

# Trail Creek, Indiana

## Congressional representation:

- 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:

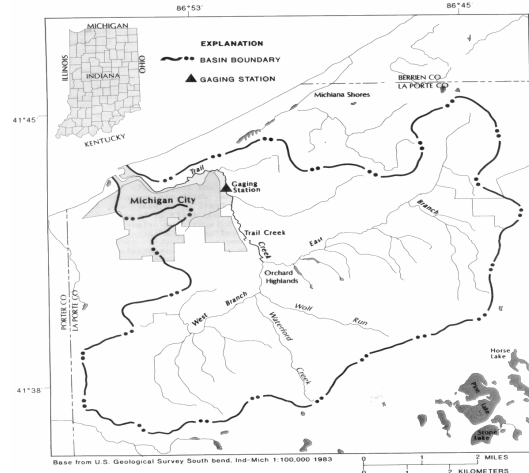
- tributary to Lk. Michigan at Michigan City, IN
- watershed within La Porte County, Indiana
- total watershed area is 59 square miles
- major sub-tributaries include the East and West Branches of Trail Creek, Wolf Run, and Waterford Creek
- a federal navigation channel extends from the mouth of the creek at Lake Michigan to a point just west of the East Street bridge
- Michigan City's lakefront park and marina at mouth of Trail Creek

## Soil erosion and sedimentation issues:

- federal channel acts as a sediment trap and requires frequent maintenance dredging
- 76% of sediments introduced to the Federal Navigation channel come from Trail Creek upstream of the USGS gauging station

## Contamination issues:

- Sediment contamination exists between Turning Basin #2 and the mouth; the highest concentrations being at Turning Basin #1
- sediment contaminants of concern include cadmium, cyanide, and phenol
- water quality problems include low oxygen levels, the presence of E. coli, and high turbidity



## 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:

- 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

## Applications:

- 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