



River Raisin Watershed Council Project Fact Sheet

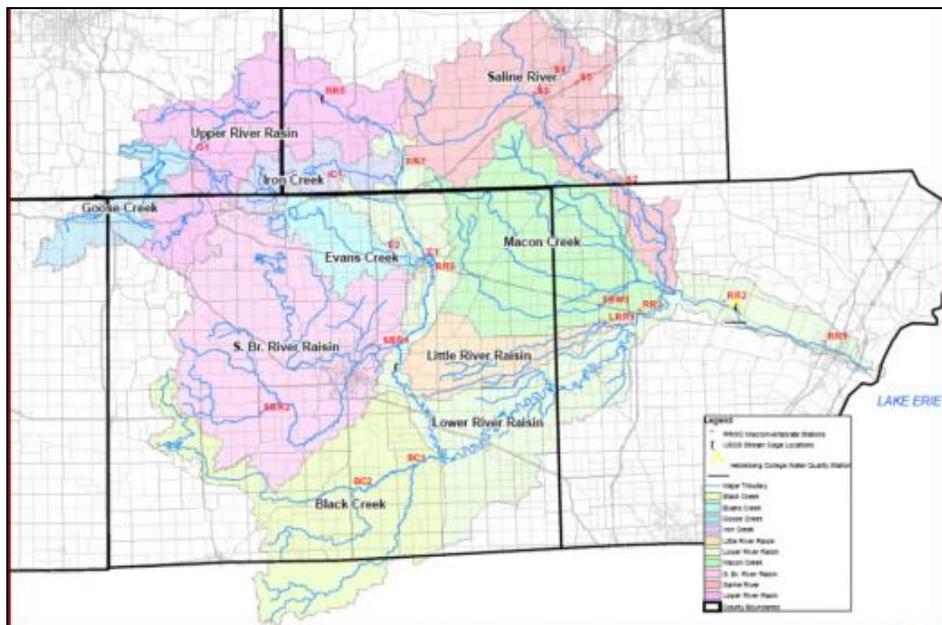
Project Name: River Raisin Watershed Volunteer Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Project

Grant Amount: Grant funds, \$14,913; match funds, \$47,114.77

Project Duration: January 2008 – June 2009

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Project Location: Primary County – Lenawee



Project Partners: Adrian College, Lenawee Conservation District, Individual Macroinvertebrate experts

Project Summary: The River Raisin Watershed Council's Adopt-A-Stream program is a volunteer-oriented stream monitoring project. Volunteers collect macroinvertebrates from sites throughout the watershed. The invertebrates are identified at events following the stream searches (insects to family level, other taxa typically to Class or Ordinal level). A yearly report compiling the findings is made available to the public in the spring. This report outlines the findings of the adopt-a-stream program as well as other information pertinent to water quality in the River Raisin Watershed.

For the full 2008 report, see: <http://www.adrian.edu/~jmartin/2008%20RRWC%20Adopt-A-Stream%20Report.pdf>

Project Accomplishments: As of June 2009 we have collected eight years of spring data and three years of fall data. There have now been 181 individual site visits by our volunteers. We have recovered nearly 90 different invertebrate taxa and tens of thousands of insects over that period. From this large data set we have been able to conclude that some portions of the watershed suffer far more from human activities than others. Further, hundreds of citizens have been involved with these ongoing surveys since program inception. The use of this program as an educational tool to reach the public may eventually prove to be as valuable a project accomplishment as the Adopt-A-Stream reports.

Monitoring Activities: Our monitoring program began with 13 sites in the spring of 2002. We increased our sample sites to include all major subwatersheds by fall 2006. Macroinvertebrates are now collected from 20 sites by teams of volunteers twice a year. The invertebrates are identified twice a year at Bug ID events held at Adrian College. Ratios of sensitive to tolerant taxa are used to determine the relative health of each of our sites.

General Costs: The bulk of costs associated with the program stem from costs to employ a program director and coordinator and administration. Additional equipment purchases and annual expenses such as vials and volunteer snacks are minimal. Equipment replacement costs must also be factored in on an ongoing basis due to damage, repair or age. .

Significant Measurable Results: Tracking the number of invertebrate captures, along with their taxonomic identities, allow us to measure sample effort as well as relative sensitivity/stream health for each of our 20 sites. Please refer to the full report for details. A brief summary of the 2008 findings is presented in the following pages.

Photos: Left, Marcus Teadt & Keeley Zabel collecting insects on Evans Creek, September 2008.
Right, Bug ID day at Adrian College, October 2008.

