

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Project Name Stream Leaders

Grant Amount: \$13,297.00
Match Amount: \$37,120.84

Project Duration: April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2011

Applicant: Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (*Friends*)
PO Box 611496
Port Huron, MI 48061

Contact: Kristen O. Jurs
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Location: St. Clair River Watershed

Project Partners : St. Clair County Health Department
St. Clair County Community College

Summary:

Through this project Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (*Friends*) was able to accomplish its goals to:

- Recruit and retain volunteers and establish a stream monitoring program
- Educate the public, local watershed groups, and the St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC)'s Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) about habitat conditions and restoration needs of the St. Clair River Watershed.

With significant assistance from the Health Department and MiCorps grant funds awarded on April 1, 2008, *Friends* established the Stream Leaders monitoring program in the fall of 2008. The MiCorps grant was extended for a year until April 1, 2011.

Over the course of the project, a total of 8 monitoring locations were established across St. Clair County:

| <u>*Subwatershed</u> | <u># of monitoring locations</u> | <u>name of waterway(s)</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Lake Huron | 1 | Burtch Creek |
| Lower Black River | 1 | Silver Creek |
| St. Clair River Direct Drainage | 2 | Bunce and Cuttle Creeks |
| Anchor Bay | 2 | Meldrum and Beaubien Creeks |
| <u>Belle River</u> | <u>1</u> | Belle River, 2 nd St., Riley Twp |
| Total | 8 | |

*All of these subwatersheds are tributaries to the St. Clair River.

Over the past three years:

- 5 monitoring events were held during the project. Each event included a training workshop, monitoring day, and lab identification activities.

PROJECT FACT SHEET

- 32 habitat assessments and macroinvertebrate collections were conducted at the 8 monitoring locations.
- A total of 74 different volunteers participated in monitoring events.
- An average of 31 volunteers participated in each monitoring event.
- 14 volunteers were “certified” as a Stream Leader. (A certified leader has passed the written and “in-the-stream” certification tests and qualifies to lead volunteer groups at a monitoring location.)

Without a doubt, the public, who directly participated in monitoring activities, gained significant knowledge about the habitat conditions and restoration needs in the St. Clair River Watershed. The large time commitment needed to support a volunteer stream monitoring program is well spent when one considers the experience, impression and amount of knowledge each volunteer gains from participation, the interest it generates in other watershed activities, and the knowledge about habitat conditions across watersheds gained by project staff.

The most valuable source of volunteers interested in monitoring activities was through presentations provided to MSU Extension Master Gardeners.

Monitoring information provided to Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) generated significant interest from the city of Marysville because it drew attention to an area that needed restoration and qualified for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds. In 2010, the city was awarded a \$1.3 million dollar GLRI grant to restore 2500 feet along the St. Clair River shoreline just north of the Cuttle Creek monitoring location.

The knowledge of habitat conditions and restoration needs also increased for the Bi-National Public Advisory Council (BPAC) through the distribution of photos and data from monitoring activities via the website, email, post mail, newsletters, and presentations. Much like the watershed group, data collected became more valuable to BPAC when it was tied to potential restoration grant funding like the Cuttle Creek location.

Costs

The total cost of the project was \$13,297.00. This was matched with \$37,120.84 of services from the St. Clair County Health Department, the St. Clair County Community College, and the *Friends* board of directors.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Staffing: | \$2,490.00 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$373.50 |
| Contractual Services | \$4,647.44 |
| Project Supplies & Equipment | \$5,786.06 |

PROJECT FACT SHEET

PHOTOS OF ACTIVITIES

