

The Aux Sable Creek Watershed Plan Update

The Aux Sable Creek, located in a traditionally farming community, is a good quality creek. In fact, portions of it are rated as Class A, the highest rating there is.

Typically, when the land adjacent to a creek is developed, the overall quality of the creek declines. Since the mid-1990s, when the original Aux Sable Creek watershed plan was created, more and more land adjacent to the creek is being developed. As a creek degrades:

- There are bigger fluctuations in flow. That means more flooding as well as more times when the flow is very low.
- There are fewer recreational activities in the watershed
 - ◊ Fewer quality fish for fishing
 - ◊ Water is unsafe for human contact
- More erosion occurs, which means a loss of land, whether that is farmland or back yards.
- There are more pollutants in the water, and the creek may start to smell.
- Our quality of life declines.
- More pollutants and sediment move downstream and lowers the quality of life there as well.

It is cheaper and easier to prevent problems than waiting and fixing them later. It is also more desirable to voluntarily work on issues, rather than being forced to by regulations.

The Aux Sable Creek Watershed Plan Update is aimed to help prevent problems by recommending voluntary actions that citizens and municipalities can take, *including the promotion of responsible development practices.*