

# Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund 2004

## Village of Howards Grove: Village Park Wetland Restoration Planning

The Village of Howards Grove received a grant for \$5,520 to restore a wetland/ prairie area within the new Village Park. The restoration project is estimated to cost \$7,360. The initial money will be used to conduct some preliminary investigative work at the site to get a better idea of how to proceed with the project.



This project is located within the Pigeon River Priority Watershed. The Pigeon River Watershed is located in the Sheboygan River Basin geographic management unit encompasses approximately 74 square miles of land in Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties. The Pigeon River originates as numerous spring-fed tributaries and flows south, entering Lake Michigan, north of Sheboygan.

The watershed project goals include improving water quality, sediment load reduction, phosphorus reduction, creating riparian areas, improving fish habitat and wildlife habitat improvement. This wetland restoration project will help the County accomplish these goals.

Wetlands provide food, protection from predators, and other vital habitat factors for many of the fish and wildlife species. In addition, wetlands have economic value associated with recreational and commercial use of fish and wildlife resources as they remove pollutants from runoff before they reach lakes, rivers and bays.

Wetland restoration is an essential tool to protect, improve, and increase wetlands. Wetlands that have been filled and drained retain their characteristic soil and hydrology, allowing their natural functions to be reclaimed. Restoration is a complex process that requires planning, implementation, monitoring, and management. It involves renewing natural and historical wetlands that have been lost or degraded and reclaiming their functions and values as vital ecosystems. Restoring our lost and degraded wetlands to their natural state is essential to ensure the health of America's watershed.