



Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant
Tracking # 2003-0023



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Dowagiac River Meander Restoration II

August 2003 - August 2007

The Dowagiac River Watershed is a sub-watershed of the St. Joseph River Watershed. This project restored a ¼ mile of river at Arthur Dodd Memorial Park in Cass County. Several partners (local, state and federal) and funding sources were instrumental in the success of this project. Before this project, the portion of the Dowagiac River that flowed through Dodd Park exhibited straight runs and high velocities and also high banks which disconnected the river from the floodplain giving flashiness to a system with otherwise very stable flows. In a sense, flow had become the pollutant in the Dowagiac River because of the historical straitening and dredging. There was no active erosion at the site, but natural stream processes for sediment management are not present. This project reconnected a ¼ mile of the river with its floodplain and restored the original meandering river channel by diverting flow from the straightened channel into the remnant meander. This project will result in a more stable overall stream that will reduce future erosion. Also, this project will provide a successful model to move forward with restoring other sections of the Dowagiac River.

Grant Amount: \$83,400

Match Funds: \$94,700

Total Project Amount: \$178,100

Best Management Practices:

- 1/4 mile of river restoration with reconnection to floodplain.
- In stream structures included a diversion structure, a rock cross-vane structure, 2 traditional rock riffle structures, and a Rock J-Hook structure
- An earthen dike with culvert for wetland pool creation and an earthen dike with culvert for outside meander bank and wetland pool.



I&E Activities:

- An Engineering Review Day was held on June 29, 2006. The event was targeted to engineers and drain commissioners. Over 50 people attended the event.
- Throughout the project, the meander restoration project received great media coverage in local papers.
- In addition, the restoration project was featured on NPR's Great Lakes Radio Consortium on August 4, 2006 and can be heard on-line http://www.glr.org/story.php3?story_id=3106
- The restoration project was also featured on South Bend's Public TV station (WNI T) program "Outdoor Elements."
- After the meander restoration was completed, Partnership for MEANDRS gave a presentation to the Cass County Board of Commissioners and also did an interview on the Dowagiac Radio Station.
- Partnership for MEANDRS is planning a "ribbon cutting" ceremony for the new meander.

Partners involved:

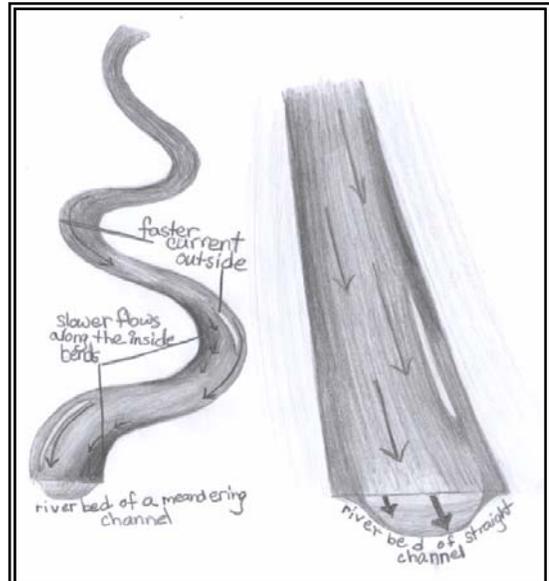
Partnership for MEANDRS
MDNR Fisheries
MDEQ
Cass County Parks Department
Cass County Road Commission
Cass County Board of Commissioners
Inter-County Drain Board (Cass, Berrien & Van Buren Counties & MDA)
St. Deny's Foundation
Trout Unlimited
St. Joe River Valley Fly Fishermen
Consumers Concrete
US Fish and Wildlife, Partnership for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program
Pheasants Forever, Cass County Chapter
Dowagiac Conservation Club
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



September 11, 2007



Aerial view of the meander **before** restoration. The meander is located at Arthur Dodd Memorial Park and is the crescent shape on top of the straightened channel of the Dowagiac River.



Flow has become a pollutant in the Dowagiac River because of historical dredging and straightening of the river.



Photo of Dodd Park meander **before** restoration.



Photo of Dodd Park meander **after** restoration.