

PROJECT NAME: Paw Paw River Watershed Road/Stream Crossing Inventory

GRANTEE NAME: Van Buren County Road Commission
325 West James St. Lawrence, MI 49064
(269)674-8011
Larry Hummel, Manager/Director

PROJECT DURATION: March 2016 – October 2016

GRANT FUNDING: \$8,500

MATCH FUNDING: \$13,128.61

PROJECT LOCATION and MAP: Van Buren County



Van Buren County - rivers represented by blue, county drains represented by green, roads represented by gold

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC)
- Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD)
- Van Buren County Drain Commission (VBCDC)
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC)
- Two Rivers Coalition (TRC)

PROJECT SUMMARY and GOALS: The overall goals of this project was to improve road stream crossings to:

- reduce flooding, erosion and sediment deposition
- improve the physical and biological conditions to better reflect natural conditions and enhance habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms and
- improve the safety of roads where culverts are failing or not sized properly

This was accomplished by forming a partnership that develop a volunteer inventory process for road stream crossings in the Paw Paw River Watershed utilizing the MiCorps protocol and Road Soft database. The crossings will be prioritized for replacement and repair to meet the project goals. Additionally, educational efforts and project promotion were used to inform municipal officials,

other road agencies and general public in Southwest Michigan about sediment being a priority pollutant and the impacts of road/stream crossings.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The project was a success. The VBCRC hired a summer intern that worked with many recruited volunteer participants to inventory over half of mapped culverts throughout Van Buren County. This was over one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the project goal number. A plan has been put into place to have volunteers continue working on the inventory of the remaining road streams and culverts until all site location data has been collected and processed.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

- Partners and volunteers were trained. Maps with labeled site locations where roads cross main rivers, creeks and drains in Van Buren County were created. Inventory kits were developed with proper equipment and materials. Volunteers worked with trained VBCRC intern to complete site evaluations and inventories. Data was entered into the statewide Road Soft database.

MEASURABLE RESULTS:

- Nineteen (19) partners and volunteers were trained to properly evaluate road stream crossings and inventory culverts
- VBCRC hired one (1) summer intern to led project and partner with volunteers
- Fourteen (14) different volunteers participated and partnered with VBCRC intern to complete inventory sites
- Three hundred seventeen (317) bridges and culverts were evaluated and inventoried out of six hundred thirty-five (635) mapped in Van Buren County. The mapped sites are road crossings over main rivers, creeks and drains. Fifty percent (50%) finished and one hundred and fifty-eight percent (158%) over grant goal of two hundred (200) sites inventoried.

PHOTOS:



Project partners and volunteers met with Patrick Ertel at MDNR for classroom training on the proper way to inventory, track and report road steam crossing and culvert conditions.