



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**

Tracking Code #2015-2016



**Land Conservancy
OF WEST MICHIGAN**

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Duck Creek Protection, Information & Outreach

January 1, 2016 - August 31, 2019

The 13,952 acre Duck Creek watershed is located within two townships of Muskegon County. Major tributaries include Scholes Creek and Duck Creek, which converge and feed into Duck Lake, a drowned river-mouth lake that drains into Lake Michigan via a narrow channel. Water quality in the watershed is generally good but rising water temperature and sediment loads in Duck Creek threaten the cold-water fishery and partial and full-body contact recreation. This is especially important as Duck Lake State Park provides swimming beaches on Duck Lake and Lake Michigan. The goal of this project was to protect Duck Creek watershed's water quality with both riparian land conservation and watershed education tools. The Muskegon Conservation District worked with residents and two townships to educate watershed residents and to include resource protection in master plans and zoning ordinances. The Land Conservancy worked with Fruitland Township to encourage preservation of their 300-acre undesignated property at the confluence of the major tributaries. The Township is developing ordinances to encourage recreational use and conservation of this property.

Grant Amount: \$ 56,800
Match Funds: \$ 17,800
Total Amount: \$ 74,600



I&E Activities:

- Developed and distributed information packets for riparian landowners in watershed focusing on best management practices.
- Worked with Fruitland and Dalton Townships to develop water quality protection language for use in master plan revisions.
- Increased water quality awareness through new Duck Creek Watershed Assembly website content, newsletter distribution, and newspaper articles
 - Brought in National Park Service's Rivers & Trails Conservation Program to assist Fruitland Township in planning for recreation and conservation of 300-acre natural area.
 - Fruitland Township drafting ordinance establish opportunities for public recreational use of property.



Partners involved:

- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- Muskegon Conservation District
- Duck Creek Watershed Assembly

