

**Hickory Creek Partnership Meeting
Lincoln Township Hall
November 11, 2010
6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Agenda

Hickory Creek Overview - a cold water fishery supporting trout; however, water quality and habitat is trending towards poor over the last decade. Flooding problems have also been an issue of concern. To be proactive, one must take a watershed approach and investigate what and how much is draining into the creek from surrounding lands. These lands are....

- Urban/Developed 14%
- Cropland/Pasture 58%
- Forest 14%
- Wetland/Water 5%

Major Pollutants of Concern - sediment and flashiness

Major Sources – significant wetland loss in headwaters, urbanization without LID; lack of conservation land management practices on farms and lawns; construction projects without sediment control

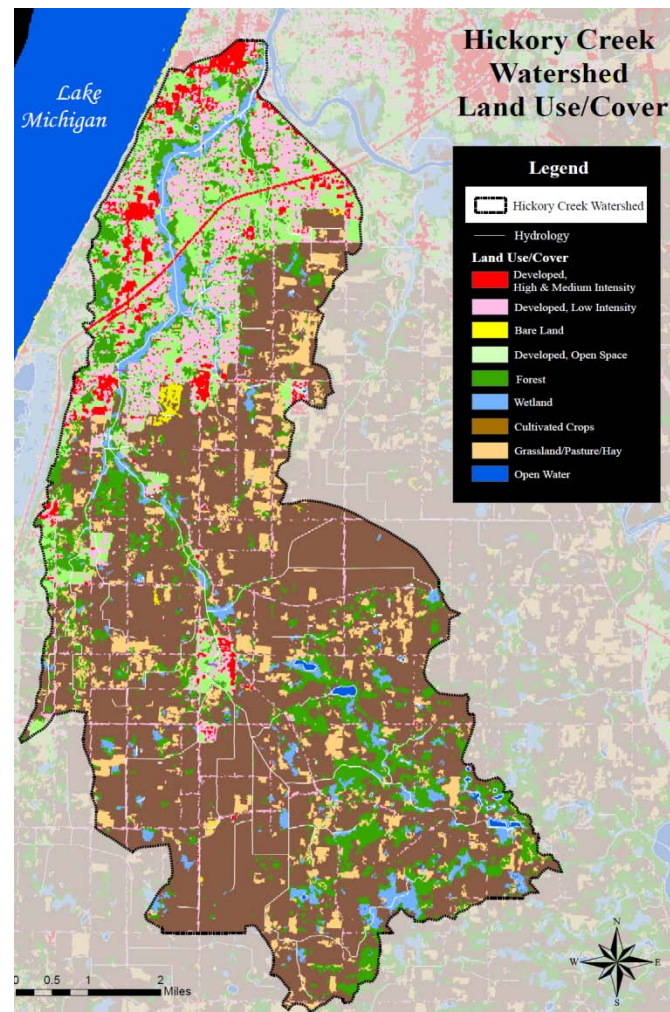
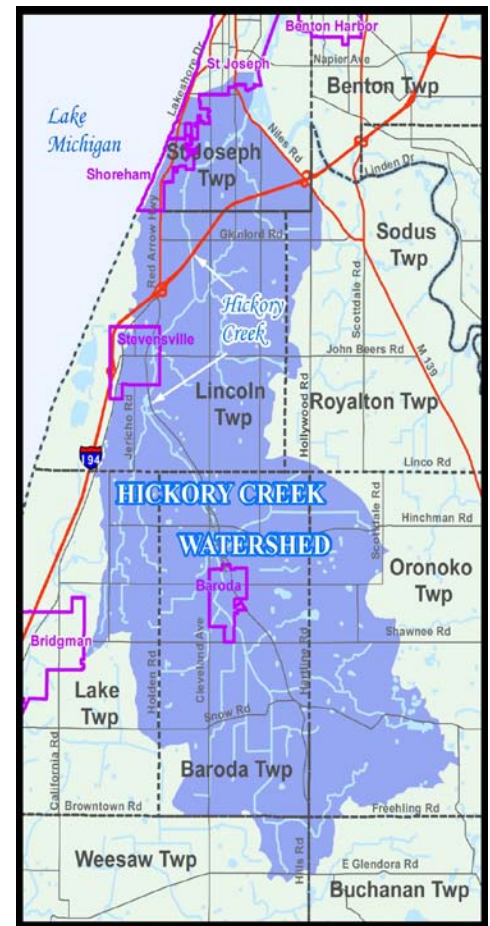
Watershed Management

- identifying and prioritizing problems
- involving stakeholders
- developing solutions
- measuring success

Everyone needs to do their part -

- Municipalities – Planning and Zoning, support educational opportunities
- Agricultural Landowners – Best Management Practices (buffers, wetland restoration, conservation tillage, etc.)
- Homeowners – everyday activities around the house, participate in stream clean-ups, etc.
- Contractors/Developers – better development techniques and sediment control during construction

Need to build on existing group's efforts and successes – Drain Commissioner has done many improvements to decrease flooding; Hickory Creek Interceptor Improvement Project; Stevensville – creek clean-ups and initial study; Berrien County – MS4 – zoning changes to deal with stormwater; FotSJR



Many resources and programs available (Ag – Farm Bill programs; Planning and Zoning assistance; public education)

What can we do?

Interest in forming a group – Decide purpose/mission, name, potential activities, organization type (informal, MOU, etc), who to involve, leaders (chair, vice chair, secretary, etc)

Purpose of Partnership (name)

Potential Activities (action plans, priorities, time lines) (Identify problem areas, focus public education (homeowners, agricultural producers, municipal officials, contractors, developers), share information on progress and problems)

Who - Representation

Discuss / decide on type of organization (partnership, informal group, memo of understanding.)

Share email addresses and contact information

Propose, schedule, and place for future meetings

Hickory Creek Watershed presentation and studies on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission website at: www.swmpc.org/hickory.asp

Friends of the St. Joe River at www.fotsjr.org