



## Cedar River Watershed Monitoring Project

June 1, 2015 – January 31, 2017

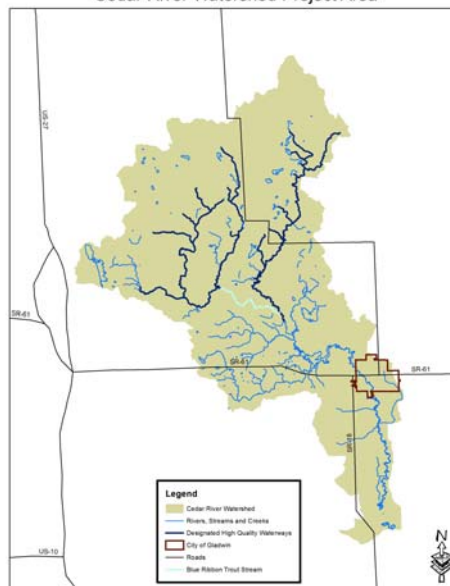
The Little Forks Conservancy has successfully completed a grant to implement a volunteer stream monitoring program in the Cedar River Watershed in Gladwin and Clare counties. The Cedar River Watershed is a sub-watershed of the Tittabawassee Watershed that drains into the Saginaw Bay. The upper watershed contains critical cold-water fisheries within the Saginaw Bay region. The primary goal for this project was to create a sustainable strategic monitoring plan that spans the Cedar River Watershed to sample macroinvertebrates and complete habitat assessments to monitor the health of watershed. To achieve this goal we worked to create collaborations between various conservation organizations in the area, developed procedures for data collection and targeted specific locations in the watershed. In addition, the Little Forks Conservancy recruited volunteers for water quality monitoring and built success of the project through collaborations with local educational institutions.

**Grant Amount: \$ 10,000**  
**Match Funds: \$ 15,788**

**Total Amount: \$ 25,788**

### Project Accomplishments:

- Developed a Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) for the sampling protocol.
- Completed monitoring of six locations in Fall of 2015 and Spring and Fall 2016
- Completed habitat assessments for all monitoring sites.
- Recruited 75 volunteers to participate in the program spending 529 hours of time.
- Provided stream leader training for volunteers.
- Developed a report card for monitoring results.
- Entered all monitoring data into the MiCorps Data Exchange.
- Volunteer monitoring program was promoted through local media, social media, Conservancy newsletters, and at community events.
- Obtained necessary supplies to assist with the long term sustainability of the program.



### Partners involved:

- Leon P. Martuch Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Gladwin Conservation District
- Clare Conservation District
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Delta College
- Gladwin High School
- Huron Pines AmeriCorps

### Volunteer Monitoring Sites:

Six locations were identified in the watershed along the various branches of the Cedar River and a tributary. These sample locations were chosen due to accessibility and through an evaluation of surrounding land use. Five sites were located in the cold water portion of the watershed. One site was chosen in the warm water section for additional data. The Conservancy looks to expand sites in the future.