

Cannon Township MiCorps Project Fact Sheet

1. Project name: Bear Creek Stream Study
2. Amount of grant: \$13,556.81
3. Matching funds: \$13,514.53
4. Project duration: Sept 2011 – May 2013
5. Applicant name: Cannon Township
6878 Belding Rd
Rockford MI 49341
(616) 874-6966
6. Applicant contact: Julie Lovelace, Watershed Coordinator
7. Project location: Kent County/Cannon Twp
8. Project partner: Nichol DeMol (Trout Unlimited)
9. Summary of project including project goals:

Cannon Township, with a population of 12,075 people, is located in northeast Kent County, Michigan. Much of the Bear Creek Watershed is located in Cannon Township and drains approximately 29 square miles or 20,096 acres. Increased population has introduced more development and higher volumes of runoff into Bear Creek and its tributaries. Members of the Bear Creek Watershed Council have established a pro-active stance toward watershed health. That is why the Bear Creek Stream Study group was formed. The Stream Study Group needs guidance on setting goals, interpreting data, using data for decision making and educating, and training on macroinvertebrate studies.

Mission: To collect stream data on Bear Creek so we may determine its health and take proactive measures for Township planning. Tagline – “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Goals:

- a) Collect stream data
 - b) Interpret data
 - c) Use the data in a useful way i.e. make better planning decisions, prioritize stream projects, and use data to update the Bear Creek Watershed Management Plan
 - d) Share data and its meaning with the public through Cannon Township newsletter, website, festivals, school, and community presentations.
10. Project Accomplishments:

Throughout the course of this study I, and members of our community, have acquired an incredible education concerning the Bear Creek watershed as a whole, Bear Creek, and macroinvertebrates. Along the way I have made contacts throughout the state in varying fields, mostly at the yearly retreat in Roscommon. I have also developed a strong working relationship with Nichol DeMol from Trout Unlimited. These relationships extend into my role as Zoning Administrator for Cannon Township.

Through these contacts I have been able to acquire valuable information on such topics as dam removal, septic tank pumping regulation, and storm water runoff management. I have made contacts with the school district in Rockford and, in partnership with Nichol DeMol from Trout Unlimited, have been able to present in-class and in-field lessons regarding watershed and macroinvertebrates. This was made possible by a grant awarded to East Rockford Middle School by Groundswell. I have also made contacts with Grand Valley University and Calvin College. One Calvin student in particular will be expounding upon our study. Lastly, I have gotten to know members of my own community through their volunteer efforts with this study.

11. Monitoring activities:

We have performed four macroinvertebrate sampling dates thus far. We sample five sites along Bear Creek. The average distance between sites is three miles.

12. Significant measurable results, as appropriate for the project: See attached.