

### Green Infrastructure Workshop, April 26, 2010



Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Properties - 2009



Sub-watershed of St. Joseph River Watershed



The Dowagiac River and its wetlands has long been a significant hunting and settlement area for the Potawatomi

The name "Dowagiac" is an adaptation of the Potawatomi description for "a place to hunt, fish and forage"



**Pokagon Band Tribal Mission Statement** 

"The mission of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians is to respectfully promote and protect the culture, dignity, education, health, welfare, and self-sufficiency of our elders, our youth, our families, and our future generations while preserving Mother Earth. We will strive to give our people a better quality of life..."

# Traditional Teachings & Values: "Water is Life"

- Creation Story
- Mother Earth
- Circle of Life
- Medicine Wheel
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- Holistic
- Stewardship
- Interrelatedness
- Harmony
- Sustainability



# Applying Traditional Teachings & Values

- Pokagon Band Tribal Government
- Tribal Constitution
- Tribal Mission Statement
- Tribal Departments (Planning Division within Pokagon DNR)
  - Programs
  - Partnerships
  - Projects & Tools



Water quality protection has often been neglected in land use policies

- Key to understand the relationship between land use and water quality
- Create policies that protect water quality while promoting development
- Implement practices that protect water quality while developing land

Contemporary Tribal Model of "Green Infrastructure"

# **Tradition Teachings & Values** Traditional Ecological Knowledge Protection of Mother Earth



Contemporary Tribal Model of "Green Infrastructure"

**Tradition Teachings & Values Traditional Ecological Knowledge Tribal Institutions & Policies** Green Infrastructure BMPs Protection of Mother Earth



# Contemporary Tool To Respect Water Teachings...

#### Dowagiac River Watershed Management Plan

#### October 2002

Cass County Conservation District 1127 E. State Street Cassopolis, MI 49031 (269) 445-8643 x3





### **Tribal Housing Development Project**



# POKAGONEK ÉDAWAT

"Where Pokagons Live"

Housing Development Design Principles



### Watershed Goal #1

- Protect Watershed Hydrology
- Protect Water Quality
- Protect Natural Features
- Protect Farmland
- Protect Open Space
- Protect Rural Character

Housing Development Design Principles



#### Watershed Goal #2

### Reduce Sediment, Chemicals, and Thermal Inputs to Surface Water

Watershed Goal #3

Protect Public Water Supplies By Reducing Nutrients and Chemicals Entering Groundwater



## Watershed Goal #1

- Protect Watershed Hydrology
- Protect Water Quality
  - Protect Natural Features
  - Protect Open Space
  - Protect Rural Character



#### Goal #1 – Protect Watershed Hydrology Protect Natural Features

Strategy: Incorporate Design into Topography (utilize natural drainage patterns)



Goal #1 – Protect Watershed Hydrology

Strategy: Promote Storm Water Infiltration To Ground Water Practice: Installed Bio-Swales Using Topographic Lows



Goal #1 – Protect Watershed Hydrology

Strategy: Promote Storm Water Infiltration To Ground Water Practice: Installed Rain Gardens





Relationship of Impervious Cover to Stream Health



Goal #1 – Protect Watershed Hydrology Protect Water Quality

> Strategy: Reduce impermeable surfaces Promote Infiltration

Practice: Installed Interlocking Pavers (Permeable Surface)





18 feet-wide driving surface vs. 28 feet-wide driving surface

Goal #1 – Protect Watershed Hydrology Protect Water Quality

Strategy: Reduce impermeable surfaces

**Practice:** Reduced Street Widths

Goal #1 – Protect Watershed Hydrology Protect Water Quality

Strategy: Reduce Impermeable Surfaces





### Practice: Efficient Floor Plans To Reduce Footprints



#### *Circa 1800 Land Cover Michigan Natural Features Inventory*

As Interpreted From GLO Surveys 1816-1856

Mixed Oak Savanah

Oak - Hickory Forest

Grassland

N

Goal #1 – Protect Natural Features

Strategy: Restore Native Vegetation



Native Vegetation Develops Deep Root Structures And Generates Soil Organic Carbon Protect Watershed Hydrology By increasing infiltration capacity

**Protect Water Quality** 



Goal #1 – Protect Natural Features

Strategy:

• Prairie & Woolands Restoration



#### **Restored Vegetation**

#### Wooded Areas -

- Cleared underbrush
- Opened Canopy





Goal #1 – Protect Open Space Strategy: Cluster Development

> 43 acres 17 homes 38 acres of open space



#### Goal #1 – Preserve Rural Character

Strategy:

- Cluster Development
- Restore Vegetation
- Neighborhood Is Set Back From Roads
- Proposed To Install Centralized, On-site Wastewater Treatment (No intrusion of urban infrastructure)



