

Riffles & Runs

Rogue River Watershed Project Newsletter

Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute

Vol. II No. III Winter 2000

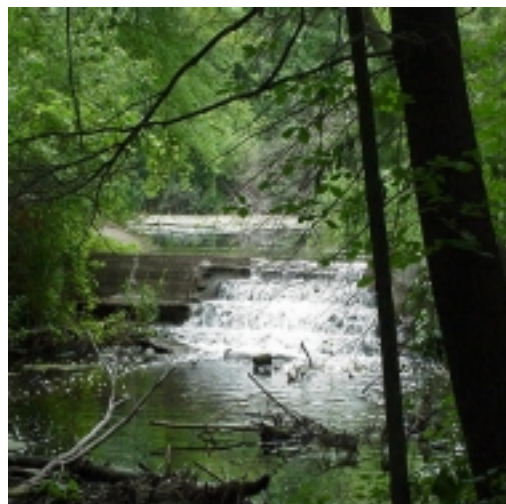
Rogue River Watershed Project The Next Step

Nichol Stout


The planning phase of the Rogue River Watershed Project is coming to an end, but there are still many exciting activities developing in the watershed. To inform people of these future activities, a public "wrap-up" meeting was held October 17 at the Rockford United Methodist Church. Michael Young, city manager of Rockford, opened the evening meeting and staff from the Annis Water Resources Institute who are involved with the Rogue River Watershed Project presented their work. During the two year project summer field studies were performed by Professor Mark Luttenton, a Rogue River Watershed map atlas was created by GIS specialist Rod Denning, and a Rogue River Watershed Management Plan was developed by project manager Nichol Stout.

These studies and products have been used to create both an information and education plan for the watershed and to determine Best Management Practices that will target nonpoint source pollutants that are threatening the designated uses of the watershed. These products will also be used as tools for other organizations. Grand Valley Metro Council's Andy Bowman spoke to the crowd at the October 17 meeting about the Rogue River Watershed Project and the Blueprint Process Project. The outcomes of the Rogue River

Watershed Project will assist the Blueprint Process by helping communities understand and manage growth in our metropolitan area. Scott Steiner from West Michigan Trout Unlimited also spoke at the meeting about the creation of the Rogue River Watershed Council. The council will protect and enhance the Rogue River and its tributaries for the long-



Ball Creek Subbasin

term through education, community stewardship, and water-based land use planning. All of these efforts will help to protect the Rogue River Watershed in the future. 



**Rogue In
The Region**
Page 2



**Wacky
Watershed
Worksheet**
Page 3

Rogue in the Region

Andy Bowman

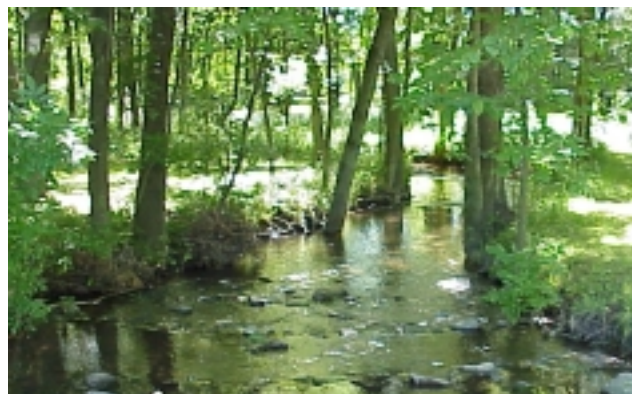
For the past two years, the Rogue River has been intensively studied by the Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) of GVSU. According to AWRI, a cold-water fish habitat such as the east half of the Rogue River system in such close proximity to a major metro area is unique, not only in state of Michigan, but across the country. The river also provides aesthetic interest, recreational opportunities, enhanced property values, and a higher quality of life for those living north of the Grand Rapids metro area.

The land area through which this valued resource travels is seriously affecting river water quality. Typically called the “watershed”, all adjacent lands supplying water to the Rogue River system are having a significant impact on the quality of the river. In the northern part of the watershed, agriculture has transformed former upland marshes into a rich agricultural area. Just over a quarter of the entire watershed is designated as county drain and most of that is in the northern portion of the watershed. Though these drains originally brought many new lands into agricultural production, they are now slowly being converted to handle storm flows resulting from increasing urbanization as well.


