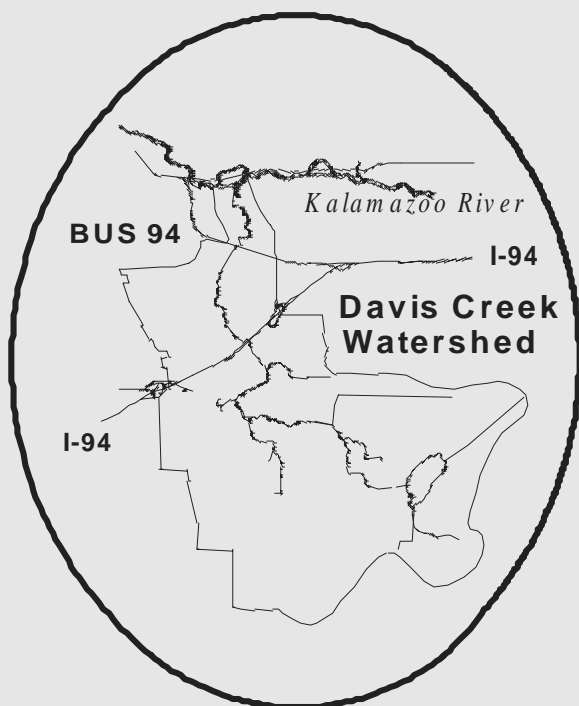


Davis Creek News

A newsletter for residents of the Davis Creek Watershed; Sponsored by the Kalamazoo Conservation District, River Partners Program of The Forum for Kalamazoo County and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Davis Creek Watershed Management Plan



Davis Creek Watershed Mission Statement

The mission of the Davis Creek Watershed Initiative is to improve the water quality and environmental health of Davis Creek and the Kalamazoo River by severely reducing the pollution and erosion from runoff within the watershed. Education, action and environmental cleanup are our goals by involving the diverse urban and rural landowners in improving the quality of life for people, wildlife and the community.

Summary List of Recommended Watershed Actions

This newsletter contains concise and abbreviated descriptions of 48 action items recommended by the Davis Creek Watershed Steering Committee to protect the water quality of Davis Creek. This newsletter was prepared as a special supplement to the six-page Executive Summary of the Davis Creek Watershed Management Plan. Complete copies of the 170 page Davis Creek Watershed Management Plan are on file with each local unit of government located within the watershed boundaries. Additional copies of the Plan may also be obtained through the Kalamazoo Conservation District or the Forum for Kalamazoo County.

Davis Creek, also sometimes referred to as Allen Creek or the Olmsted-Davis Drain, is a highly modified, predominately urban drainage corridor located in central Kalamazoo County, Michigan. In recent years this watershed has been identified as one of the most polluted tributaries of the county which directly impacts the water quality of the Kalamazoo River. Community leaders recognized that pollution from Davis Creek is a potential threat to current community efforts to revitalize the river corridor downstream from Davis Creek, such as the Annen Sports Complex and the River 2020 initiative.

In 1995/96 concerned citizens, community leaders, public officials and environmental professionals initiated a federal Clean Water Act (section 319) grant funded work program to develop a watershed management plan for Davis Creek. Developed as a citizen led, community-based partnership, the Davis Creek Watershed Plan contains 48 recommended actions. These actions (i.e. programmatic work tasks) are grouped into nine general issue areas. Each recommended action is briefly described in this supplemental report:

Public Education and Awareness

- Initiate a graphic design competition to create a Davis Creek Watershed signage.
- Install Davis Creek signage at major creek crossings and other appropriate locations.
- Stencil urban storm sewer inlets.
- Prepare and distribute a Davis Creek watershed newsletter for the Davis Creek watershed implementation project.
- Promote streambank re-vegetation and bioengineering techniques.
- Implement a property owner NPS education and on-site assistance program targeted toward industrial, commercial and concentrated residential properties.
- Create a speakers list of water quality protection and related topics to be made available to public/private organizations seeking program speakers.
- Support ongoing community environmental programs which provide water quality benefits (i.e. soil conservation, groundwater protection, household hazardous waste collection, recycling and County HAZMAT).

