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## West Branch Maple River – Robinson Road (E-6) Timber Bridge Project 2015

The Maple River is a high-quality, predominantly cold-water stream that flows roughly 23 miles of main stem and drains an area of approximately 148,000 acres before flowing into Burt Lake and into the Cheboygan River watershed. The West Branch of the Maple is known to support the best brook trout fishery and coldest water within the watershed.

The Robinson Road stream crossing (site #E-06), consisted of twin six foot culverts that were critically failing to the extent that they were blocking fish passage functioning as a dam and velocity barrier to aquatic species. Erosion from the roadbed and embankments contributed to excessive sedimentation entering into the river. Also the undersized and failing culverts were causing excessive channel scour and consequent warming of upstream waters. The project involved removing the existing twin culverts and installing a 66ft timber bridge, which allowed for unrestricted passage of stream water and aquatic species reconnecting approximately 22 upstream miles. In addition Best Management Practices were conducted such as: fieldstone installation, pavement/curbing, and re-vegetation of surrounding streambanks and upstream channel restoration and streambank stabilization.

**Project Cost: \$508,665**

### **Contributors:**

- U.S Fish & Wildlife Service – Fish Passage Program
- MDNR – Aquatic Habitat Grant Program
- CRA's River Care Program
- Emmet County Road Commission
- Baiardi Family Foundation
- Pat & Gill Clements Foundation
- Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation
- Oleson Foundation
- Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

### **Location:**

**McKinley & Maple River  
Twps. Sections 33 & 4,  
Emmet County, MI  
N 45.55090°  
W -84.79664°**



### **Best Management Practices:**

- Timber bridge installation 36' wide, 66' total length & guardrail
- Fieldstone placement for slope stabilization
- Grading & re-vegetation
- Pavement, curbing, & spillway construction
- Channel Restoration incorporation LWD

### **Project Benefits:**

- Restore natural function and movement of woody debris & sediment
- Halt an estimated annual 3 tons of sediment loading into stream from roadbed and embankments
- Reduced flooding potential & annual road maintenance
- Enhanced unrestricted passage for migratory fish & other aquatic & terrestrial species

### **Partners involved:**

Conservation Resource Alliance, Emmet County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Krenn Timber Bridge Inc., Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, Pat and Gill Clements Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – SOGL, Little Traverse Conservancy



Before - The inadequate twin culverts impeded fish passage and roadbed runoff contributed excessive sediment to the stream



During - The culverts and old roadbed were removed



During - Timber piles and abutments were installed



During - The timber deck and restored river channel.



After - Guardrails and paving finished off the new bridge completed in September 2015