



Creek Friendly Yards
Intentional Landscaping in the Plaster Creek
Watershed

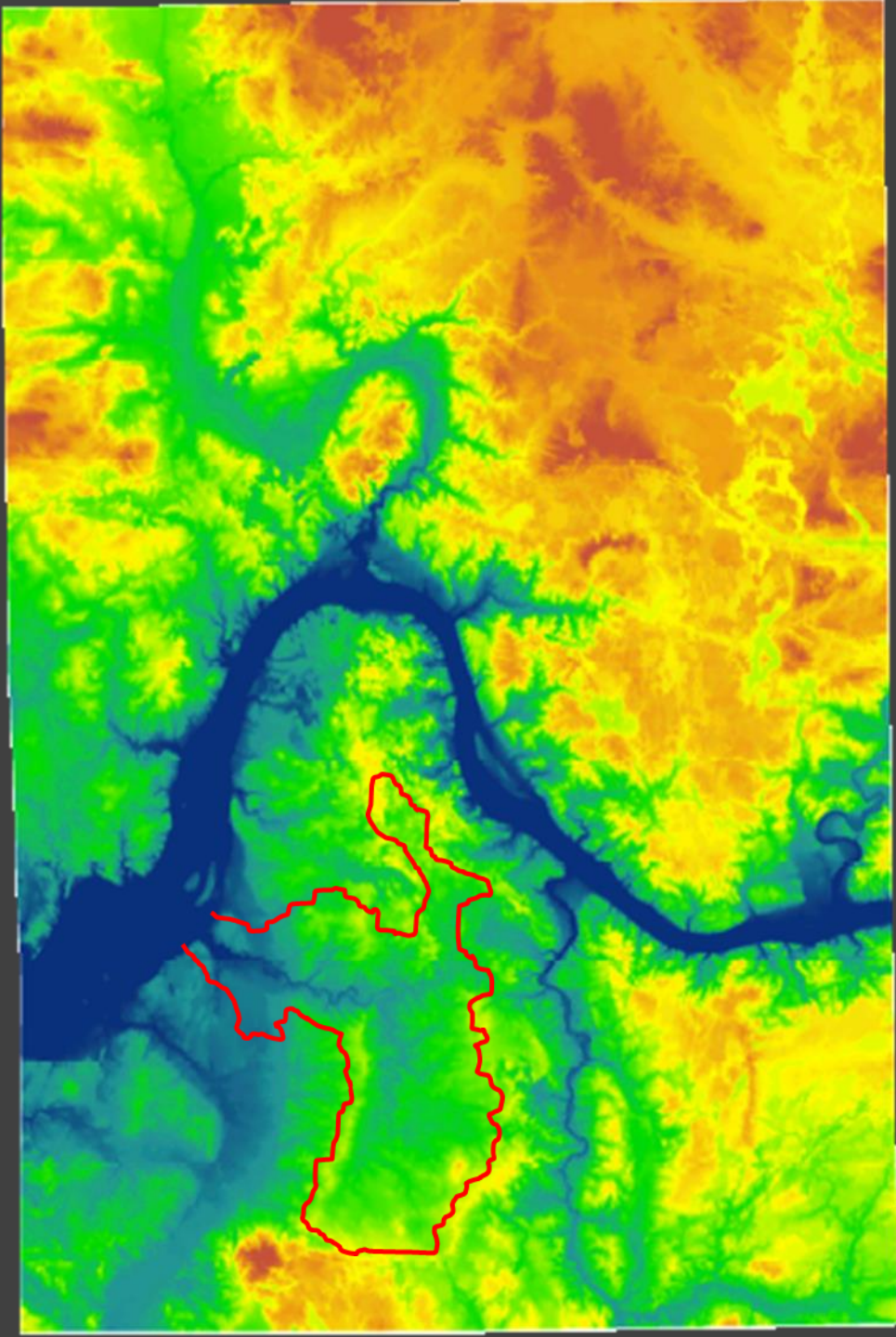
Plaster Creek Stewards Spring Event

April 30, 2016

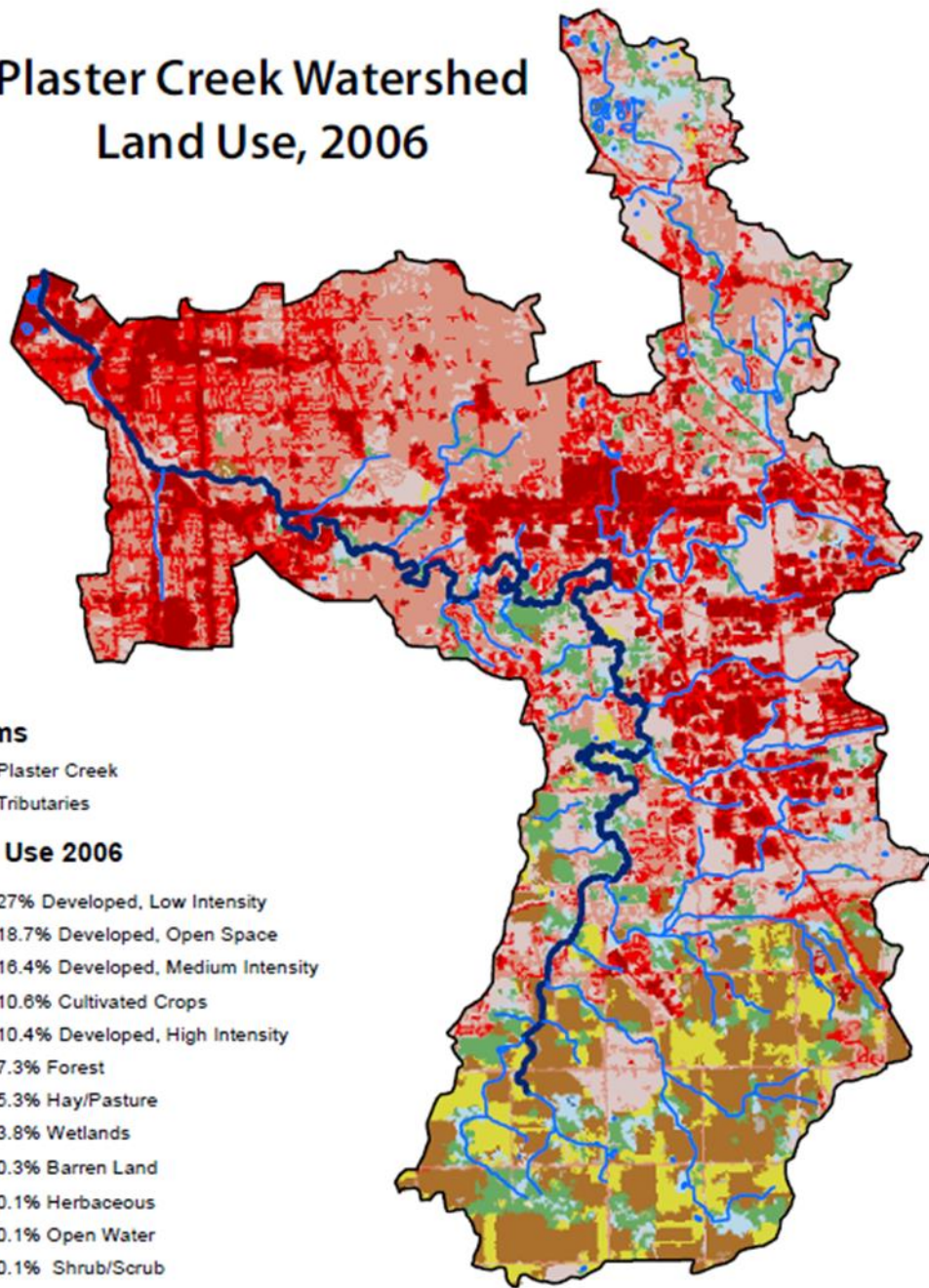
