



**Clean Water Act 319
Nonpoint Source Grant**

Calhoun Conservation District

Phone: (269) 781-4867 x. 5

Fax: (269) 781-3199

Email: tracy.bronson@macd.org

Website: www.calhouncd.org



Battle Creek River Watershed Planning Project

July 2002 through December 2004

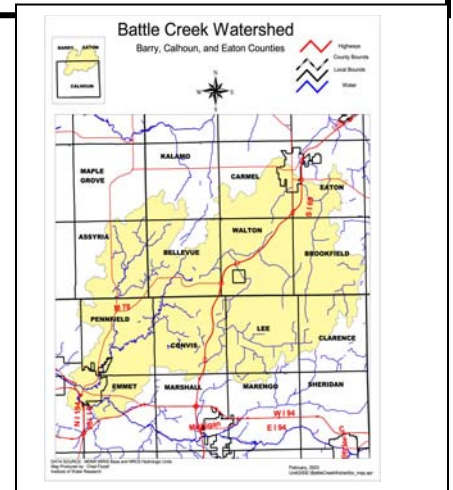
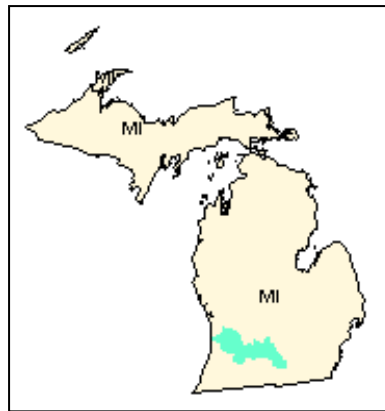
Stakeholders concerned about the water quality of the Battle Creek River Watershed initiated the Battle Creek River Watershed Planning Project in the spring of 2000. The Battle Creek River is one of the leading contributors of sediment and phosphorus to the Kalamazoo River. The watershed is primarily rural and encompasses 187,000 acres in northern Calhoun, southeastern Barry, and southern Eaton counties of southwest Michigan. It is also one of the flashiest gauged tributaries in the Kalamazoo River Watershed. Through a rigorous inventory of the watershed, the main source of sediment was found to be stream bank erosion resulting from historic dredging. Berms created from the widening, deepening, and straightening of the channel have disconnected the river from its floodplain. An extensive geomorphic assessment is being conducted to determine the river's stability to help determine appropriate management methods and options. This project resulted in the development of a watershed management plan for the Battle Creek River watershed.

Grant Amount: \$ 179,962
Match Funds: \$ 57,047

Total Amount: \$ 237,009

Project Highlights:

- 👉 5 acres of the riparian corridor were donated to the Calhoun Conservation District and 22 more acres within the watershed are in the process of being donated
- 👉 A long-term geomorphic assessment study is being conducted on the Battle Creek River to determine stream stability, and stream bank and bed erosion
- 👉 Two dam removal projects are in the works with other sources of grant dollars in the amount of \$150,000.00
- 👉 A Natural Resources Inventory was conducted for Pennfield Township
- 👉 Approval of the Battle Creek River Watershed Management Plan by MDEQ to EPA standards



I&E Activities:

- 👉 Student stream ecology education
- 👉 Two annual River Clean-Ups
- 👉 Battle Creek River Watershed coloring book created for children
- 👉 30,000 newsletters distributed throughout the watershed
- 👉 Conservation Expo to educate area watershed stakeholders on conservation programs available through various partners
- 👉 A ten-day canoeing expedition down the Kalamazoo River from Albion to Lake Michigan (Kanoë the Kazoo) was held in the summer of 2003. Over 3,000 people participated in the event, and over 60 canoed down the Battle Creek River for one of the days

Partners involved:

- 👉 MI Dept. of Natural Resources
- 👉 Natural Resources Cons. Service
- 👉 Potawatomi RC & D
- 👉 Cities of Battle Creek and Charlotte
- 👉 Olivet College
- 👉 MSUE/Kellogg Biol. Station
- 👉 Kalamazoo River & Lake Allegan TMDL Implementation Committee
- 👉 Thornapple/Grand Conservation District
- 👉 Pennfield/Convis Township
- 👉 Consumers Energy
- 👉 Calhoun County Community Development
- 👉 Eaton/Calhoun County Drain Commissioners
- 👉 US Fish & Wildlife Service
- 👉 Pheasants Forever

