

Muskegon Lake Area of Concern  
Beach Closings Beneficial Use Impairment Removal Project  
Ruddiman Creek Bacteria Source Tracking Project

Ruddiman Creek Action Plan  
Submitted by  
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the  
Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership  
February 14, 2014

A number of source tracking activities have occurred as follow up to the Environmental Canine Services (ECS) Bacteria Source Tracking Project and the October 22, 2013 Report. The ECS Project was funded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality/Great Lakes Commission Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership/Public Advisory Council Support Grant to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

The ECS Bacterial Source Tracking Project significantly narrowed down the potential sources and causes of bacterial contamination in the Ruddiman Creek Watershed and Storm Drain System. As a result of the ECS work, the City of Muskegon, Public Health Muskegon County, MDEQ and Muskegon County Wastewater Management System were able to narrow down the source areas for additional visual inspections and water samples.

The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC), MDEQ and the Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership (MLWP) provided progress updates on the work being done at MLWP monthly public meetings. A meeting of Ruddiman Creek project partners was held on February 12, 2014 to develop an action plan to pin point sources and to ultimately perform corrective actions that may be needed. Meeting participants included the MDEQ, WMSRDC, City of Muskegon and the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System.

The steps needed to determine the sources and corrective actions are listed below. The City of Muskegon, with support from the DEQ, Public Health Muskegon County and the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System have agreed to coordinate and complete the following activities in 2014:

1. Glenside near Glenside School  
TV and/or Smoke this area
2. Lakeshore/Addison at Ruddiman Creek  
Resample/water samples with DEQ and City; Muskegon County WMS analyze samples
3. Clay Hill  
Smoke to narrow down, then Dye and TV (up to 9 homes in vicinity could take 2-3 days);  
Work downstream to upstream
4. Ruddiman Creek 100" Outfall  
TV and take water samples up further into the outfall pipe and downstream below the outfall
5. LeMuel Culdesac 100"  
Walk inside the pipe and visually inspect;  
Contact PHMC about potential septic system at pole building behind Ernie's Car Lot

In addition, the City of Muskegon and the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System will provide a list of actions that have been taken to correct this problem over the past 5-10 years to Stephanie Swart, MDEQ, [swarts@michigan.gov](mailto:swarts@michigan.gov). The information will be used as documentation for removal of the Beach Closings Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) from the Muskegon Lake Area of Concern (AOC).