

## About the Project

The Four Tribes Watershed Project is an effort by landowners, residents, conservation groups, and local, state, and federal agencies to protect the quality of water for drinking, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, and fisheries. The overall goal of this project is to identify the natural resource and water quality needs, problems, and solutions that will help restore and/or conserve the Four Tribes Watershed. A watershed management plan will be developed that integrates the concerns of watershed stakeholders and, through implementation, improves the water quality within the watershed area.

Consider your activities and how they impact the quality of the water around you. The improper use and management of household chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, road salt, septic systems, leaking storage tanks, storm water run-off from impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways, and parking lots, pet waste, livestock waste, and soil erosion can all impact water quality.

## What Can You Do?

By getting involved in this project, you can educate yourself and others to recognize and promote best management practices that protect water quality. Contact your local Conservation District for information and assistance concerning the many programs that are available to help you protect your water resources.

By using caution in our daily lives, we can be sure that these valuable water resources will be available and enjoyed by future generations.

## Do Your Part - Be a Part of the Solution!

-  Adopt-A-Stream
-  Plant Filter Strips
-  Develop, Restore, or Protect Wetlands
-  Use Conservation Tillage
-  Properly Decommission Abandoned Wells
-  Use Proper Fertilizer & Pesticide Rates
-  Encourage Wildlife Habitat
-  Find out what kind of technical or financial assistance is available to you to implement conservation practices on your land
-  Exclude Livestock from Waterways
-  Protect the Stream Corridor
-  Properly Maintain Your Vehicle
-  Reduce Impermeable Surfaces
-  Participate on the Steering Team
-  Reduce Soil Erosion

### Helpful Links:

- [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/1,1607,7-135-3313\\_3682\\_3714---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/1,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714---,00.html)
- <http://www.privatelandownernetwork.org/>
- <http://www.absenteelandowners.org/>

For more information, please contact:  
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This project has been funded wholly or in part by the USEPA under assistance agreement C9975474-02. The contents of the document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the USEPA, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

# FOUR TRIBES WATERSHED PROJECT



Includes the Watersheds of Crooked Creek, Pigeon Creek, Easterly & Dibble Drain, and an Unnamed Tributary

## Clean Water Begins In Your Backyard!



**Calhoun Conservation District**  
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[www.calhouncd.org](http://www.calhouncd.org)

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area where all waters flow to a common destination such as a wetland, river, pond, or lake. We all live in a watershed.

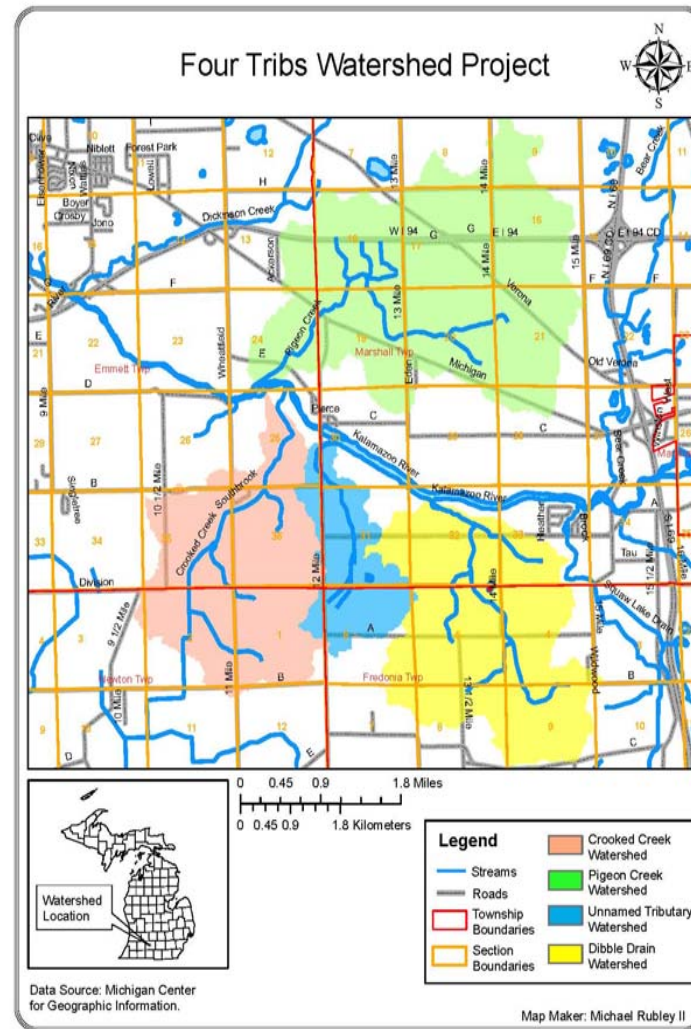
Take a look around you, whether you live in town or on a farm, and observe where water flows. Follow the water as it meanders across the landscape and think about where it is going and where it's been. Water is constantly moving in a continuous cycle, being used and reused over and over again.

A watershed consists of water both above and below the earth's surface. Most of Calhoun County residents get their drinking water from groundwater.

Groundwater and surface water are interconnected. Water from rain or snow melt will seep through soil into the sands, gravels, and bedrock below. This water may eventually become the water that supplies your well, or may return to the earth's surface to feed lakes and streams.

## Why Should You Be Concerned?

The choices that we make can have positive or negative influences on our surface and ground water quality. Human activity can contaminate and impair our watersheds, making them unsuitable for drinking, recreation, irrigation, wildlife, fisheries, and other uses. An investment in watershed improvement will reap many benefits!



## Project Area

**Crooked Creek (Styles Drain) -** The headwaters of Crooked Creek begins in north-eastern Newton Township and flows south through Emmett Township joining the Kalamazoo River downstream of Ceresco. It was established as a county drain in 1894 and is maintained by the Calhoun County Water Resources Commission.

## Project Area cont.

Crooked Creek is 6.3 miles in length and drains 2,487 watershed acres.

It is warmwater fishery that supports species such as common white sucker, creek chub, bluntnose minnow, largemouth bass, johnny darter, and bluegill. The macro-invertebrate community is rated poor due to excess sediment loading in the stream.

**Pigeon Creek -** The headwaters of Pigeon Creek begins in Marshall Township and flows west to Emmett Township where it meets with the Kalamazoo River downstream of Ceresco. It is 6.3 miles in length and drains 4,421 watershed acres. Pigeon Creek is characterized as a coldwater stream that supports species such as mottled sculpin, blacknose dace, and blackside darter.

**Easterly and Dibble Drain -** The headwaters begin in northern Fredonia Township and flows north through Marshall Township where it joins with the Kalamazoo River upstream of Ceresco. It is 6 miles in length and drains 2,819 watershed acres. It was established as a county drain in 1900 and is maintained by the Calhoun County Water Resource Commission.

**Unnamed tributary -** The headwaters of this stream begin in northern Fredonia Township and flows south through Marshall and Emmett Townships where it meets with the Kalamazoo River upstream of Ceresco. It is 2.7 miles in length and drains 958 watershed acres.