



Forest to Mi Faucet

Forests cover 56% of Michigan’s land so more than half our water flows through 20 million acres of forest on its way to rivers, lakes and the Great Lakes. Better than any other land use, forests provide clean water and protect the sources of our drinking water. If the drinking water in your tap comes from a well, river or Great Lake, a forest helped keep it clean before it was treated and delivered to your home.

The Great Lakes contain 20% of Earth’s available fresh water so how Michigan takes good, or bad, care of its land and water impacts the entire planet. More than 28 million people in Canada and the United States get their drinking water from the Great Lakes, including many of Michigan’s largest cities. Managing forests well, protecting important forests and planting trees in riparian zones can lower treatment costs for municipal water utilities and protect family wells in rural areas too.

City	Municipal Water Source	Forest Cover in Watershed	Quality of Great Lake
Marquette	Lake Superior	91%	Good
Detroit	Lake Huron	67%	Good
Grand Rapids	Lake Michigan	49%	Fair
Monroe	Lake Erie	19%	Poor

The Forest Stewardship Program at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is leading a team of twenty conservation partners on a new project called “Forest to Mi Faucet” to educate woodland owners and the public about the connections between forests and drinking water. The project is funded by USDA Forest Service and builds on its [Forests to Faucets 2.0](#) analysis of priority watersheds for protecting drinking water.

Forest to Mi Faucet has six components:

1. Help municipal water utilities implement their source water protection plans.
2. Protect forests in important watersheds through conservation easements, nature preserves, etc.
3. Manage forests better with forest certification and Master Loggers using best management practices.
4. Expand forests by planting trees in strategic urban and rural riparian zones to reduce pollution runoff.
5. Ecological restoration of forests for water quality with prescribed fire and reducing invasive species.
6. Educate landowners and the public about connections between forests and their drinking water.

Forest to Mi Faucet hopes to build the foundation for a future “payment for ecosystem services” program where private forest owners are compensated for providing clean water by managing their forests well and protecting sources of drinking water. Other states (AZ, GA, ME, NM, NY) and countries are already doing this.

Questions? Meagan Hoffman, HoffmanM6@Michigan.gov or Mike Smalligan, SmalliganM@Michigan.gov, 517-449-5666.

More information at Michigan.gov/ForestToMiFaucet.



Forest to Mi Faucet Team

Watershed Councils

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National Organizations

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