OUR ROLE

The Ottawa Conservation District informs agricultural producers in the watershed and landowners outside the project scope on non-point source pollution, prevention practices, and restoration options. Our staff also refer qualified landowners to relevant programs offered by our partner organizations.

ADDITIONALLY, WE OFFER SERVICES FOR:

- In-field and edge of field cover crops
- Native species buffers

COVER CROPS

Cover crops increase water infiltration and reduce runoff, resulting in less pollutants transported to nearby water bodies.

FILTER STRIPS

Filter strips are planted strategically between agricultural fields and water bodies to trap and filter pollutants before they reach surface waters.

"Our goal is to implement additional best management practices beyond designated project sites to further enhance water quality."

Upper Sand Creek Restoration Project

SAND CREEK WATERSHED

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GEI Consultants

Upper Sand Creek Restoration Project

SAND CREEK WATERSHED

Efforts to reduce non-point source pollution in the upper nine miles of the Sand Creek Watershed.

It is anticipated that restoration initiatives will reduce as much as 1,250 tons of sediments per year!

OTTAWA Conservation District

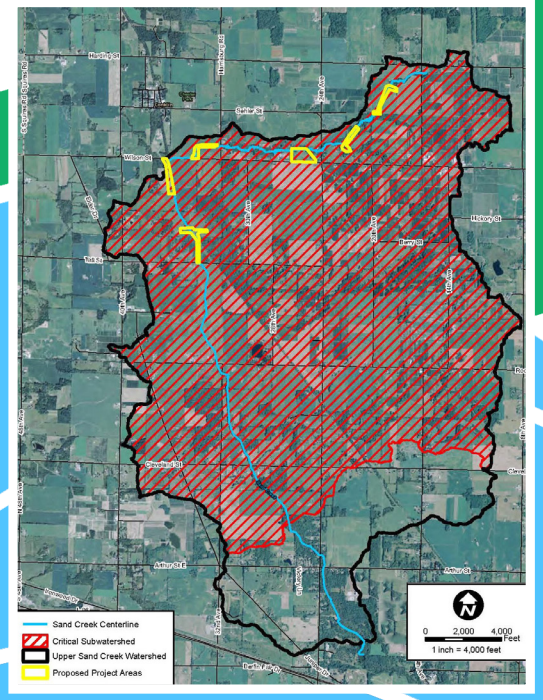
GEI Consultants

UPPER SAND CREEK WATER RESTORATION PROJECT

Over the years, the health of this stream has diminished due to excessive sedimentation, nutrient overloading, and inadequate flood drainage. These pollutants have taken a heavy toll on Sand Creek's aquatic life, causing the stream to be dethroned from its former cold-water fishery status.

SITE OVERVIEW

The Sand Creek watershed is located in Chester, Tallmadge, and Wright townships on the northeast side of Ottawa County. Sand Creek is approximately 22-miles in length with the upper nine miles designated as county drain. This cold-water stream, formerly dubbed as a trout stream, flows into the lower Grand River, ultimately depositing into Lake Michigan.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Ottawa County Water Resources Office was awarded funding in 2017 from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to reduce nonpoint source pollution within the upper nine miles of the Sand Creek watershed. Funds will be used to implement remediation efforts at approximately six sites along the northern stretch of the watershed.

PROJECT PLANS INCLUDE:

- Stabilization of streambanks
- Addition of grade control structures
- Implementation of vegetative buffers
- Wetland restoration, creation, or enhancement
- Berm removal
- Dredged spoils removal
- Installation of a two-stage ditch
- Promotion of the Farm Bill pollution prevention practices

This project has been funded wholly or in part through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

PROJECT SITES


CHANNEL WIDENING OF SAND CREEK


INNER BERM FORMATION ON SAND CREEK

Enhancing Water Quality...