



Conservation Resource Alliance

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Maple River/Pleasantview Road Timber Bridge

Spring 2007 - August 2011

The West Branch of the Maple is known to support the best trout fishery and coldest water within the watershed. The old crossing (site #E-8) consisted of 3 culverts that were critically failing to the extent that they were blocking fish passage. Erosion from the road shoulders and embankment contributed excessive sand to the river. The undersized and failing culverts caused flooding and consequent warming of upstream waters.

The project involved replacing the existing culverts with a free-span 40ft. timber bridge structure, which will accommodate the natural flow of the river. In addition, the embankments were stabilized, and road runoff is now properly managed to reduce/eliminate sedimentation at the crossing.



Project Cost: \$ 409,600*

Contributors:

- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
- Emmet County Road Commission
- FishAmerica Foundation
- The Frey Foundation
- Bay Harbor Foundation
- USDA NRCS-Conservation Innovation Grant
- CRA's River Care Fund with support from DTE Energy Foundation

*plus in-kind contributions

Location

Sections 25,26 of Center
Twp., Emmet Co., MI
N 45.57286; W 84.87323



Best Management Practices:

- removal of existing culverts, replaced with 40 ft. timber bridge structure
- road and ditch runoff control
- pavement and curbing
- re-vegetation
- stream channel enhancement
- streambank stabilization

Project Benefits:

- Estimated 8 tons/yr reduction in sediment loading to the river, benefiting many aquatic and terrestrial species
- Enhanced unrestricted passage for migratory fish, and access to ~12 upstream miles and ~12 downstream miles
- Improved safety and appearance
- Reduced flooding potential and maintenance costs

Partners involved:

Conservation Resource Alliance, Emmet County Road Commission, Northwest Design Group, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan DNR, Carp and Maple River Task Force Members, Frey Foundation, Bay Harbor Foundation, Fish America Foundation, USDA-NRCS



Failing culverts prior to construction. Culverts are severely undersized and incapable of handling stream flows. Pooling along the road is occurring. A 40' span timber bridge will allow for a natural stream channel and seasonal flows.



Close up of undersized failing culverts with attempts to keep debris from plugging tubes and creating flooding and failure potentials.



Emmet County Road Commission crew removing old culverts and old concrete footings and wing walls that were buried around the culverts from a previous crossing.



New 40' timber bridge structure allowing aquatic species passage and unrestricted flow.