annual Load Reductions:

- Sediment: 28.61 Tons
- Phosphorus: 115.29 pounds
- Nitrogen: 1,238.3 pounds



### I&E Activities:

Concurrent with but outside the scope of the grant:

- Land Protection information was supplied to all landowners within "High Priority Conservation Areas."
- Tour of conservation easement properties will occur in summer 2010 to encourage others to participate.
- Maps produced from project will continue to be used for years for additional outreach and education.



### Partners involved:



The Nature Conservancy   
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



The Muskegon River from the Croton Dam downstream to the city of Newaygo is the area of all three permanent conservation easements. This area is frequently used by fisherman and is also heavily used by recreationists in the summer months. Its high water quality attracts many wildlife and fish species.



The three conservation easements protect many smaller creeks and wetland areas before they flow into the Muskegon River. By protecting these areas from unmanaged development, thermal pollution, erosion and runoff are greatly reduced.



Wetland areas and lack of development surrounding them are imperative for water quality and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed. Conservation areas, including wetlands and tributaries are continuing to be targeted for protection.