



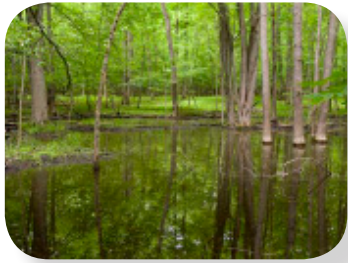
Protecting Michigan's Water Resources

The Land-Water Connection

Michigan's land and water resource base are vitally important to the state's economy, to our quality of life and to the character of our environmental resources. Land conservancies play a critical role in waterway, coastal, and wetland protection and restoration, invasive species removal, and preservation of some of Michigan's most viable working lands. What we do on the land affects the quality and quantity of Great Lakes waters, its tributaries and surrounding wetlands through runoff and drainage.

Michigan Livelihoods Depend on the Land-Water Connection:

- Michigan's 10 million **citizens** rely on a safe and abundant source of drinking water
- **Farmers** grow over 120 types of crops in the state's varied soils and growing climates
- **The forest products industry** and recreational users contribute \$12 billion annually to Michigan's economy and provide 200,000 associated jobs
- **Recreational anglers**, 1.4 million resident and 318,000 nonresident, purchase licenses and contribute an estimated \$2 billion annually to our economy
- **Michigan's wetlands** provide habitat for wildlife and play a key role in maintaining water quality through filtration of pollutants and sediment



Land Conservancies: Protecting Land, Protecting Water

Michigan land conservancies act strategically in their protection and restoration efforts with a diversity of partnerships and funding sources to protect and restore lands that maintain regional and Great Lakes water quality. Examples include:

Michigan Dune Alliance

A partnership of Michigan conservancies focusing on Michigan's west coast received Sustain Our Great Lakes funding to conduct surveys, invasive species control, and monitoring of threatened coastal wetlands and forests along a 505-mile Lake Michigan shoreline.

Paw Paw River Watershed

A partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Nature Association, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, local and state government, landowners, and MSU; has strategically assessed and protected 2,000 acres (and counting!) of public and private land.

Arcadia Marsh and Bowen's Creek

A partnership between Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, and partners to restore coastal streams and wetlands in a fresh water estuary. Over 1/4 of the 16,000-acre watershed has been protected.

Bioreserve Project

A conservation effort to protect remaining natural areas within the Huron River Watershed. A Bioreserve Map identifies these areas to local government, landowners, and conservancies including Legacy, North Oakland Headwaters and Livingston Land Conservancies to help prioritize limited funding and preserve the most critical natural areas for water quality.

Michigan's Future: The Value of Strategic Conservation Planning

Strategic Conservation Planning

Land conservancies have a long history of protecting and restoring lands that impact Great Lakes waters. Conservancies use strategic conservation planning to identify and prioritize lands for future protection.

Clear Conservation Priorities

Spatial data resources help conservancies translate their conservation planning goals into on-the-ground success. Utilizing a variety of statewide and regional data, lands are analyzed to help conservancies work with landowners in achieving local and regional goals.

Informed Projects

Strategic conservation planning allows conservancies to protect land efficiently by creating a long term vision and setting clear priorities. It builds upon science-based decision making and takes into account social and economic priorities.

Strategic Partnerships

There is strength in numbers. Conservancies work with a diverse network of state, federal and nonprofit partners to address their shared conservation goals. Together, they protect and restore Michigan's water resources.

Long-Term Success

Heart of the Lakes is working with Michigan State University Institute of Water Research to focus land protection and restoration partnership efforts on lands contributing large amounts of sediment and contaminant loadings into waterways (Figure 1).

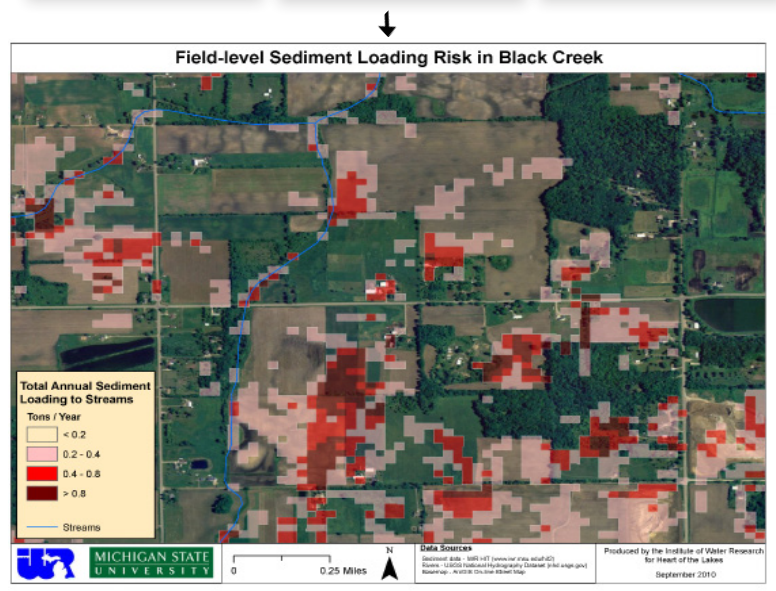
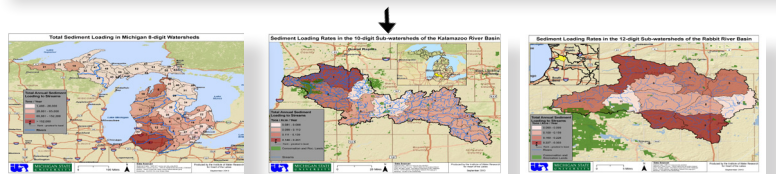
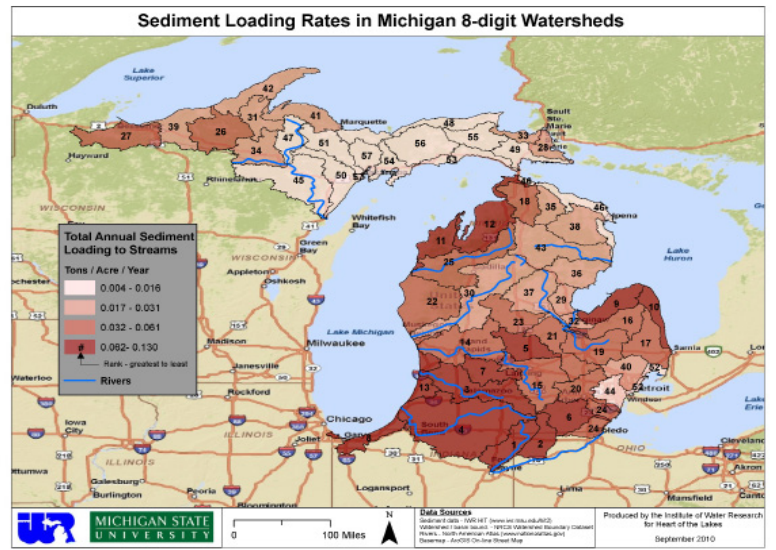


Fig. 1 MSU Institute of Water Research is helping land conservancies plan within a statewide context

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Michigan land conservancies continue to engage in work that meets the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's objectives. Statewide and regional conservation planning efforts have identified key areas that conservancies will continue working to protect and restore; ensuring healthy waters in surrounding lakes, streams, wetlands and our Great Lakes.

Heart of the Lakes and Michigan land conservancies continue to advocate for full appropriations originally proposed for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (\$465 million annually) so that conservancies and their partners can continue to expand opportunities for permanent land protection in areas critical to water quality of our Great Lakes.