David Warners

I don't live on the creek, so how does this apply to me?





Plaster Creek Watershed Land Use, 2006



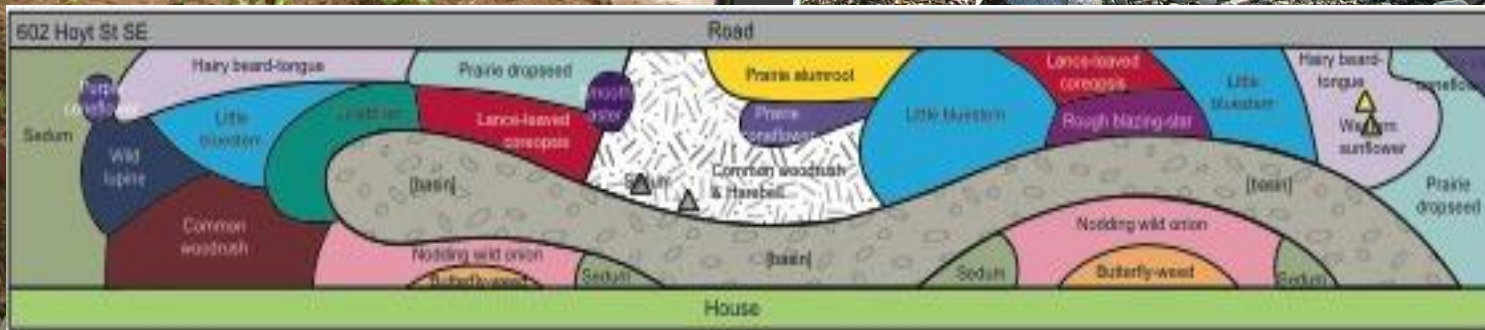
What can I do in my yard to help the creek?



