

Upper Grand River Implementation Project (UGRIP)

Project 2005-0112

Final Report



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UGRIP Final Report

The Upper Grand River Implementation Project was designed to reduce erosion and sedimentation in a 76,603-acre priority area of the Upper Grand River Watershed by: 1) *Implementing Best Management Practices in the priority area*, 2) *Educating the public about watershed issues and encouraging public involvement*, 3) *Promoting sustainable land use with townships in the priority area*, and 4) *Identifying and prioritizing sources of pollution in the Huntoon Creek subbasin, the subbasin with the most issues of concern in the watershed*.

Overall, the Upper Grand River Implementation Project has been quite successful in building a strong partnership with local government agencies and non-profit conservation organizations in order to achieve these goals during the past three years (2006-2008). The achievements and momentum gained through the Upper Grand River Implementation Project have resulted in another 319-funded project that will build on the successes of the first phase of UGRIP, involving new partner organizations in an expanded project area and strengthening watershed protection efforts over the next three years.

The success of the project is demonstrated by the over-achievement of the required partner match and products, as is shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. Several new partner organizations even joined UGRIP efforts during the course of the project that were not included in the original grant contract—ASTI Environmental, Washtenaw Land Trust, and Waterloo Township.

Table 1. UGRIP Partner Match

UGRIP Partners	Commitment	Total Match	% Completed
ASTI Environmental	\$0.00	\$19,853.56	n/a
Conservation District volunteers	\$15,000.00	\$16,665.39	111.1%
Dahlem Center	\$45,723.13	\$41,043.11	89.8%
Ducks Unlimited	\$1,920.00	\$3,429.22	178.6%
G.R.E.A.T.	\$10,400.00	\$17,876.36	171.9%
Henrietta C&RC	\$1,000.00	\$2,383.08	238.3%
Henrietta Township	\$1,500.00	\$4,696.53	313.1%
Ingham CD Board	\$1,200.00	\$1,214.00	101.2%
Ingham Conservation District	\$9,200.00	\$9,279.36	100.9%
Ingham Drain Commissioner	\$10,800.00	\$11,373.62	105.3%
Jackson Ag Council	\$1,600.00	\$1,678.35	104.9%
Jackson CD Board	\$7,550.00	\$5,388.91	71.4%
Jackson Drain Commissioner	\$2,400.00	\$3,875.00	161.5%
MI Audubon Society	\$11,050.00	\$11,560.63	104.6%
Mid-MI Land Conservancy	\$6,000.00	\$1,747.53	29.1%
MSUE-Ingham	\$9,660.00	\$17,625.76	182.5%
Pheasants Forever	\$7,200.00	\$9,633.00	133.8%
Potawatomi RC&D Council	\$10,000.00	\$10,032.00	100.3%
Region II Planning	\$1,600.00	\$1,950.00	121.9%
Rives Township	\$1,500.00	\$318.77	21.3%
Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance	\$21,000.00	\$14,000.00	66.7%
Washtenaw Land Trust	\$0.00	\$8,402.88	n/a
Waterloo Township	\$0.00	\$2,624.65	n/a
TOTAL:	\$176,303.13	\$216,651.71	122.9%

Table 2. UGRIP Products

Project Objectives	Required Product	Min. Required	# Complete	% Complete
Task 1: Planning, Design & Implementation of BMPs				
1A. Landowner database management	List of landowners	1	1	100%
1B. Contacting/working with landowners in target area	List of contacts made	60	82	137%
1C. Develop WQRMPs	WQRMPs for contacts	20	43	215%
1D. Implement plans with BMPs through other partners	BMPs plans implemented	15	16	107%
Task 2: Information/Education/Public Participation				
2A. Brochure/fact sheet distribution to landowners	2 informational distributions per year	6	16	267%
2B. News and media releases	2 media releases per year	6	40	667%
2C. Write articles for Connections newsletter	1 Connections article per year	3	12	400%
2D. Website updates	Quarterly website updates	12	12	100%
2E. Plan and conduct stream cleanups	2 cleanups	2	2	100%
2F. Plan and hold water quality workshops	2 workshops minimum (goal of 3)	2	4	200%
2G. Plan and showcase BMP demonstration sites	Wetland site and riparian site	2	1	50%
2H. Plan and hold field tours	1 field tour minimum (goal of 2)	1	1	100%
2I. Watershed education programs for youth	Presentations to 25 schools	25	80	320%
2J. Develop a water quality monitoring program	3 adult programs/4 youth programs	3 / 4	3 / 5	100% / 125%
2K. Photo documentary of project	Photos from events/BMP implementation	n/a	n/a	n/a
Task 3: Sustainable Land Use Planning w Townships				
3A. Inform townships about project	Presentations to 5 townships	5	7	140%
3B. Promote sustainable land use policies w/ townships	Presentations to 3 townships	3	4	133%
3C. Plan and hold watershed management short course	1 watershed short course	1	1	100%
3D. Plan Natural Resource Inventories in 2 townships	Full process in 2 townships	2	2	100%
Task 4: Identify Sources of Pollution (Huntoon)				
4A. Inventory stream banks for conservation needs	1 streambank report	1	1	100%
4B. Inventory sub-basin for potential wetland restoration	1 wetland report	1	1	100%

The main products created during this project include:

- Natural Resource Inventories and Planning & Zoning Reviews for Henrietta and Waterloo Townships (Subtask 3D), including wetlands and natural areas parcel overlay books.
- Huntoon Creek Report (Subtasks 4A and 4B) that identifies and prioritizes areas for riparian conservation practices and potential wetland restoration.
- A volunteer macroinvertebrate monitoring program (Subtask 2J), the Upper Grand River Adopt-A-Stream Program, which collected three seasons of data using the methods from a DEQ-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan.

