



Tech Check

A monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed

June 2004 Activities

This is the sixteenth issue of the monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed Management Planning Project.

Task 5 Identify Improvement Opportunities

The [BMP Menu](#) has been updated with additional watershed information. It lists various sources of pollutants in the watershed and the associated Best Management Practices for addressing those sources. When available, an example of each practice from within the watershed is provided to facilitate basin-wide data sharing. Model examples and ordinances from outside the watershed are also included to aid in watershed protection.

Task 6 Communication

The [Education Links](#) were reorganized for ease in locating information. A new [annual precipitation map](#), developed from U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS spatial data was added to the website.



Task 8 Watershed Management Plan

"[Mechanisms for Watershed Protection](#)", a study of suggested land use planning techniques and ordinances to protect natural areas, preserve farmland and improve impacted areas, was been developed and added to the project website. The study follows the conclusions of the subwatershed scoring and is organized by land cover type. It includes case studies from within the watershed and examples of model ordinances and watershed protection techniques. Topics include wetland preservation, septic systems, farmland protection, stormwater management, erosion control during construction, zoning to direct future development and many other methods to protect/improve water quality. A [summary table](#) provides links to additional information for each state and to model techniques. The study is meant to provide a variety of options for watershed managers to institute protection efforts. As it discusses many techniques, it provides links to more detailed information, when available. The study will shape the actions taken in the implementation phase of the project and can direct future watershed protection activities.

What's Next?

The Watershed Management Plan is being written for submittal to the MDEQ and IDEM in early 2005.

What's Needed?

Steering Committee feedback on all aspects of the project and website is welcome and encouraged. To provide feedback, a [discussion board](#) has been developed for the website.