



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund**

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay



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Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Center (Database Grant)

August 23, 2003 - December 31, 2004

Background:

The Grand Traverse Bay watershed is one of the premier tourist and outdoor recreation regions in the State of Michigan. Located in northwest Michigan's lower peninsula, the watershed drains approximately 976 square miles of land, and covers major portions of four counties and more than 50 municipalities and townships. Sediment and excessive nutrient loading are two of the highest priority pollutants that are threatening the Grand Traverse Bay watershed. Other pollutants that threaten the watershed's designated uses include thermal pollution, toxins, changes in hydrologic flow, invasive species, pathogens, and loss of habitat. All of these nonpoint source pollutants degrade water quality, destroy aquatic habitat, and reduce the number and diversity of aquatic organisms. Stormwater inputs are a primary concern throughout the watershed because of the resulting changes to hydrologic flow and potential to contribute to excessive sediment, nutrients, and toxins to the bay and its watershed.

The goal of this project was to lessen nonpoint source pollution to protect high quality waters in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed. The goal was accomplished through tasks designed to increase public awareness of water resources and access to water quality information.



Grant Amount: \$ 106,990

Match Funds: \$ 39,654

Total Amount: \$ 148,517



Key Accomplishments and Products:

- Further development and refinement of an existing web-based Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Regional Water Quality database (<http://data.gtbay.org/wqdb.asp>). This includes further development, additions, and improvements to The Watershed Center's existing website (www.gtbay.org).
- Development of instructional booklet detailing how to use the water quality database.
- Series of 3 workshops held throughout the basin to provide technical assistance to local decision-makers and planning commission members. Workshops included: wastewater management and treatment options for residents and local officials in the Village of Northport; a regional watershed conference in Traverse City; and a joint planning commission meeting with the Traverse City and Garfield Township to discuss findings from the Boardman Lake Management Plan.

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Partners involved:

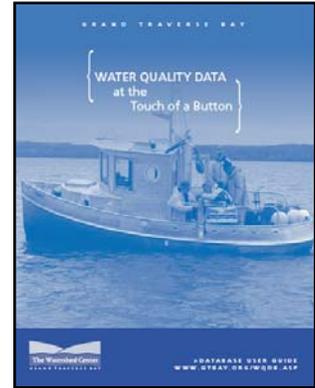
- City of Traverse City
 - Great Lakes Environmental Center
 - Land Information Access Association
 - Northwestern Michigan College Water Studies Institute
 - Silver Lake Association
 - Three Lakes Association
 - Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- (Educational Sign Partners: City of Traverse City; Corbin Design; National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program; Grand Traverse Conservation District; Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails; Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council; US Fish and Wildlife Service)**

Tracking Code 2001-0038 January 26, 2005

Key Accomplishments and Products Cont'd:

- Placement of 22 outdoor educational interpretive signs at public access sites throughout the watershed. Topics include: general information about the Grand Traverse Bay watershed and the Chain of Lakes watershed; clean boating and invasive species; coastal wetlands; and a three-panel kiosk at Hull Park in Traverse City regarding the newly updated wastewater treatment plant, rain gardens, and historic Boardman Lake.

Cover for WQ Database Instructional Booklet



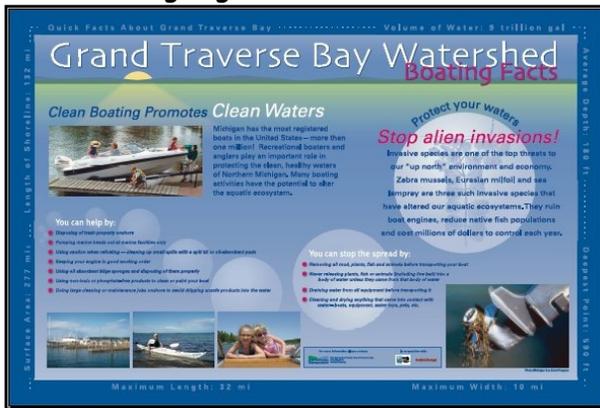
General Watershed Sign - Bryant Park (TC)



Clean Boating Sign - Northport Marina



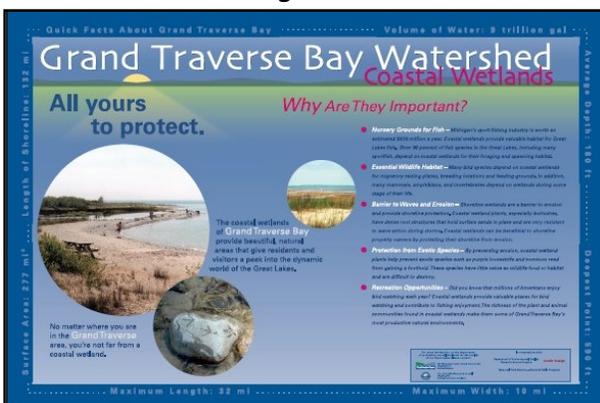
Clean Boating Sign



General Watershed Education Sign



Coastal Wetland Sign



Elk River Chain of Lakes Sign