Community Involvement; Effective Citizen Stewardship

- Seek to create an annual “river” or “watershed” festival similar to the famous Kalamazoo Flower Festival.
- Expand the Creek Watch Hot Line of the River Partners Program to include periodic meetings with designated liaisons of responsible agencies.
- Host in-county workshops and/or conferences on water quality issues.
- Encourage school districts to incorporate watershed education and an annual watershed appreciation day into the curricula.
- Create a self sustaining adopt-a-creek program for Davis Creek.
- Assist citizen groups and neighborhood associations in self-directed efforts to engage members in watershed protection.
- Create an annual Citizen Award program for watershed protection efforts.

Watershed Master Planning and Public Stewardship

- Create an empowered interagency committee to further the initiatives of the Davis Creek implementation project.
- Initiate integrated engineering re-design of the Davis Creek drainage corridor to creatively mitigate the detrimental effects of the disturbed hydraulics of Davis Creek.
- Develop a long-term data collection strategy for monitoring the Davis Creek watershed.
- Seek grant funding to evaluate contaminated groundwater impacts to the water quality of Davis Creek.
- Use the Davis Creek Watershed Project as a model with which to encourage similar watershed planning efforts.

Municipal Storm Water Management

- Implement a structured storm drainage system inspection and maintenance program to protect the public's safety, water quality and the infrastructure investment.
- Initiate an appropriately scaled water quality management program for all municipal storm water drainage systems.
- Seek creative funding mechanisms to finance regular drainage system inspection, maintenance and water quality management programs.
- Pursue cost-shared implementation of site-specific nonpoint source remediation projects through the MDEQ grant funded Davis Creek Implementation Project and other assistance programs.

Earth Movement, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control

- Pursue improved coordination and enhanced enforcement of Act 347 of 1972, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control.
- Assure Act 347 permitting officers possess MDEQ certification and receive annual training.
- Notify municipal storm water owners/operators of any Act 347 permits issued within their system service area.
- Train on-street employees to recognize and report soil erosion control problems.
- Fund expanded Act 347 monitoring through monthly permit fees adjusted for total area of unstable soils per month.

Site Development Design Standards

- Develop minimum stream corridor setbacks and other critical area site design standards to provide water quality protection.
- Promote drainage management strategies which consider both the quantity and quality impacts of storm water runoff.
- Develop storm water management requirements which encourage on-site management whenever possible.
- Restrict new, potentially significant NPS polluting facilities (e.g. industrial/commercial sites, parking lots, major roadways) from conveying runoff directly to a water body.
- Provide public authority or other legal arrangements to assure long-term maintenance of privately installed storm water management systems.
- Monitor temporary erosion controls concurrent with building construction inspections.
- Complete dye or other positive testing of waste drains prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.

Land Use Planning

- Identify stream corridor environmental features (e.g. flood control, water quality protection, habitat) to be protected through local land use planning.
- Protect significant features through local land development standards.
- Preserve urban stream corridor greenways.

Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination

- Restrict environmental high-risk land use activities from locating in watershed critical areas.
- Seek to implement the community retention basins recommended in the Olmsted-Davis Creek Drainage Study.
- Initiate dialogue and establish working liaisons among the ten local agencies with ACT 347 permitting authority.
- Provide public trash/litter containers at high pedestrian traffic locations along the creek.
- Initiate coordinated, interjurisdictional development of model: stream corridor land use ordinance; drainage ordinance; construction details for stream crossings, roadways and parking lots; NPS nuisance pollution ordinance, and; operational guides for street sweeping, roadway deicing, etc.

Remediation of Contaminated Sites; Urban Redevelopment; Sustainable Growth

- Establish a local governmental liaison group to coordinate local involvement in state/federal led environmental cleanups.
- Seek to reconstruct natural riparian conditions concurrently with any brown field redevelopment.
- Seek removal of trapped sediment and dismantle the Davis Creek dam at Lakeside.
- Establish training certification programs for bulk chemical users, similar to certification required for restricted use pesticides.

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