



Restoring Upper Porter and Picha Creeks



Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$371,000
Leveraged Funds*	\$259,000
Total Project Budget	\$630,000

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:

Upper Porter Creek, Picha Creek

Project Sponsor:

Scott Watershed Management Organization

Partners:

Scott Soil & Water Conservation District, Scott County Public Works

Grant Period:

January 2010 - December 2011

Project Contact:

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Project Narrative

Over thirty miles of stream bank erosion have been documented along Sand Creek and its tributaries. These streams are considered as impaired due to sediment in them. Research suggests that 70% of the sediment is coming from channel sources. The Scott WMO has developed a strategy for restoring fluvial geomorphic processes, improving riparian vegetation and buffering, reducing runoff, and the completion of a limited number of capital improvements to stabilize acute stream stability problems. Sand Creek and Picha Creek are also listed as having impaired fish habitat. Probable stressors include sediment and habitat fragmentation (i.e., fish migration barriers). This project includes two improvement projects to stabilize the more unstable stream reaches as well as one fish migration barrier.

The Upper Porter Creek project addresses four bank erosion sites in Section 36 of Cedar Lake Township. Treatment technologies consist of bio-engineering approaches using large woody debris cribs, bank sloping and vegetative planting. There will also be some livestock exclusion and a short section with rock protection. The Picha Creek stabilization involves elevating the incised channel bed in some locations, excavating a floodplain bench, stabilizing the banks with biodegradable materials and native plantings, and the installation of buried grade control and exposed cobble and gravel riffle features. The Picha Creek project will also include habitat improvement and remove a fish migration barrier.

The project will require on-going inspection and maintenance to ensure establishment of the bio-engineered practices. The WMO will complete inspections on a 3 year rotation over the contract period, and pay for necessary maintenance from the WMOs annual funds for targeted projects. The WMO is willing to assume these long term maintenance responsibilities since the public benefits are much more than the property owners.

