



Grayling Stormwater Project

October 1, 2004, through September 30, 2008

The Grayling Stormwater Project began in 2004 as a response to increasing pollution in the Au Sable River. Local residents and anglers from across the country were interested in reducing the amount of pollution that washed into the river from local towns like Grayling. The goal of the project was to eliminate the direct discharge of stormwater runoff from the 12 major drainage zones within the City of Grayling through a hybrid low impact development/end-of-pipe treatment approach. In all, seven oil-grit separators and 86 rain gardens were installed to accomplish the goal. In addition, the City of Grayling adopted an official stormwater ordinance to direct future development, and instituted a rain garden adoption program to get local landowners involved in the future maintenance of the project.



Grant Amount: \$ 758,000
Match Funds: \$ 255,937
Total Amount: \$ 1,013,937

Best Management Practices:

- 87 rain gardens (low impact development)
- 7 oil-grit separators (end-of-pipe)

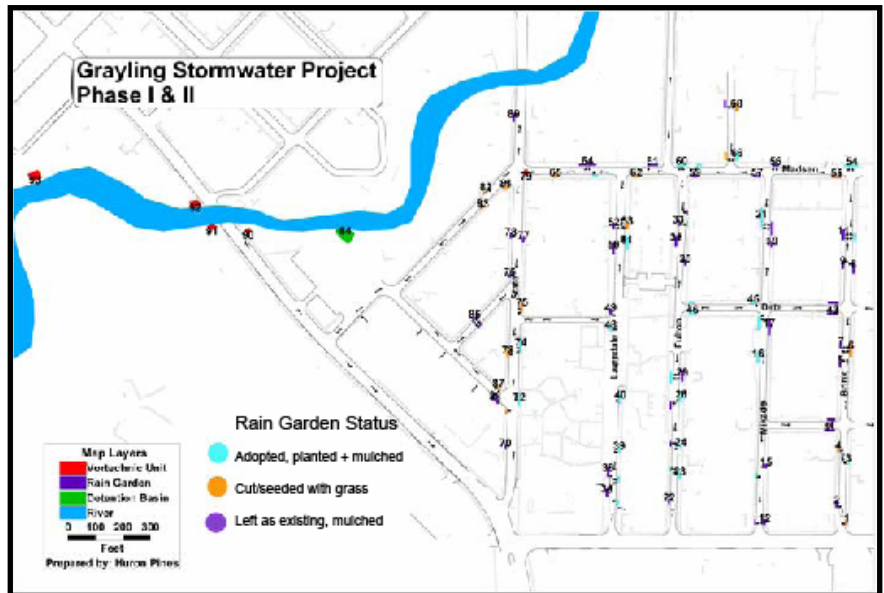
Annual Load Reductions:

- 3.20 tons sediment
- 36.34 pounds phosphorous
- 149.32 pounds nitrogen



Partners involved:

- MDEQ, MDNR, NRCS
- City of Grayling
- MDOT
- Trout Bum BBQ (\$59,263)
- Michigan Fly Fishing Club (\$19,100)
- Upper Au Sable River Preservation Assoc.
- Crawford County
- Ray's Canoeing and the Fly Factory
- Spikes Keg of Nails
- Trout Unlimited
 - Challenge Chapter
 - Paul Young Chapter
 - Elliot Donnelley Chapter
 - Mason Griffith Chapter
 - William B. Mershon Chapter
 - Lee Wulff Chapter
 - Kalamazoo Valley Chapter through their Stanley Weber Projects Fund
- Individual donors



I&E Activities:

- Developed a rain garden door hanger for local residents and those interested in rain gardens.
- Created yearly project posters to hang in prominent locations in town.
- Submitted newspaper and magazine articles and interviews (local news, Michigan Outdoors, Bay City Times).
- Presented the project to groups around the Great Lakes.
- Visited each rain garden landowner to encourage stewardship of the rain gardens.
- Led tours of the project for partners and school groups (college and elementary)
- Worked with local 6th grade to add "no dumping" decals to local drains.

Project Location

- City of Grayling, Crawford County,





Rain garden #35 during construction (2005). An underdrain was added to enhance infiltration.



Rain garden #35 after planting (2006). Swale and prairie seed mixes were used, and plugs of native perennials were added.



Rain garden #35 after enhancement with plugs and mulch (2007).



Rain garden #35 after adoption (2008). The resident agreed to water and weed regularly and received a credit on her water bill and larger plants to fill in empty spots in the garden. With all the extra water, seeds that had been planted in 2006 were sprouting.



Installation of one of the Vortechnic oil-grit separators (2006).