

## Project Fact Sheet

**Project Name:** Bug Brigade

**Amount of grant:** \$8,725.00

**Match amount:** \$5,876.82

**Project total;** total of \$14,455.66 with a match of 40%

**Duration:** May 5, 2018- May 10,2018

**Applicant Name:** St. Joseph County Conservation District

Carolyn Grace, Administrator

693 E Main Centreville, Mi 49032

**Project Locations:** Rocky River, Fawn River, Prairie River

### Project Summary:

The St. Joseph County Conservation District, through the help of MiCorps and the DEQ established a volunteer stream monitoring program with in the St. Joseph Watershed. Within this watershed three rivers were selected to monitor. With our Partners we accomplished the following goals as a result of our project.

- Outreach, Recruit and Train: These three goals were met by engaging stakeholders from a variety of community groups. Spring and fall trainings were held with interested individuals from two different counties.
- Monitor 9 stream sites with in the three watersheds, Prairie, Rocky and Portage Rivers all with in the St. Joseph Watershed.
- Identify or verify problem areas where degradation has occurred, and remediation or best management practices can be implemented. This was driven from the watershed management plans.
- Work with surrounding Conservation Districts: Cass County Conservation District began, bus did not continue the water monitoring program, however a partner, SWMC, did join and will continue monitoring their sites.

### Project Partners:

- Denny Stelzer, expert ID professional
- SJC Road Commission, Partner to support and help locate places of concern
- Fawn River Canoe and Kayak, Community support and volunteer. Provided Kayaks for disabled to be part of the collection
- Graceful Pastures Farm, Community service hours, match money for lunch
- Branch County Conservation District, provided materials for match
- Cass County Conservation District, helped locate and connected district with SWMC and provided nets for collection4 collections with data entered into the DEQ collection site.
- County Commissioners received data about each collection
- Newspaper write up about several District programs
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- Southwest Michigan College (SWMC) provided students and professors for volunteers
- Paul Rentschler, wetland ecologist with ASTI Environmental LLC
- Abbott Nutrition, business partner, water and snack for volunteers

### Project Accomplishments/Results:

- 15 presentations given to stakeholder groups
- 4 Training events to train stream team leaders
- 61 people volunteered in four collection events
- All monitoring data, from collections, was entered into the computer directly after the identification was completed by our expert Denny Stelzer.
- 9 River sites were selected for the project. 3 new sites in three of the five county rivers will sustain this program through our District office.
- Cass County and Southwestern College joined our program to reach into their county for future monitoring programs.

**Monitoring Activities:**

The District monitored 3 sites on 3 different rivers during the fall and spring of each year 2017-2018. All data acquired was entered in the MiCorps data exchange network online and is accessible to the public.

The names and locations of our monitoring sites include:

1. Prairie River, Section 23, Burr Oak township 41 53 19.174 , -85.2434133
2. Prairie River Section 7, Burr Oak township 41.5319175, 85.24314113
3. Prairie River Section 19 Nottawa Township 41.55487806, -85.31420996
4. Rocky River Section 16 Flowerfield Township 42.1278669, -85.4315092
5. Rocky River section 1, Fabius Township 41.5910242, -85.3868496
6. Rocky River section 18, Lockport Township 41.5910242, -85.3868496
7. Portage River section 18 Mendon Township 42.1401664, -85.31302016
8. Portage River, section 24, Park Township 42.014306, -85.32514674
9. Portage River, section 8, Lockport Township 41.57158898, -85.37271626

**Photos: Attached:**