

## **Paw Paw River Watershed Planning Project Overview**

The MDEQ and EPA awarded a \$216,087 grant for the Paw Paw River Watershed Planning Project. The total project is \$271,048 with local match totaling \$54,960.62. A 319 grant is federal money authorized by the Clean Water Act, which can be used for watershed planning and implementation. The Southwestern Michigan Commission (SWMC) along with several partner organizations submitted the grant proposal to MDEQ in the spring of 2005.

### **Grant Activities**



#### Develop a Watershed Management Plan

- Expand stakeholder and steering committee list
- Steering and sub-committee meetings – oversee entire planning process
- 4 public meetings during plan development
- Inventory agricultural impacts – TNC
- Conduct inventory work – SJRCD and volunteers
- Refine pollution load estimates – Engineering Firm
- Map proposed conservation lands – TNC and SWMLC
- Identify current and potential water quality impairments, Define and Map Critical Areas – SWMC, Engineering Firm, TNC, SWMLC
- Write Plan (prioritize pollutants, sources, causes, sites; determine desired uses, designated uses, goals and objectives; identify and analyze current efforts; identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) and costs; identify evaluation process) – SWMC, Engineering Firm
- Analyze 5 municipal master plans and zoning ordinances – SWMC
- Develop and write information and education plan – VBCD



#### Landowner Education/Outreach Campaign

- Contact and visit landowners about conservation options – TNC, SWMLC
- Host on-going watershed workshop series – VBCD/BRWP



#### Municipal Education/Outreach Campaign

- Discuss potential changes to plans and ordinances (5 municipalities) – SWMC
- Host municipal official workshops – SWMC and VBCD/BRWP
- Produce Low Impact Development Newsletter for municipalities – SWMC
- Provide 5 scholarships for MSU on-line course – SWMC, VBCD/BRWP



#### General Outreach/Education

- Host PPRW materials on website – SWMC
- Watershed Management Short Course – SWMC, VBCD/BRWP
- Storm Drain Marking (at least 5 municipalities) – SWMC, VBCD/BRWP

**Project Partners** – SWMC\*, VBCD/BRWP\*, SJRCD\*, TNC\*, SWMLC\*, Engineering Firm\*, Sarett Nature Center\*, Pokagon Band\*, VBISD Conference Center\*, Van Buren MSUE\*, MDEQ\*, MDNR\*, several key watershed residents\*, Almena Twp\*, City of Watervliet\*, Watervliet Twp\*, City of Hartford\*, Hartford Township\*, City of Coloma\*, Coloma Twp\*, Hagar Twp\*, Benton Township\*, Coloma-Watervliet Area Economic Development Corporation\*, Friends of St. Joseph River, media (local newspapers), schools, lake associations, drain commissions, road commissions, Trout Unlimited, Van Buren Sportsman Club, employers, Chambers of Commerce, etc.

\*Already a partner by signing onto or supporting grant activities

**Guide to Acronyms:**

SWMC - Southwestern Michigan Commission

VBCD – Van Buren Conservation District

BRWP – Black River Watershed Project

SJRCD – St. Joseph River Conservation District

TNC – The Nature Conservancy

SWMLC – Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

VBISD – Van Buren Intermediate School District

MSUE – Michigan State University Extension

MDEQ – Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

MDNR – Michigan Department of Natural Resources

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency