



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**
Tracking code # 2006-0143

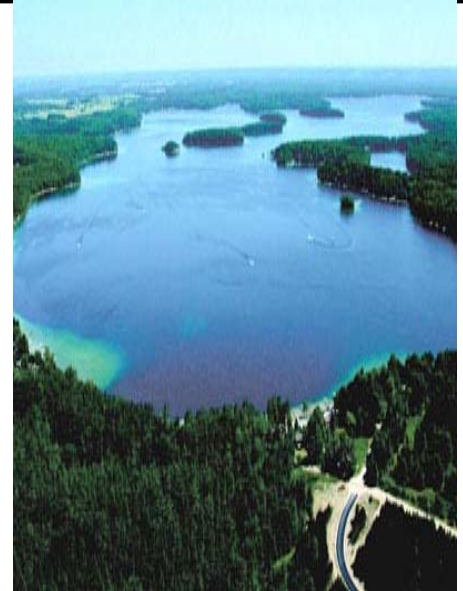


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Long Lake Watershed Septic Inspection and Regulation Project
October 2007 - September 2009

The Long Lake Watershed consists of an area of approximately 22.6 square miles situated within Grand Traverse County and a small portion of southern Leelanau County. The predominant feature of the watershed is Long Lake, which has a surface area of approximately 4.68 square miles and 16.7 miles of shoreline. Because of the beauty of the lake and the surrounding region, the lake has experienced residential development and recreational use beginning in the early 1900s and continuing to today. With the increase in residential development, septic system failures are perceived as a water quality threat to the Lake. This project was to investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of creating a septic-inspection-at-time-of-property-sale program and create such a program if it was warranted. The goals were to: 1) Assemble scientific evidence to use as a basis for an ordinance requiring inspections of septic systems at time of sale; 2) Keep the public and key stakeholder groups well-informed of the program, its requirements, and its benefits through the use of outreach meetings; 3) Create a township-wide septic inspection and regulation ordinance and program; and 4) Update the Long lake Watershed Management Plan to meet the EPA 9 planning elements.

Grant Amount: \$26,388
Match Funds: \$19,886
Total Amount: \$46,274



Project Accomplishments

- Update of the Long Lake Watershed Management Plan.
- Background research performed to determine the locations of failed septic systems, the ages of existing systems, depths of wells, and trends analysis.
- Drafted and adopted a Time-of-Transfer Septic Inspection Ordinance.
- Pre-empted potential conflicts with realtors, title companies, septic haulers, and local units of government through community information and outreach meetings.
- Created an inspection program, including registration of inspectors, reporting forms, filing and tracking system.
- Distributed materials to inform property owners, realtors, title and mortgage companies of the requirement to perform inspections prior to sale of properties.



Partners involved:

- Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG)
- Great Lakes Environmental Center (GLEC)
- Williams & Works
- Young, Graham, Elsenheimer & Wendling, PC
- Northwest Michigan Wastewater Taskforce
- Grand Traverse County Health Department
- Grand Traverse County Drain Commissioner's Office
- Long Lake Association
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy