

Love the Bay? Give Us a Hand!

You may, or may not, be aware that your community resides within the single largest drainage basin in Michigan; the Saginaw Bay Watershed. This impressive watershed drains an estimated 1,143 square miles of land within a variety of environments, ranging between agricultural lands, forests and urban places.

Since 1987, the Bay has been listed as an Area of Concern (AOC) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which cites numerous impairments to water quality; some are persistent nuisances, while others are more serious threats to public health. Collectively, these impairments have earned the Bay an image problem of national proportions—and it's time we redouble our efforts to work together to clean things up and prevent more pollution!

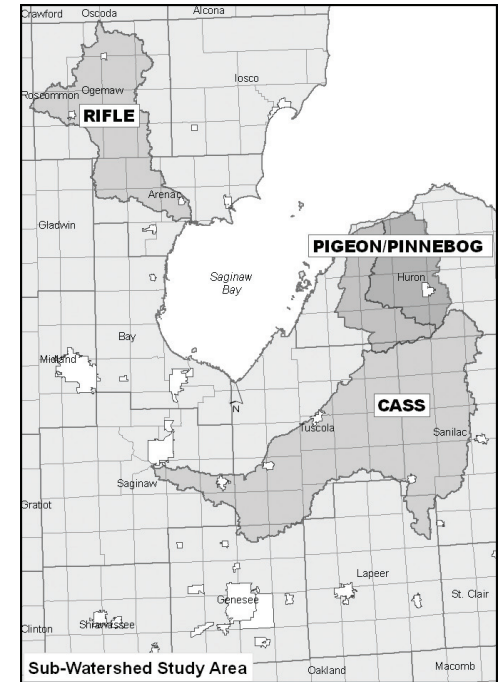
Help Your Cass, Rifle, and Pigeon/Pinnebog Watershed

While delisting the Saginaw Bay's AOC status is the overall goal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; clean water in a sustainable Bay can only be attained by a collaborative effort involving communities, local groups, interested citizens and property owners in coordinated action! The future of the Saginaw Bay depends, in part, on the leadership and determination of your group, and members of many others to support the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). These practices combined with thoughtful local land use and zoning decisions will prevent additional pollution and protect water quality for generations to come.

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Planning & Zoning Center
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Share Your Thoughts with Us at One of Three Public Meetings



NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE SAGINAW BAY WATERSHED

A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
(GLRI) Project underway by:



Project Overview

The Planning & Zoning Center (PZC) at Michigan State University received a grant from the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to identify actions cities, villages and townships can take through local planning and zoning to improve and protect water quality in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. This project is designed to engage communities and other local stakeholders in the application of land use Best Management Practices to protect water quality of rivers and streams that flow into the Saginaw Bay. The highest priority communities in this project include those within the Cass, Rifle and Pigeon/Pinnebog River sub-watersheds (shown on map).

The project seeks to educate and facilitate collaboration at three public meetings; one within each of the three sub-watersheds. The first public meeting will be a catalyst for local citizens and stakeholder groups to learn how local planning, zoning and coordinated efforts among various stakeholder groups can play a larger part in protecting and improving water quality in the entire Saginaw Bay region.

For More Information Contact:

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Public Meetings Will Cover (Same Material at Each Location)

- Water quality problems in the watershed.
- Past projects aimed at improving the water quality of the Saginaw Bay.
- Current projects underway to address pollution within the watershed and restore damaged lands.
- How local land use planning and zoning policies can protect and improve water quality.
- How effective relationships with other groups can influence the success of improving water quality.
- An opportunity for your input on a Basin-wide Conference being planned for January 2012.
- An opportunity to voice questions/concerns about the project.

Who Should Attend

Members of the following groups are urged to send a representative:

- Watershed organizations;
- Soil conservation groups;
- County Farm Bureau chapters;
- Conservation Districts;
- Local groups working to protect or improve water quality;
- Planning commissioners and elected officials;
- County and municipal officials who work on water quality issues;
- Land owners and farmers along drains, rivers and streams in the Basin; and
- Interested citizens.

Location

These free public meetings will be held on the following dates and times at the following locations:

Date/Time	Location
Rifle River April 21, 2011 5:30pm-7:30pm	Page Street Senior Center 130 Page St West Branch, MI 48661
Cass River April 27, 2011 3:30pm-5:30pm	Frankenmuth Scout Bldg 959 Flint St Frankenmuth, MI 48734
Pigeon/ Pinnebog April 28, 2011 5:30pm-7:30pm	Huron Expo Center 170 W. Soper Rd Bad Axe, MI 48413

Please call or email RSVPs to:

Jacqueline Spry
517.432.2222 ext. 123
jacqueline.spry@landpolicy.msu.edu

What Can You Do?

1. Attend this meeting and learn more about what is happening and how you and your group can help.
2. Plan on attending two more public meetings over the next 15 months, plus help us plan and put on a conference next January.
3. Review material on Best Management Practices (BMPs) being prepared for this project.
4. Advocate for Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance language that promotes use of BMPs in each sub-watershed.
5. Participate on the project website (not yet live) by sharing your ideas with others.