

Burns Ditch, Indiana

Congressional representation:

- Congressman Pete J. Visclosky (IN-1)
- Congressman Joe S. Donnelly (IN-2)

Authority:

- Great Lakes Tributary Model (Section 516(e), WRDA 1996, as amended)

Purpose:

- Develop watershed models for Great Lakes tributaries to provide technical assistance to state and local agencies responsible for soil conservation and non-point source pollution prevention activities. The ultimate goal is to help reduce soil erosion, sediment and pollutant loadings to the Great Lakes resulting in reduced costs of navigation maintenance and needs for sediment remediation.

Watershed location and features:

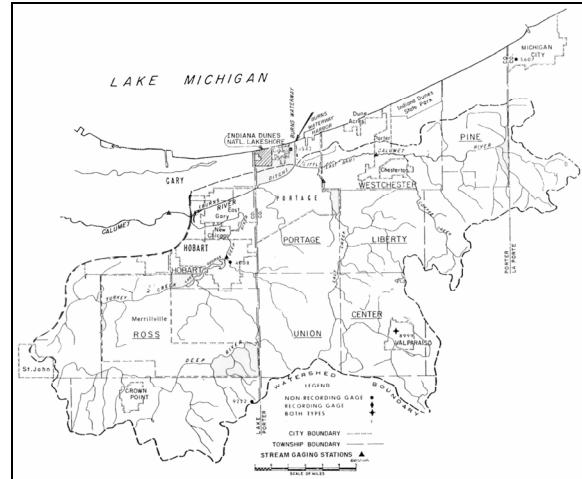
- tributary to Lake Michigan at Portage, IN
- watershed includes portions of Porter, Lake, and La Porte counties, Indiana
- total watershed area is 331 square miles
- major sub-tributaries include the East and West Branches of the Little Calumet River, Deep River, and Turkey Creek
- Burns Waterway Harbor at mouth of Burns Waterway in Lake Michigan

Soil erosion and sedimentation issues:

- East Branch of Little Calumet River main source of sediments due to agricultural use
- large daily flow fluctuations cause erosion in reach downstream of Lake George Dam
- sedimentation in Lake George required dredging 590,000 cubic yards in 2000 from agricultural activities and construction development in upstream watershed
- dredging routinely conducted along the lower reach of the East Branch of the Little Calumet River

Contamination issues:

- sediment contaminants of concern in the East Branch of the Little Calumet River include E. Coli and cyanide
- contaminant sources for the East Branch of the Little Calumet River include Bethlehem Steel, National Steel, and municipal sewage treatment plants



Partners and stakeholders:

- NW Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- Indiana Dept of Natural Resources
- Indiana Dept of Environmental Management
- Purdue University
- Michigan State University
- USEPA Region V
- USDA - NRCS
- National Park Service
- Save the Dunes Council

Modeling approach:

- Tri-county GIS database created by partners
- Web-based watershed management system allows assessment of land use changes; soil conservation and non-point source pollution measures; and design of erosion and sediment control structures

Status:

- Model Completed; training held Dec-2006
- Development of low impact development (LID) additional functionality underway

Application:

- use by state and local planning agencies to assess options for landuse planning, soil conservation, non-point source pollution prevention, dredging and disposal needs, Remedial Action Plans (RAPs), and Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs)

Funding:

- FY 2008 Program funding \$841,000
- FY 2009 Budget request \$900,000
- FY 2009 Capability \$1,500,000