

Why is water quality in the creek] u %o }POE

Ž f • - † ” ” † † • ‹ • ... ‘ • • ” † † † „ † † .. f • - f • † † † † † † • † † • † † - • † † - • -

Plaster Creek WATERSHED PROFILE

PlasterCreekWatershed(PCW)

Intent of
Watershed
Profile

x Raisæawarenessof PlasterCreekand

Wetlands x 47% of PCWetlandshavebeendrainedor

Land use Land cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x The Plaster Creek Watershed Management Plan has identified wise land use decisions as key to improving Plaster Creek's health. x Since 1992 there has been rapid urban expansion in the watershed. x Many areas that were previously farmland have been developed as commercial or residential. x In 2006, 54% of the PCW was considered developed. x An additional 19% was identified as open space, which includes lawns, parks, and medians. x Agricultural land use accounts for 16% of the watershed, down from 38% in 1992. x The remaining 11% consists of natural or naturalized forests and wetlands. x Plaster Creek originates mostly in agricultural areas, moves through suburban and commercial developments to more industrial sections and eventually lower income urban neighborhoods. x Some high quality natural areas remain along the stream, particularly at Paris Park, Ken O Sha Park, and a section between 28th Street and Madison Avenue.
Septic systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Domestic wastewater can release pathogens, such as harmful bacteria and viruses. x In properly functioning septic systems soil and associated soil bacteria can effectively remove most disease-causing microorganisms from wastewater. x Many suburban and rural watershed residents are serviced by private septic systems. x Between 1994 and 2004, the number of septic systems in Kent County rose 30%, largely due to development of formerly rural areas. x Data from three Michigan locations (Washtenaw, Wayne and Barry/Eaton counties) that have inspection programs for on-site septic systems report failure rates of 17%, 26%, and 27% respectively. x Michigan is the only state

PlasterCreek

Profile
resources

x



1.0 Reachout and Connect

Notes: Public outreach and education is always helpful preparing residents for policy changes. Help increase awareness about watershed planning issues. Introduce

2.0 Participate and Collaborate

Notes: Participation in watershed related work and collaboration with watershed p062250TD.0052Tc(an9232250TD.03425047T16Tf.2250

3.0 Leadby Example

4.0 Master Plan

NOTEYour Township Master Plan sets policies and establishes land use standards that have implications on water quality and other natural resources. The Township Master Plan can establish standards for protecting water quality by promoting open space, limiting impervious surfaces (and managing runoff from impervious surfaces), and avoiding certain activities near surface water bodies. Consider these provisions in

6.0 Low Impact Development(LID)

NOTE LID helps mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff and stormwater pollution to local water bodies. Whether areas are newly developed or being redeveloped, LID practices can be implemented. Some constraints may be present, such as low infiltration rates of stormwater through soils, steep slopes, high groundwater tables, and population density may limit retention, but these site characteristics can be accommodated into the appropriate plan for site. Phase in LID standards into the zoning over time.

7.0 Other Recommendations

Actions	Concerns?	Commentor Question
Facilitate approach to ensure septic systems are maintained long term to prevent sewage release, e.g. point of sale inspections, system registration, zoning district standards, voluntary inspections, risk based permits, etc.	† Yes † No	