



Source: A Tale of Two Creek Trail Creek Watershed Management A Guide for Cleaner Water, Structurepoint

TEC Map 9: Trail Creek Sub Watersheds

Watershed management plans must comply with a general framework sequence summarized within the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) "Watershed Management Plan Checklist," which:

- lists concerns gathered from extensive public engagement;
- establishes baseline water quality conditions;
- identifies problems in the watershed;
- identifies sources throughout the watershed that contribute to the identified problems;
- defines critical areas that can be prioritized for implementation;
- develops goals with specific, measurable reduction targets.

Over the years, multiple watershed management plans for Trail Creek have attempted to address problems associated with low dissolved oxygen levels, impairment of recreational uses due to E. coli bacteria levels, and substandard water clarity due to urban/rural runoff and stream bank erosion. In the "Horizon 2000 Michigan City

Area Strategic Plan" issued on March 30, 1992, a plan that was prepared for and in conjunction with the citizens of Michigan City, a specific lakefront and Trail Creek water quality goal was identified: "Our goal is to have the highest quality of water for recreation and aquatic production in the area by eliminating debris, pollutants and sediment build-up in the creeks."

As outlined in previous management plans, some of the key problems remain, including poor aquatic life support due to low dissolved oxygen levels, impairment of recreational uses due to E. coli bacteria levels, and substandard water clarity due to urban/rural runoff and stream bank erosion.

A key goal emerging from the Horizon 2000 Michigan City Area Strategic Plan was to have "the highest quality of water for recreation and aquatic production in the area by eliminating debris, pollutants and sediment build-up in the creeks." The Horizon 2000 report also identified several action items: work with local, state and federal agencies to characterize sediments in all lake tributaries and identify sources of pollution;