



## Millers Creek Watershed BMP Implementation Project

6 November 2006 through 31 August 2010

The purpose of this section 319 funded grant was to determine if a series of small best management practices (BMPs), combined with an information and education campaign, could be successful in stabilizing the water flow and improving the habitat and biota of Millers Creek, a highly disturbed urban stream. The project efforts were focused on the creek's headwaters section, where the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC) built two community rain gardens, helped design four private residential rain gardens, retrofitted a detention pond to hold more rainwater, and distributed rain barrels to residents. In addition, HRWC shared all of its efforts with neighborhood residents, kept them involved in construction projects and maintenance activities, and encouraged them to take initiative in changing their behaviors and using their own property to reduce impacts on Millers Creek. To determine project effectiveness, HRWC collected stream flow, macroinvertebrate, habitat, and channel morphology data prior to and after BMP implementation. The data analysis demonstrated that macroinvertebrates are returning to the creek, and that the creek's flow is less intense after storms.

**Grant Amount: \$ 396,962**

**Match Funds: \$ 201,730**

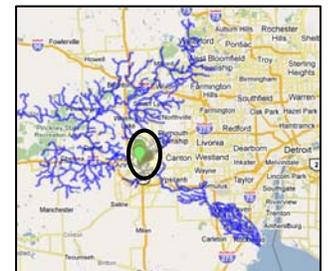
**Total Amount: \$ 598,692**

### Partners involved:

- City of Ann Arbor
- Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission
- Millers Creek Action Team
- Pfizer
- JFNew
- Ann Arbor Public Schools
- Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowners Association



### Millers Creek Watershed



Google Maps

### Best Management Practices and I&E Activities:

- HRWC constructed a 3,100 square foot rain garden at Thurston Elementary School. Third-grade teachers and their classrooms participated in the garden's planting.
- HRWC removed 3,900 square feet of impervious asphalt from the dead-end stub of Briarcliff Street and constructed a 5,100 square foot raingarden.
- Local residents volunteered in community rain garden construction and ongoing maintenance.
- HRWC and project partners led two rain garden walks to educate local residents how they could build a rain garden of their own.
- Project partners aided local residents in constructing raingardens on their property.
- HRWC retrofitted a water detention pond to hold more water and replaced the turf grass on the pond margins with native plants.
- HRWC distributed sixty-one rain barrels throughout the project neighborhood.
- HRWC created and distributed educational material about how neighborhood residents could make a difference for Millers Creek.



Third grade students help with the plantings at their school.

**We did it together!**

# rain, rain, don't go away

**The Millers Creek Rainwater Project**  
Walking Tour Wednesday, June 23 — Details Inside!

Post BMP monitoring has shown that the biology and water flow in Millers Creek have improved.



Though the grant has ended, the project continues on, as many groups like be involved in the rain garden maintenance activities.