1. Retain the Rain

- Think about your stormwater footprint
- How can you diminish the amount of water leaving your yard when it rains?
- Raingardens, Rain barrels, Porous pavement

Curb-cut Rain Gardens



2. Add Native Shrubs

- Native shrubs = host plants for many butterflies

<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/eco-preserve/whattosee/pdfs/ButterflySprdsht.pdf>

- Many shrub flowers are great nectar sources
- Berries are nature's bird feeders

Possible Shrubs

Elderberry (Common or Red)

Viburnums

Dogwoods (Red-stemmed, Silky,
Gray, etc.)

Ninebark

Bladdernut

St. John's wort

Hop-tree

Spicebush

Shrubby Cinquefoil

New Jersey Tea



More Trees Please!

- Trees Evapotranspire lots!
- Trees intercept lots!
- Trees hold and build soil.



Native Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers

- Ephemeral = Here today, gone tomorrow
- Typically bloom before trees leaf out
- ‘Guild’ of perennial forest species, often with bulbs, corms, rhizomes
- Among the oldest inhabitants of a forest
- Most were used by Native Americans for medicine, food, fiber, ceremony, etc.
- Uses, dosages often uncertain
- Can we get some for our yard?

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Wild Leek

Allium *tricoccum*

- *Leaves appear first*
- *After leaves die, flowers appear*
- *Known as 'ramps' in the south*
- *Leaves eaten in April*
- *Bulbs eaten whenever*
- <http://www.flagpond.com/festival/ramp/fest.htm>





Jack-in-the- Pulpit

*Arisaema
triphyllum*

- Prefers moist, shady woods
- Known as Indian turnip, Adam's apple, Plant-of-Peace, Wild pepper, Swamp cherries
- Dried peppery root eaten ('Memory root')
- Cooked or dried fruit eaten
- Ground root in water used for constipation, whooping cough, asthma



Yellow Trout Lily

Erythronium americanum

- Known as Adder's tongue, Fawn lily, Dogtooth violet, Star-strikers, Amberbell, Bastard daffodil
- White flower = *E. albidum*
- Bulbs resemble dog's teeth and were eaten raw or cooked
- Leaves and juice had many medicinal uses, one of which was to reduce swelling







Common Trillium

Trillium grandiflorum

- There are 8 species of trillium in Michigan
- All trilliums are protected by law
- *Trillium grandiflorum* grows best in Beech-Maple woods; petals turn pinkish with age
- Root was used to reduce swelling, especially for eye problems
- Root juice was 'pricked in with needles' into aching joints



Spring Beauty

Claytonia virginica



- Also known as Grass-flower, Fairy spuds, wild potatoes, Good-morning-spring
- Roots boiled in salt water are 'palatable and nutritious'
- Powdered roots given to children to stop convulsions

Canada Anemone

Anemone canadensis



- ‘Midewidjeebik’
- Clonal, forms patches
- Many medicinal uses: root eaten to clear throat for singing ceremonies, leaves used to stop bloody noses and bleeding sores, wooly fruits used as good luck charms when playing games



May Apple

Podophyllum peltatum



- Also known as Mandrake, Ground lemon, Umbrella plant, Indian apple, Duck's foot, Raccoon berry
- When fruit is yellow, it is very edible
- Powdered root was used on ulcers and sores
- Root extract 'podophyllin' has been used to treat small cell carcinomas
- 'Root ooze' used to soak corn before planting to discourage crows and insects.

And will any poet sing
Of a lusher, richer thing
Than a ripe May-apple, rolled
Like a pulpy lump of gold
Under thumb and finger tips,
And poured molten through the lips.

