

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at <http://www.epa.gov/twg>.

EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005



2003 Grantee **UPDATE**

Greater Blue Earth River

MN, IA

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Excess nutrients and sediment
- Algae blooms
- Loss of wetland habitat and aquatic life
- Lost recreational opportunities

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council is actively demonstrating effective ways to improve water quality within the basin as well as downstream through partnership-based projects focused on conservation cost-share, wetland restoration, and public education. To date, the council has:



Rain gardens reduce runoff and provide aesthetic benefits.

- Awarded 107 cost-share contracts for conservation practices
- Implemented 180 on-the-ground conservation practices
- Encouraged third crop rotation to minimize erosion through participation at County Fairs with a project called "Conservation on Wheels"
- Worked with various partners to restore 139 acres of wetlands to help improve habitat and other valuable functions
- Collaborated with the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Martin County to monitor restoration sites and conduct a comparative watershed analysis of corn soybean rotation vs. same with Best Management Practices
- Conducted its first, of several, nutrient trials
- Conducted 36 educational presentations for approximately 1,200 people on erosion control and rain gardens
- Constructed four rain gardens, which will help reduce runoff and improve filtration
- Established a thriving network of citizen stream monitoring volunteers

"The Targeted Watershed Grants Program brought partners of the Greater Blue Earth Watershed closer together. This occurred through the application process and even more so with implementing the workplan. Unification and partnerships are major components of what watershed management is all about."

**– Lauren Klement
Greater Blue Earth
River Targeted
Watersheds Grant
Coordinator**