



October 28, 2016

GVMC Receives EPA Grant for our Environmental Programs

The Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) has been awarded \$340,065 from the EPA as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI funding will be implementing green infrastructure and other practices over the next 3 years and is already well underway.

Partners working over the summer with LGROW include Plaster Creek Stewards, the City of Grand Rapids, Trout Unlimited, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC), and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

Individual projects within the GLRI include projects in the Plaster Creek, Rogue River, and Lamberton Creek watersheds. Each project will not only implement green infrastructure and other practices, but will also execute educational and other outreach activities.

Each partner will work with a school in their watershed. All students will be introduced to their respective project and then given a pre-test. Students will learn how to install green infrastructure practices and construct rain barrels and lead community workshops to showcase their

knowledge and spread public awareness. A post-test will be administered to the students to measure their increase in awareness about their watershed and in their knowledge of green infrastructure.

Trout Unlimited (TU) will be working with East Rockford Middle School on the Rogue River Restoration Project which will be starting construction in spring 2017.

The City of Grand Rapids is leading the Lamberton Creek Restoration Project and will be conducting the education and outreach portion with North Park Montessori School. The construction of a bioswale is scheduled to begin late summer 2017.

The Plaster Creek project, led by the Plaster Creek Stewards, will be working with Grand Rapids Christian High School on the Indian Trails Golf Course floodplain restoration, starting spring 2018.

The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), submitted to EPA, describes the methods and procedures of monitoring that will be used to measure success of the project. The goal of the monitoring is to collect, analyze, and compare data to evaluate the effectiveness of the best management practic-

es (BMPs) in improving water quality and to quantify the reduction of stormwater pollutants and volume. Flow meters will measure the reduction of stormwater reaching the storm sewers at all sites and temperature readings will document the effect of the BMPs on maintaining Rogue River's coldwater status.

By involving students we are inspiring a greener future for West Michigan and beyond. The knowledge and personal experience gained will follow them throughout their lifetimes and influence many around them. Students will be reminded for years to come of their accomplishments whenever they visit any one of these project areas. They will gain valuable insight for the future of the Lower Grand River Watershed and the initiative to someday start their own green projects.

GVMC/LGROW will use these resources to coordinate this important project that will involve our staff, the volunteers and resources of several partner organizations and our schools.