Mirroring the Rogue River to the east and west, U.S. 131 and M-37 (and their paved “tributaries”) also wind through the watershed. With expressway ramps positioned at 5 major roads in the area and Alpine Avenue becoming a more prominent northern commercial route, new development of all types has been attracted to the Rogue Watershed in recent decades. With a steady stream of new home buyers and businesses looking for premium building locations along creeks and/or streets, the development potential is blossoming well beyond the original expectations of most local officials. The increasing influx of warmed storm water and contaminated surface flow into both tributaries and ground water is now seriously affecting the aquatic habitat and overall value of the Rogue River resource.

With so much at stake, AWRI, Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC), the Michigan Department of Envi-

ronmental Quality, and a host of other concerned partners and citizens are teaming up to take action now. Along with development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Rogue, an Information and Education Strategy has been produced to involve local and regional stakeholders and to set the stage for real and long term solutions to adequately protect the Rogue. Together with GVMC in its effort to initiate “subregional” planning throughout the Grand Rapids Metropolitan area, communities and interested parties in the Rogue River Watershed will become part of a new planning and development forum. To accomplish this, a Rogue River Watershed Council has been formed as an agency of GVMC.



Lower Rogue Subbasin

Planning activities conducted by the watershed council will be part of a much larger planning initiative in the Grand Rapids metro area called *Blueprint II: A Regional Development Framework*. Through this process, comprehensive plans throughout the watershed will be analyzed for their overall impact and a composite set of goals and visions will be amassed. The entire Blueprint process is projected to result in an overall regional plan for the Grand Rapids metro area and will become the basis for planning regional infrastructure such as roads, sewer and water, storm facilities, transit and so forth. It is hoped that such a document will also provide a more consistent metropolitan-wide evaluation of where and how we are planning our future settlement patterns. Local decision-makers, new land use developers, business owners, land owners, school planning officials and many others will, for the first time in our area, be making important local land use decisions within a regional context. 

Wacky Watershed Worksheet

Find the words below in
the word search:

watershed
brown trout
cedar creek
stonefly
groundwater
erosion
water quality
rogue river
fly fishing
canoeing



y	j	w	a	t	r	h	k	q	w	s	r	f	i	w
d	w	a	g	r	o	u	n	d	w	a	t	e	r	i
q	w	t	o	y	e	e	b	v	m	p	o	o	i	w
a	m	e	s	w	q	j	l	d	s	a	h	j	p	a
d	k	r	o	g	u	e	r	i	v	e	r	f	c	t
g	h	s	d	t	a	r	h	e	r	e	b	f	a	e
r	w	h	h	b	r	o	u	t	e	k	j	u	n	r
e	a	e	n	h	b	s	i	f	d	q	n	r	o	q
u	s	d	f	s	e	i	f	d	f	r	m	d	e	u
s	n	d	b	r	z	o	v	b	v	w	y	h	i	a
j	t	j	c	y	q	n	d	n	c	y	k	j	n	l
s	t	o	m	f	l	y	f	i	s	h	i	n	g	i
k	l	c	n	j	w	w	w	k	x	f	g	r	n	t
c	j	e	c	e	d	a	r	c	r	e	e	k	v	y
x	h	j	s	b	f	o	c	t	a	h	w	t	c	f
c	t	n	e	m	u	l	d	g	a	f	d	o	f	k
b	r	f	r	b	r	w	y	j	f	d	h	u	j	t
z	b	r	o	w	n	t	r	o	u	t	m	k	t	u
m	s	s	h	z	w	a	s	h	h	x	s	t	d	f

Hi! I am Milly the mayfly. I have just been born and I live in a stream. To get my wings so I can fly, I need to find a clean, cool stream to live in. I cannot live in streams that have pollution. Things like warm water and too much dirt in the stream make it hard for me to live. Can you help me find a clean, cool stream so I can get my wings?

Did You Know...

- * The Rogue River Watershed is 167, 625 acres.
- * The Rogue River is known as one of the best trout streams in Southern Michigan.
- * The Rogue River has both warm and cool-cold water tributaries flowing into it.
- * About half of the stream length of the Rogue River system is protected under the Natural Rivers Act.
- * The Rogue River Watershed is a small portion of a much larger watershed known as the Grand River.
- * In Kent County the Rogue River is designated and managed as a trout stream by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Annis Water Resources Institute
Grand Valley State University
One Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit
Org.U.S.Postage
PAID
Grand Valley
State University