

Clean Water Creates Opportunities

A sustainable Ox Creek Watershed will enhance the quality of life in Benton Township by improving environmental vitality and supporting regional economic growth.

Why Ox Creek?

Ox Creek is a crucial part of a Watershed.

No matter where you live, we all live in a watershed.

But what is it and what is its place in our community?

A Watershed is an area of land that drains rain water or snow into one location such as a stream, lake or wetland. These water bodies supply our drinking water, water for agriculture and manufacturing, offer opportunities for recreation (canoeing and fishing, anyone?) and provide habitat to numerous plants and animals. Unfortunately various forms of pollution, including runoff and erosion, can interfere with the health of the watershed. Therefore, it is important to protect the quality of our watershed.

How do we keep a watershed area healthy?

Development planning and improvements to control storm water runoff are key... water runoff needs to be slowed down, spread out, and soaked in!

What Areas Are Included?

Ox Creek Watershed is in the far west part of the larger St. Joseph River Watershed. Ox Creek flows into the Paw Paw River, then to the St. Joseph River, and out to Lake Michigan.



What is the Plan for the Area?

A **revitalized Orchards Mall area** with **mixed use development** and **public gathering spaces** as a gateway to Benton Harbor and St. Joseph and the **regional commercial/retail hub** of SW Michigan.

EXIT 29 TRAILHEAD



OX CREEK WATERSHED



ORCHARDS MALL



OUTDOOR DINING & SHOPPING



GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT



PIPESTONE PARK PLAZA



ADVANTAGES

- Improved roads to better accommodate all users — cars, pedestrians and bicyclists
- The gateway nature of the area to the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor community
- The major supermarket (Meijer)
- Hotels that are at capacity year-round
- The connection to local waterways
- Potential for obtaining grant funding

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve road safety
- Manage water run-off
- Revitalize the mall area
- Increase perception of safety
- Become a shopping destination
- Attract mixed-use development
- Build new townhomes
- Expand green space
- Restore fruit trees
- Create more parks and trails
- Include accessibility by bike and on foot
- Attract young professionals
- Create outdoor market and gathering spaces

OUR PARTNERS



BE PART OF THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT!

www.sustainoxcreek.org