- A project website: www.theugrip.org (Subtask 2D) that received 1800 visits during the course of the project.
- A full-color map handout highlighting the main issues in the watershed and the organizations that are working to resolve the issues.

The only project objective that was not fully completed during the past three years was the riparian demonstration site (Subtask 2G). This task, a restoration site on Munith Drain, is currently at the permit application stage and is expected to be completed in the upcoming year through a partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the Jackson County Drain Commissioner, and ASTI Environmental.

Conservation Planning Assistance and BMP Implementation

Although 319 grant dollars were not used to fund BMPs in this project, a partnership with several agencies—including the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA-Farm Service Agency, Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, Pheasants Forever, and two local land trusts—allowed for the implementation of multiple BMPs in the watershed priority area, as is shown in Table 3. The names of landowners are not included in this table in order to comply with the privacy policies of the agencies that worked with them.

Table 3. BMP Implementation in Priority Area

Best Management Practice	Unit	Agency/Program	Township
Abandoned Well Closure	1	MGSP	Leslie
Agrichemical Containment Facility	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Leoni
Agrichemical Containment Facility	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Leoni
Conservation Cover	624 acres	NRCS/FSA (CRP)	Leslie
Conservation Cover	45 acres	Pheasants Forever	Bunker Hill
Conservation Cover	23 acres	Pheasants Forever/DNR LIP	Henrietta
Conservation Easement	160 acres	Washtenaw Land Trust	Stockbridge
Conservation Easement	35 acres	Mid-MI Land Conservancy	Waterloo
Livestock Use Exclusion	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Leoni
MAEAP Verification-Farmstead	1 (2008)	MGSP	Leoni
MAEAP Verification-Farmstead	1 (2008)	MGSP	Leoni
Nutrient Management Plan	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Bunker Hill
Prescribed Grazing	33 acres	NRCS (EQIP)	Henrietta
Roof Runoff/Underground Mgmt	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Leoni
Wetland Restoration	340 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Leoni
Wetland Restoration	60 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Bunker Hill

In addition, four priority area landowners completed Farm*A*Systs, Crop*A*Systs, and other risk reductions through the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program. Furthermore, numerous landowners in the UGRIP area have received conservation planning assistance from the partner organizations and are scheduled to implement Best Management Practices in upcoming years, as is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. BMPs Scheduled for Implementation in the Future

Best Management Practice	Unit	Agency/Program	Township
Conservation Cover	77 acres	NRCS/FSA (CRP)	Stockbridge
Nutrient Management Plan	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Leslie
Nutrient Management Plan	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Henrietta
Use Exclusion	9 acres	NRCS (EQIP)	Henrietta
Waste Storage Facility	1	NRCS (EQIP)	Leslie
Watering Facility	3	NRCS (EQIP)	Henrietta
Wetland Restoration	115 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Bunker Hill
Wetland Restoration	108 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Leslie
Wetland Restoration	30 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Stockbridge
Wetland Restoration	218 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Bunker Hill
Wetland Restoration	789 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Henrietta
Wetland Restoration	60 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Henrietta
Wetland Restoration	74 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Leslie
Wetland Restoration	36 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Henrietta
Wetland Restoration	182 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Henrietta
Wetland Restoration	100 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Henrietta
Wetland Restoration	80 acres	NRCS (WRP)	Henrietta

Although the above BMPs were not implemented during the course of UGRIP, they are evidence of the long-term improvements that are being made in the Upper Grand River Watershed due to the partnership of these organizations and their extra focus on the priority subbasins in the watershed. Most notably, 1792 acres of wetlands are scheduled to be restored under the USDA's Wetland Reserve Program over the next few years!

Information, Education, and Public Participation in the Watershed

During the three years of UGRIP, watershed residents have been educated about water quality problems and different components of the project through numerous informational mailings and newsletter articles. UGRIP's face-to-face public outreach efforts have also been extremely successful and are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. UGRIP Public Outreach Efforts

