EGLE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

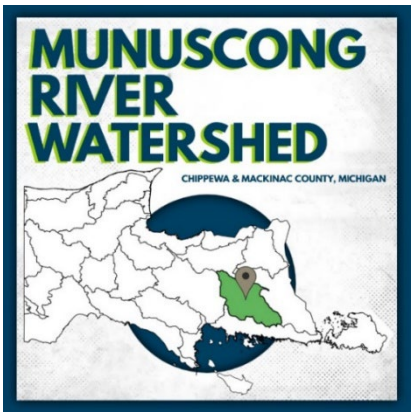
NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

Munuscong River Watershed Support Project

July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022

Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District

Sault Sainte Marie, MI



KEY PARTNERS

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Lake Superior State University
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Geotechnical Engineers Inc. Consultants of Michigan, P.C.
- Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission

FUNDED BY

EGLE Nonpoint Source Program Watershed Council Grant

Tracking Code #2021-0214

Grant Amount: $40,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Munuscong River Watershed is located in the Eastern Upper Peninsula covering 119,800 acres of Chippewa and Mackinac Counties. The Munuscong River helps support a healthy walleye, salmon, and perch fishery. This project supported the Munuscong River Watershed Manure/Nutrient Management Project, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in reducing sediment and nutrient loading into surface waters, and repairing damaged riparian ecosystems in the Munuscong River watershed. Much of the damage arose from a history of poor agricultural practices and land development. The Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District provided conservation planning and best management practice (BMP) implementation on three sites. Cumulatively, EGLE funding has contributed to the protection 9,415 feet of the Munuscong River, the implementation of a 510- acre grazing plan, & restoration of 1,486 feet of degraded tributaries of the Munuscong River.

GRANT PRODUCTS

- 1.8 acres of forest riparian buffer strips restored.
- 1,225 linear feet of stream bank stabilized.
- 2,376 linear feet of livestock exclusions fencing installed.
- Reduction of 260 tons of sediment, 289 pounds of phosphorus, and 581 pounds of nitrogen, annually.

WATERSHED AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Addressed exceedance of Total Maximum Daily Loads for partial body contact and total body contact due to *E. coli* concentrations.
- Implemented projects on sites identified in watershed management plan.
- Worked closely with landowners to develop relationships promoting BMPs and land stewardship.

Munuscong River Watershed Support Project

July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022

Site 1 Riparian Planting Before:
Cattle had access to a pond that flowed directly into the Munuscong River causing erosion on the banks and nutrient pollution issues from cattle manure.

Site 1 Riparian Planting After:
Erosion control blankets were used to secure sediment and native shrubs/trees were planted to reduce sediment, bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorus inputs. Fencing and a watering facility was installed to eliminate cattle access.

Site 2 Streambank Restoration Before:
Cattle access to surface water combined with steep slopes and flashy flows contributed to severe erosion and water quality issues.

Site 2 Streambank Restoration After:
Working with GEI Consultants, the banks were re-sloped to replicate a natural floodplain. Erosion control blankets and rock armoring were installed after re-sloping to reduce runoff while fencing was installed to exclude cattle from the riverbank.

EGLE Nonpoint Source Program
Michigan.gov/NPS

Chippewa Luce Mackinac Conservation District
clmcd.org

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

To request this material in an alternate format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or 800-662-9278,