

Sweetwater Creek & Wingleton Road Timber Bridge Project Pere Marquette River Watershed



Conservation
Resource Alliance

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Project Cost:
\$218,681 incl. match

Contributors:

- US Forest Service
American Recovery Reinvestment Act
- Lake County Road Commission
- CRA River Care Fund
Including The George Fund

Location
Sweetwater Twp.
Section 21
Lake County, MI



The Pere Marquette River is a state designated Natural River, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River, and a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. Tributaries like Sweetwater Creek provide critical spawning and escape cover for fish, travel corridors for wildlife, and instream habitat for aquatic insects. Sweetwater Creek is approximately 1.5 miles long and this crossing project opens fish passage up to a half mile of it.

The Wingleton road/stream crossing, site #L-5, was comprised of two 22' undersized culverts, approximately 34' long. Through this project partners designed and completed the installation of a timber bridge that accommodates the natural stream channel. Paved approaches and spillways channel road runoff away from the stream as well.

Best Management Practices:

- Timber bridge installation (20' span, 30'1" roadway)
- Fieldstone placement
- Pave & curb approaches (1,000 lineal feet)
- 4 spillways
- Grading and revegetation

Project Benefits:

- Natural movement of woody debris, substrate, fish & aquatic insects.
- Reduce sedimentation of stream from erosion of steep road approaches and embankments.
- Stream channel returned to a more natural state, unaltered by undersized culverts impounding water & sand upstream.

Partners involved:

Pere Marquette River Restoration Committee including the following partners – US Forest Service, Conservation Resource Alliance, Lake County Road Commission, Wilcox Professional Services, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, McDowell Construction & Pere Marquette Watershed Council.

Wingleton Road and Sweetwater Creek Site #L-5 Photos

Looking upstream of road crossing – Before



After



Inlet – Before

During pile driving



Outlet – Before

After



Wingleton Road and Sweetwater Creek Site #L-5 Photos cont.

Steep approaches washed into stream – Before



Paved approaches, curbing – After



Eroding shoulders – Before



Spillways - After

Bridge Plaque