Dailey Road Housing Development





## Watershed Goal #2

### Reduce Sediment, Chemicals, And Thermal Inputs To Surface Water

Watershed Goal #2 – Reduce Sediment, Chemicals, Nutrients, And Thermal Inputs To Surface Water

Strategy:

• Utilize Infiltration Techniques

No Conveyance To Surface Water



• Restore Native Vegetation

No Fertilizers, No Chemicals Needed For Maintenance



Watershed Goal #2 – Reduce Sediment, Chemicals, Nutrients, And Thermal Inputs To Surface Water

Strategy: Work with Hydrologic Cycle No Conveyance To Surface Water

Practice: Proposed Installation of Centralized, On-site Wastewater Treatment System



Local Municipal WWTP is a Thermal Discharge to the Cold-Water System



### Watershed Goal #3

### Protect Public Water Supply By Reducing Nutrients & Chemicals Entering Groundwater

Watershed Goal #2 – Reduce Sediment, Chemicals, Nutrients, And Thermal Inputs To Surface Water

Watershed Goal #3 – Protect Public Water Supply By Reducing Nutrients And Chemicals Entering Ground Water



#### Strategy:



Restore Native Vegetation in Open Space Areas Limit Turf – Install Wildflower Gardens

No Fertilizers Or Lawn Chemicals Utilized

### **Another Contemporary Tool...**



Prepared by: Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Submitted August 29, 2007

Prepared for: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

### Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's Green infrastructure Project

#### Southwest Michigan Planning Commission's Green infrastructure Project

Cass, Van Buren, Berrien Counties



Potential Conservation Areas Mapped by Michigan Natural Features Inventory August 29, 2007

Connect networks of natural areas & other open spaces

Planned & Managed to conserve natural ecosystems

Maintain environmental benefits



# Development & Conservation is compatible

Enhanced habitat Rather than further fragment

Restoring landscape's role in the water cycle



# LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

# QUALITY LIVING ENVIRONMENT















### St. Joseph River Watershed

Hydrologic Unit Code: 04050001



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huc\_code=04050001

For more information, see the USEPA "Surf Your Watershed" website at http:// cfpub.epa.gov/suf/huc.cfm?

#### Approved Watershed Management Plans

Dowagiac River - Cass Conservation District, http://

- users.beanstalk.net/casscons
- Nottawa Creek Calhoun Conservation District http:// www.calhouncd.org/

#### Watershed Groups

- Friends of the St. Joseph River http://www.fotsjr.org/
- St. Joseph River Basin Commission http://www.sirbc.com/ Cass Conservation District
- Calhoun Conservation District

- Watershed Overview / Ecology / Biodiversity · The St. Joseph River Watershed is located in the southwest portion of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and northwestern portion of Indiana. It spans the Michigan-Indiana border and empties into Lake Michigan at St. Joseph, Michigan,
- The watershed drains 4,685 square miles from 15 counties (Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Hilsdale, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren in Michigan and De Kalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Lagrange, Noble, St. Joseph and Steuben in Indiana)
- The watershed includes 3,742 river miles and flows through and near the Kalamazoo-Portage, the Ekhart-Goshen, the South Bend and the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor metropolitan areas.

#### Watershed Activities / Concerns / Priorities A Watershed Management Plan for the St. Joseph River basin, led by the Friends of the St. Joseph River, will be prepared through funding by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and include the Indiana

- portion of the basin. . The St. Joseph watershed project has generated maps of subwatersheds cities, USGS water resources stations, digital elevations, wetlands, river valley segments, land use, average annual precipitation, 1950-1999,
- designated trout streams, geological features, and soils. Under the Dowagiac River watershed management plan, nine municipalities in the Dowagiac River watershed have or will receive technical and/or financial assistance to work on master plans and zoning ordinances to protect farmland, open space, rural character, wetlands,
- floodplains and water quality. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi tribe is involved in Dowagiac River watershed

#### Basin Prioritization of Concerns

- The Watershed Concerns have been prioritized by the Steering Committee, according to the importance of each concern and the ease of implementing BMP's to correct those concerns, in the following manner:
  - 1. Sediments (fie)
  - . Nutrients (tie)
  - 3. Habitat Loss 4. Wetlands (fie)
  - 4. Animal Waste (fie)
  - 6. Pesticides (fie) 6. Urbanization & Land Use (fie)
- 8. Biota
- 9. CSO's 10. Pathogens (fie)
- 10. Hydrologic Modification (tie) 10. Litter (fie)

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#### St. Joseph River Watershed

Hydrologic Unit Code: 04050001

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# LAKE MICHIGAN LAKEWIDE MANAGEMEN PLAN (LaMP) 2004





#### LAKE MICHIGAN LAKEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LaMP) 2004





#### Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement as amended 1987

U.S. & Canada Pledged Their Determination

"to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem."



Humankind has not woven the web of life. e are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

-Chief Seattle-





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