



Lower Grand River Watershed Project

Urban Pilot Project Information Summary Buck Creek (14 93 & 14 94)

March 4, 2003

Geographic Scope:

- Located in southwest Kent County
- Covers parts of the following Phase II Communities: City of Grandville, City of Wyoming, City of Kentwood, Byron Township, and Gaines Township.
- Drains approximately 51 square miles
- Major tributaries to the Grand River in this subwatershed are Buck Creek, Sharps Creek, and Pine Hill Creek.
- The stream flows primarily through suburban areas and agricultural land in the south. The middle branch of Buck Creek flows along US-131 and through many industrial sites. Buck Creek flows through dense residential and industrial areas in Wyoming and Grandville.
- Many of the tributaries are channelized and maintained by the Kent County Drain Commissioner.
- Much of Buck Creek and its tributaries are designated coldwater streams and could support a viable population of brook trout if water quality improves.

Water Quality Threats/ Pollutant Causes:

- Water quality and aquatic habitat are good to poor, with fish and macroinvertebrate populations that suggest fair to poor water quality
- Total Maximum Daily Load for *E. coli* must be met by 2006.
- Water quality is threatened by nonpoint source pollution such as road salt, failing septic systems, storm water runoff, and sediment from agriculture and construction sites.
- Rapid fluctuations in the stream's hydrology result from excessive storm water runoff. The City of Wyoming, City of Kentwood, and Byron Township have storm water master plans for Buck Creek.



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Public Participation:

- Calvin Christian High School performs volunteer water quality monitoring at the mouth of Buck Creek.
- There are a number of active groups that participate in West Michigan Environmental Action Council's (WMEAC) Stream Search Program.
- The City of Grandville recognizes Buck Creek as a great community resource and hosts the Buck Creek Run.
- Buck Creek is a highly visible natural feature at Douglas Walker Park in Byron Township and the Buck Creek Natural Area in the City of Wyoming.

Information provided by:

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