



GVSU-AWRI/MSU

Overview

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Goal for this Project :

Support local decision-making that protects the watershed.

- Create 1998 land use/cover database
- Assess land use cover change
- Forecast future land use
- Facilitate environmentally sound land use practices

AWRI

John Koches
Annis Water Resources Institute
Grand Valley State University
740 West Shoreline Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441

Phone: 616.331.3792

Fax: 616.331.3864

Email: kochesj@gvsu.edu

MSU

Patricia L. Machemer
109 UPLA Building
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1221

Phone: 517.353.9047

Email: machemer@msu.edu

MSU

Robert Walker
Department of Geography
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1221

Phone: 517.432.7058

Email: rwalker@msu.edu

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Annis Water Resources Institute of Grand Valley State University has joined Michigan State University in a collaborative project funded by The Wege Foundation with additional support from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. The project is titled, ***Building a Sustainable Future for the Muskegon River Watershed***. The project began in June 2001 and is scheduled to end in May 2004. Other project partners include the various Conservation Districts throughout the watershed, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, The Nature Conservancy, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Land Conservancy of West Michigan, and the private consulting firm Langworthy, Strader, LeBlanc & Associates.

The project has as its goal to **support local decision-making in a manner that protects and enhances the Muskegon River Watershed**. The project has essentially five objectives:

1. Create a 1998 land use and land cover database for the Muskegon River Watershed
2. Assess and summarize land use and land cover change from 1978 to 1998
3. Forecast future land use and cover conditions
4. Develop tools and provide analysis that facilitates environmentally sound land use
5. Identify and implement an information and dissemination strategy

Accomplishments to date (August 2003) include:

- The collection of digital orthophotography for 117 survey townships
- An accurate GIS compatible 1998 land use and land cover database for 117 individual survey townships
- Analysis of land use and land cover change for all 117 survey townships
- The continued development of individual map atlases for a majority of townships
- A working model to forecast land use and cover conditions
- Preparation and implementation of an Information Dissemination Strategy
- Creation and distribution of a 30 page booklet titled, *Riparian Owner's Guidebook for Watershed Management* (3,000 copies)
- Creation and distribution of large format newspaper insert distributed to 16,000 subscribers via the *Muskegon Chronicle*
- *The Watershed Planning Handbook* to be used at a Planning Workshop series for township officials and planners in September 2003

We're on the web!

www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/sustain

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED BY THE WEGE FOUNDATION AND
THE FREMONT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION