

Ford Lake Shoreline Restoration Demonstration Project

Summary

February 4, 2010

The Ford Lake Project is a shoreline restoration project located on the inner shoreline of the lagoon located at the north end of Ford Lake. The project will re-establish a natural environment along approximately 100 feet of shoreline using bio-engineering erosion control, and natural shoreline landscaping methods. The potential project will be completed as a collaboration among: 1) The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP), 2) Ypsilanti Township (Township), 3) Huron River Watershed Council, 4) Eastern Michigan University, and 5) Middle Huron Watershed Stormwater Advisory Group (SAG). These organizations have a common interest in promoting environmentally sound practices of shoreline development that reduce non-point source pollution inputs, shoreline erosion, and losses to fish and wildlife habitat in Ford Lake, and in promoting the benefits of native vegetation.

The project is proposed to serve as the on-site construction portion of a training course for the Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional (MCNSP) program; a function of the MNSP. This program is a statewide initiative designed to develop competency in marine contractors and landscape professionals in bio-engineering erosion control and natural shoreline landscaping methods. It has been developed in an effort to promote sound stewardship of lakefront properties by creating incentives for the shoreline construction industry to deliver these products to the marketplace. The classroom portion of the MCNSP training course will occur at Michigan State Univ. Extension facilities in Pontiac on March 2, 3, and 4. The on-site construction of the demonstration will occur on the Ford Lake property as the "hands-on" component of the MCNSP course during the third week of April (date TBD).

The project presents an opportunity for SAG partners. Completion of the demonstration site and participation in the MCNSP training course will provide SAG partners with a significant event towards compliance with public education and involvement, municipal training and TMDL requirements in Phase I and II Stormwater Discharge Permits at substantial cost savings. The demonstration site will equip SAG partners to host additional outreach and education programming to further meet these requirements by creating a site and course materials for education. Ford Lake is an attractive site, because additional opportunities exist on its shoreline for demonstrations that could incorporate a diversity of stormwater BMPs.

Costs associated with facilities, course materials, instructors, testing/certification, lunch, demonstration planning, design, and labor will be provided by MNSP. Costs associated with purchase of materials for construction, and permit application fees is being requested from the Middle Huron Watershed SAG.

We are requesting approval from the Middle Huron SAG representatives for the following items:

- To support the workshop and demonstration project by distributing marketing materials and helping to recruit participation; and
- To allow HRWC to expend budget not to exceed \$5,350 to purchase construction materials and pay permit fees. A detailed cost breakdown and project presentation is included with this summary.