Clean Water Act Section 303(d)
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

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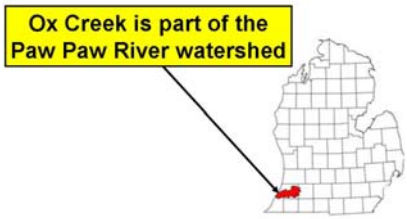
Ox Creek TMDL Development Project

October 2009

Why the Interest in Ox Creek?

- Ox Creek is a warmwater stream that flows through Benton Harbor where it joins the Paw Paw.
- It originates in agricultural lands east of the city and drains an area of 16.5 square miles.
- The lower portion of the watershed is heavily influenced by urbanization and storm water.
- Ox Creek appears on Michigan's §303(d) list because it is not meeting the *"other indigenous aquatic life and wildlife"* designated use; the result of poor macroinvertebrate community ratings.
- Sedimentation, siltation, total suspended solids, oil and grease, heavy metals, and toxic organic compounds in the water column or sediment are all possible causes of the impairment.



What is a TMDL?

- A TMDL is a tool for implementing water quality standards.
- It is based on the relationship between pollutant sources and in-stream water quality conditions.
- It establishes allowable loadings and pollutant reductions needed to meet water quality standards.
- The TMDL process is a flexible framework for identifying actions needed to attain water quality standards.
- States are responsible for implementing TMDL process.
- EPA reviews and approves TMDLs.

How will the Ox Creek TMDL be developed?

- The Ox Creek TMDL will be done in phases to allow for public involvement and input.
- It will start with compilation of available data within the watershed.
- Analysis tools will be developed to determine how much pollutant reduction is needed for Ox Creek to meet its designated uses.
- An implementation strategy will be prepared identifying actions needed to achieve the goals.
- The strategy identifies waste load allocations to be incorporated into permits for point sources and recommends best management practices for nonpoint sources.