

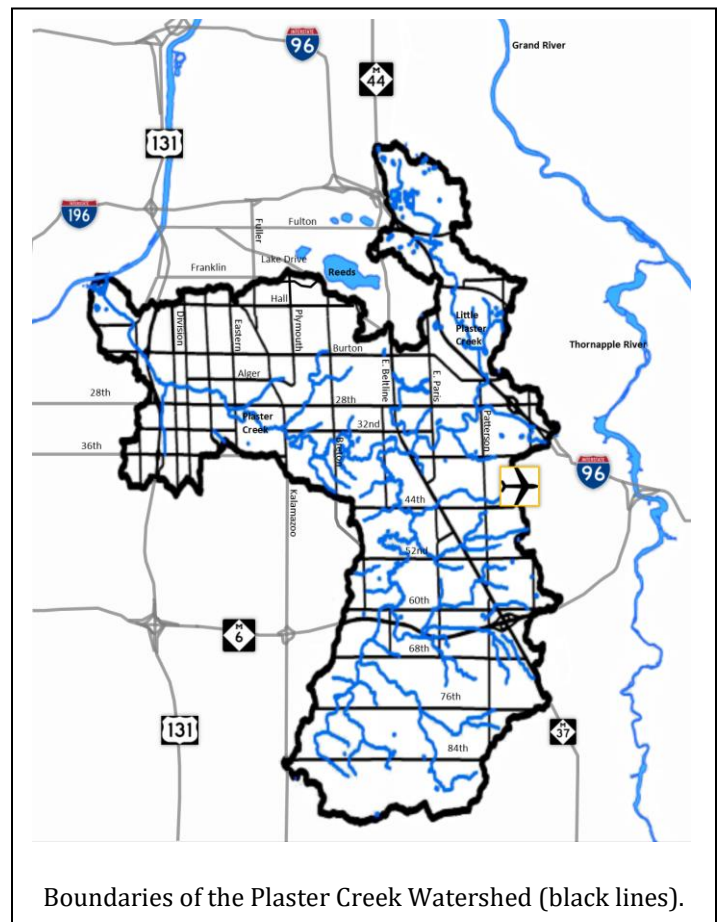


Plaster Creek Stewards Green Team: Looking for High School Students

Before Europeans settled in the Grand Rapids region, Plaster Creek was a thriving ecosystem—valued as a source for food and a site of spiritual significance by the local Ottawa people. Plaster Creek is now the most degraded stream in West Michigan, for most of its flow it is too polluted to touch, deemed “unfit for partial body contact” by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Through research, education, and on-the-ground restoration, Plaster Creek Stewards is working to restore the health and beauty that once defined our watershed. As an initiative of Calvin College, we collaborate with schools, churches, and other partners to educate the communities in our watershed about how Plaster Creek became so degraded and how we can work to restore the Watershed. Along with education, we make a priority to give watershed residents opportunities to participate in restoration projects and volunteer days.

Combining education and restoration, we will be conducting our annual Green Team program this summer (two sessions, late June-July). We are looking to hire high school students with roots in the Plaster Watershed (home, school, place of worship). Our summer Green Team crews will learn about native Michigan habitats and watershed ecology as they work on bio-swales, rain gardens, and large-scale restoration projects in areas throughout the Watershed. Green Team members will learn the ins and outs of propagating native plants, which we use in our restoration projects, and they will gain valuable job and research experience working alongside Calvin College students and Plaster Creek Stewards staff.



Boundaries of the Plaster Creek Watershed (black lines).

If you are interested in applying for the Green Team, please contact us at PlasterCreekStewards@calvin.edu for an application. Applications will be accepted until the start of Spring Break each year.