

MACC gets \$50k Lake Mac water quality grant

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The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council is one of eight organizations to receive a water-quality monitoring grant from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

MACC received a grant totaling \$50,442 to conduct forensic analyses of sediment samples gathered from the Macatawa River watershed.

The grant will fund an extension of a current state-funded project involving the study of sediment samples collected in tributaries around Lake Macatawa.

"With our current grant, we're finding how much sediment we have, but this grant will help tell us where the sediment is coming from," MACC's watershed coordinator Mary Fales said. "We don't assume it's coming from every tributary, so we want to hone in on where the hot spots are."

Excess sedimentation is a primary cause of poor water quality in the Macatawa watershed. MACC's goal is to reduce the amount of sediment, in the lake.

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Lake Macatawa and its tributaries have not met state requirements for water quality, and the cause of the impurities has been listed as sedimentation/siltation and total phosphorous, according to the proposal MACC submitted to the DNRE for the grant.

Hope College students and professor Graham Peaslee are working on the sediment analyses this summer, Fales said.

MACC is developing a new watershed plan to implement over the next 10 to 15 years, and the results from the sediment sample analyses will influence that plan, Fales said.