



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

2013-0018

**Federal Clean
Kent Conservation
Section 319**



**Water Act
District**

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Flat River Watershed Planning Project

February 10, 2014 through March 31, 2017

The Flat River Watershed Management Plan lists prioritized Recommended Action Items for five different geographical areas in the 564 square mile watershed that drains into the Lower Grand River Watershed. It includes a compilation and assessment of new and existing chemical, physical, biological, and social watershed data. Sixteen Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12's are listed as impaired by *E. coli* in the 2016 Integrated Report, and one HUC 12 has an *E. coli* TMDL. Other pollutants, including sediment, nutrients, increasing water temperatures, and altered hydrology impact the watershed. Generally, the goal of the Watershed Management Plan is to establish a strategy to manage the watershed as an asset that supports a diversity of native species, maximizes residents ability to use and enjoy the watershed, meets the water quality designates uses, and is aesthetically pleasing.

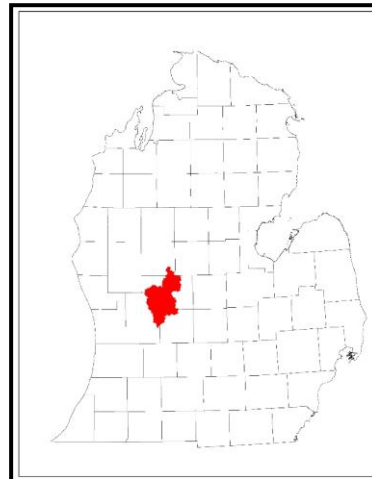
Grant Amount: \$236,700.00
Match Funds: \$93,600.00
Total Amount: \$330,300.00

Project Highlights:

- Conducted windshield surveys
- Monitored *E. coli* concentrations in 2014
- Utilized canine scent tracking and microbial source tracking analysis in 2014 & 2015
- Mapped priority conservation and restoration areas
- Conducted 13 municipal zoning ordinance reviews within the Natural River Area
- Developed Area Management Plans with specific prioritized recommendations for five geographical areas within the Watershed

I&E Activities:

- Conducted social survey of residents and farmers
- Flat River Watershed Council Quarterly Newsletter
- Hosted five public meetings to gather the community's water quality observations and concerns
- Developed I&E Strategy
- Developed and launched website
- Established Facebook Page
- Started Mail Chimp Account and mailing list



Locational maps of the Flat River Watershed in the West Central portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula

Partners involved:

- GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute
- Ionia Conservation District
- Flat River Watershed Council
- Kent County Health Department
- Mid-Michigan District Health Department
- Montcalm Conservation District
- Montcalm County Commissioners
- Public Sector Consultants
- Streamside Ecological Services
- Timmermans Environmental Services
- Watershed Townships and Cities
- Kent Conservation District
- Land Conservancy of West Michigan



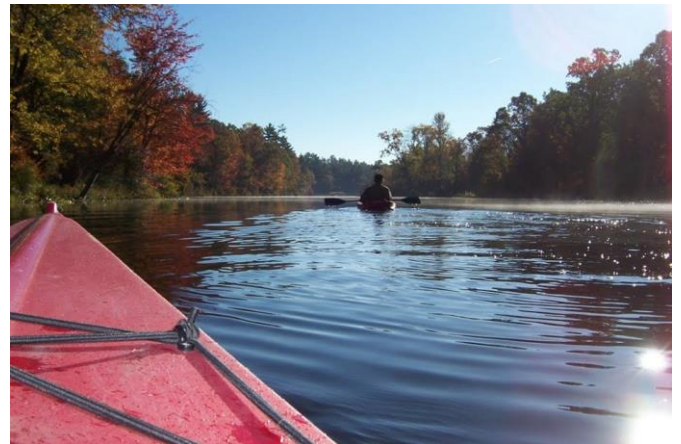
The Flat River Watershed Council River Cleanup in Lowell, Spring 2016.



Public Meeting held in the Six Lakes Area of the Flat River Watershed. Attendees provided valuable input on watershed conditions and lifelong trend observations of the watershed and are interested in having more watershed information.



The Flat River photographed from the Smyrna Bridge. The Natural Rivers Act, where adopted, helps protect a 400 foot corridor on either side of the river in designated areas.



Kayakers enjoying the Flat River. Many stakeholders expressed interest in developing a water trail along the Flat River from Greenville to Lowell.