Type of Outreach	Date	Event Title	# of People
Display	2/16/2006	Ingham Conservation District Annual Meeting	40
Display	3/3/2006	Pheasants Forever Banquet	100
Display	3/25/2006	Tri-County Conservation Expo	100
Display	7/14/2006	Learning Fair	200
Display	10/21/2006	MI Lake & Stream Association Region 2 Fall Seminar	25
Display	4/1/2007	Earth Day Festival	300
Display	7/20/2007	Learning Fair	200
Display	4/12/2008	Super Soil Saturday Event	62
Display	4/20/2008	Earth Day Festival	600
Display	7/11/2008	Learning Fair	200
Display	7/26/2008	Birds, Blooms, & Butterflies Festival	300
		<i>Subtotal:</i>	2127
Presentation	1/25/2006	Jackson County Conservation District Annual Meeting	63
Presentation	3/2/2006	Sprayer Clinic	300
Presentation	4/20/2006	Ag Preservation Meeting	50
Presentation	1/18/2007	Jackson County Conservation District Annual Meeting	53
Presentation	9/19/2007	MAEAP Phase I Meeting	3
Presentation	10/18/2007	MSUE staff presentation: "What's Been Going on in the Watershed?"	13
Presentation	10/20/2007	MI Lake & Stream Association Region 2 Fall Seminar	25
Presentation	1/29/2008	Jackson County Conservation District Annual Meeting	53
Presentation	4/26/2008	MLSA Conference: "Working Effectively with Watershed Stakeholders"	50
		<i>Subtotal:</i>	610
Volunteer Event	7/29/2007	Portage River Cleanup	17
Volunteer Event	10/13/2007	Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day	20
Volunteer Event	10/17/2007	Adopt-A-Stream Bug I.D. Night	12
Volunteer Event	5/3/2008	Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day	27
Volunteer Event	5/7/2008	Adopt-A-Stream Bug I.D. Night	17
Volunteer Event	9/20/2008	Portage River Cleanup	7
Volunteer Event	9/27/2008	Adopt-A-Stream Collection Day	20
Volunteer Event	10/1/2008	Adopt-A-Stream Bug I.D. Night	8
		<i>Subtotal:</i>	128
Workshop	4/1/2006	Native Plant workshop	33
Workshop	2/7/2007	Protecting Your Land, Is it Right for You? workshop	50
Workshop	3/17/2007	Got Water? The Stewardship of Our Water Resources workshop	22
Workshop	7/8/2007	Protecting Water Quality in Your Own Backyard workshop	11
Workshop	2/9/2008	Keeping it Green: Conserving Your Future through Land Use Planning	53
Workshop	3/3/2008	Protecting Your Land: Making \$\$\$ and Sense of the Options workshop	32
Workshop	8/2/2008	Green Cleaning workshop	12
Field Tour	9/16/2006	Jackson County Farmfest, Haehnle Sanctuary wetland restoration site	249
		<i>Subtotal:</i>	462
		TOTAL:	3327

Youth education programs have been extremely successful during UGRIP, and have exceeded well beyond the original minimum requirements of presentations to 25 schools and 4 youth stream monitoring events. UGRIP’s youth education achievements are highlighted in Table 6.

Table 6. Youth Education Programs

Date	Classroom/Field Program	# of Students
3/21/2006	Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Days)	1050
5/8/2006	Jackson High School, Fundamental Biology classes	50
5/20/2006	Leslie Girl Scouts, Water Drop Patch	10
3/27/2007	Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Days)	716
10/18/2007	Northwest Elementary School stream monitoring	25
11/12/2007	Dibble Elementary School 3rd grade	30
3/17/08	Grass Lake 4-H Group	75
3/25/2008	Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Days)	754
10/3/2008	East Jackson High School, Fundamental Biology classes	37
10/9/2008	East Jackson High School stream monitoring, 2 classes	31
10/28/2008	East Jackson High School, Fundamental Biology classes	37
10/29/2008	Trinity Lutheran School stream monitoring presentation, 2 grades	18
Spring 2006	"Our World of Water" Program (15 total classes)	375
Spring 2007	"Our World of Water" Program (18 total classes)	450
Spring 2008	"Our World of Water" Program (15 total classes)	375
	TOTAL:	4033

Other Project Successes

Other miscellaneous efforts have likely increased awareness in the Upper Grand River Watershed during the course of this project. Several partner organizations, including the Grand River Environmental Action Team (G.R.E.A.T.) and the Ingham Conservation District have included UGRIP information on their organizations’ websites. UGRIP promotional items—pens, mugs, tote bags, etc.—have been distributed extensively at outreach events, and 16 new watershed signs have been installed at road crossings of the Portage River and Huntoon Creek. UGRIP staff have also offered support to related watershed and natural resource protection efforts in the area, such as the designation of certain stretches of road in Waterloo Township as “Natural Beauty Roads” and the creation of the Grand River ArtsWalk.

Project Sustainability

The new Adopt-A-Stream monitoring program is expected to continue beyond the end of UGRIP utilizing a core group of dedicated volunteers, and relying on the partnership of several organizations that will work to find additional funding for maintaining and improving the program. The Natural Resource Inventory/Planning & Zoning Review work will probably be the most lasting portion of UGRIP, as the two townships involved utilize the data and materials received to better protect natural

resources in priority subbasins of the watershed. Henrietta Township has already begun work on a wetland ordinance as a result of this project. The Huntoon Creek inventory work completed during this project will also serve a source of information and direction for better protection of natural resources in the watershed, especially since it has identified specific land parcels needing conservation measures and can guide local agency staff to the landowners that may benefit from government cost-share programs.