James Whitcomb Riley (1890)



Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis



- 7-10 petals, unique leaf shape
- Poppy family (drugs!)
- Many medicinal uses – jaundice, rattlesnake bite, bronchitis, sore throats, faintings and ‘fits’
- Seeds dispersed by ants
- War paint





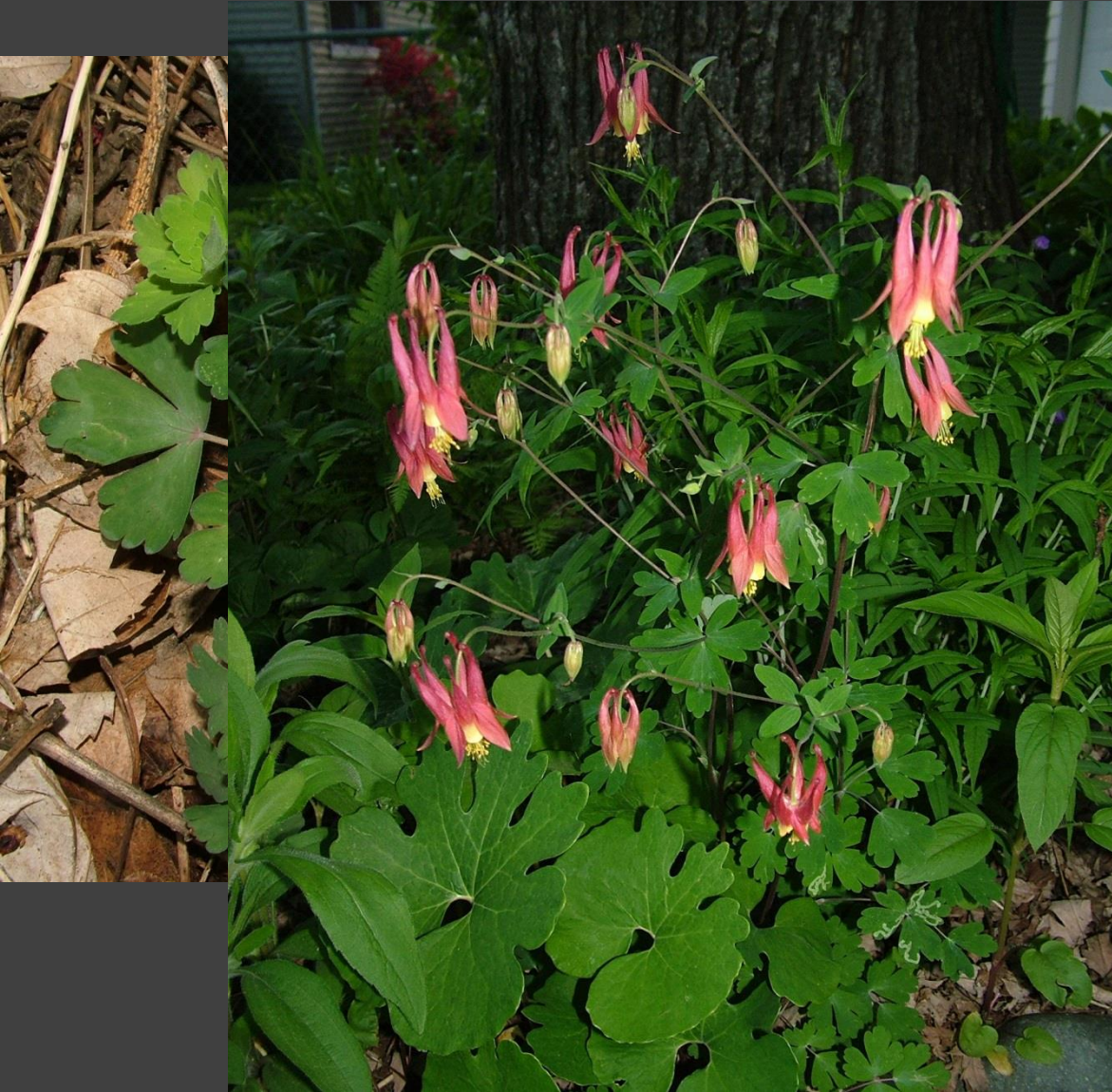
Again we come
to the resurrection
of bloodroot from the dark,
a hand that reaches up
out of the ground,
holding a lamp.

--*Wendell Berry*



Wild Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis



- Also known as Honey-horns, Rock-bells, Red bells, Culverwort
- Chewed seeds smeared on clothes as a 'bachelor's perfume'
- Root used to treat 'stomach troubles'
- Pollinated by Ruby-throated hummingbirds



Virginia Bluebells

Mertensia virginica

- Wild populations only known from 3 Michigan counties (Kent, Ottawa, Schoolcraft), state endangered
- Taken for whooping cough and as an antidote for poisons
- Large showy plant that completely disappears by early June



Wild Geranium

Geranium maculatum



- Moist or dry woods, sometimes in the open
- Also called Cranes-bill, Alum root, Crow foot, Raven's claw, Shameface
- Used to treat diarrhea, ulcers, venereal diseases, sore throats, mouth sores and colic





And Many Others . . .

Wild Ginger

Rue Anemone

False Rue Anemone

Early Meadow Rue

False Solomon's Seal

Solomon's seal

