

## **Michigan Clean Water Corps**

### **Project Fact Sheet**

**Project Name:** Shiawassee River Watershed

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Program (Shiawassee Stream Team)

**Grant Number:** #3003-VSM2008-02

**Grantee:** The Nature Conservancy in Michigan

In Partnership with the Livingston County Office of the Drain Commissioner and the Friends of the Shiawassee River

**Project Duration:** 09/08 through 09/10

#### **Applicant:**

The Nature Conservancy in Michigan

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#### **Future Contact:**

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**Project Location:** Shiawassee River Watershed, principally Shiawassee and Livingston Counties. See maps, page 3.

**Project Partners:** The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Shiawassee River, Livingston County Office of the Drain Commissioner

#### **Project Summary:**

The Shiawassee Stream Team was developed as a partnership among The Nature Conservancy in Michigan and the Livingston County Office of the Drain Commissioner to quantify the effects of sediment on the habitats of the Shiawassee River. In collaboration with the Friends of the Shiawassee River, the Stream Team engaged volunteers in data collection to foster appreciation of the aquatic ecosystem and to enhance environmental education opportunities. More specifically, the goals of the partnership are:

- To collect baseline data and initiate a long-term data set on health of the Shiawassee River;
- To determine variability in health of the River within different environs, such as agricultural, urban, and naturally vegetated areas, within the watershed;
- To engage public and youth in data collection and foster appreciation of the Shiawassee River and its habitats.
- To utilize data to mitigate the impacts of future development and to better understand the impacts of existing development.

Through this partnership, we have established ten monitoring sites throughout the Shiawassee River watershed in Livingston and Shiawassee Counties (5 sample sites in each county).

**Project accomplishments:**

- Initiated baseline data collection at ten locations throughout the Shiawassee River watershed.
- Assessed and documented habitat during four sampling seasons at each location.
- Engaged volunteers in data collection and approximately 1300 hours of service hours sampling and identifying macroinvertebrates and documenting habitat conditions.
- Engaged students from Hartland, Owosso and New Lothrop High Schools.

**Monitoring activities and general costs:**

Activities included coordination of sampling events and macroinvertebrate identification in the fall and spring of each year. Coordination of events entails volunteer recruitment, marketing, and promotion of results. One volunteer appreciation event was also coordinated in the spring of 2010. General program activities also involves year-round maintenance/inventory of equipment, contact with volunteers and the media, educational activities and communications.

Purchase of equipment and supplies- \$5,199.28

Staff time/salaries, contracts to coordinate - \$15,019.59

**Significant measurable results:**

Baseline data has been collected at sites in the Shiawassee River mainstem.

Shiawassee County	Location	Score	Rating
North State Drain	Rush Twp.	41.4	Good
Six Mile Creek	New Haven Twp.	27.4	Fair
DeVries Nature Conservancy	Owosso Twp.	48.7	Excellent
Webb Creek	Venice Twp.	24.9	Fair
Scribner Drain	Burns Twp.	44.1	Good

Livingston County	Location	Score	Rating
S. Branch Shiawassee Upstream	Marion Twp.	30.3	Fair
Marion-Genoa Drain	Marion Twp.	26.0	Fair
S. Branch Shia. Downstream	Marion Twp.	25.7	Fair
Bogue Creek	Cohactah Twp.	33.7	Fair
N. Ore Creek,	Tyrone Twp	37.3	Good
N. Ore Creek,	Hartland Twp	37.3	Good
S. Branch @ Marr Rd.	Howell Twp.	29.0	Fair

Volunteers engaged: 478, approximately 1300 hours.

