



**Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant**
2003-0041

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay



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Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Project - Transition Grant

July 15, 2004 - December 31, 2005

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.

This project completed: 1) updating the current Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan to meet the USEPA nine watershed planning elements, and 2) implemented information and education nonpoint source activities consistent with the current watershed plan approved by the DEQ.



Grant Amount: \$ 93,400

Match Funds: \$ 18,500

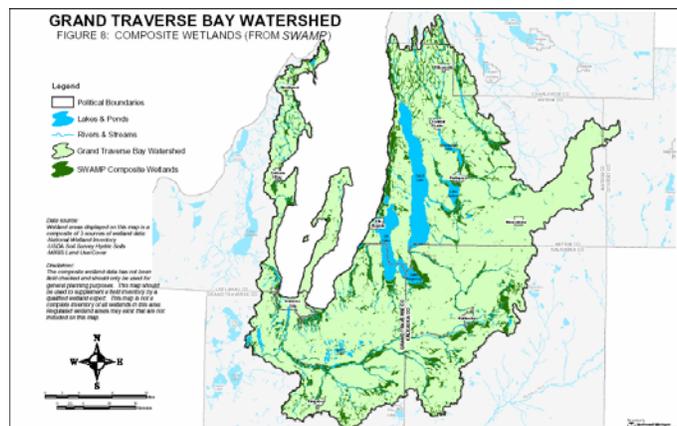
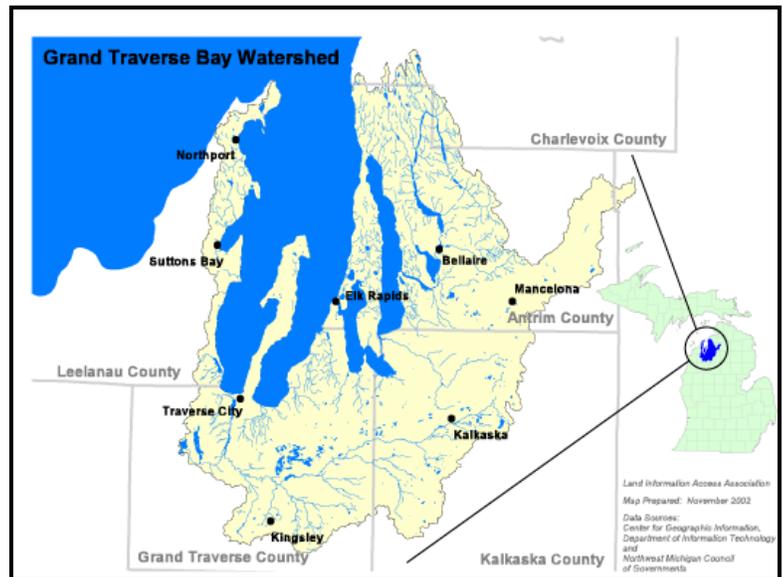
Total Amount: \$ 111,900

Contracted Partners involved:

- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Antrim Conservation District
- Northwest MI Council of Gov't
- Land Information Access Association

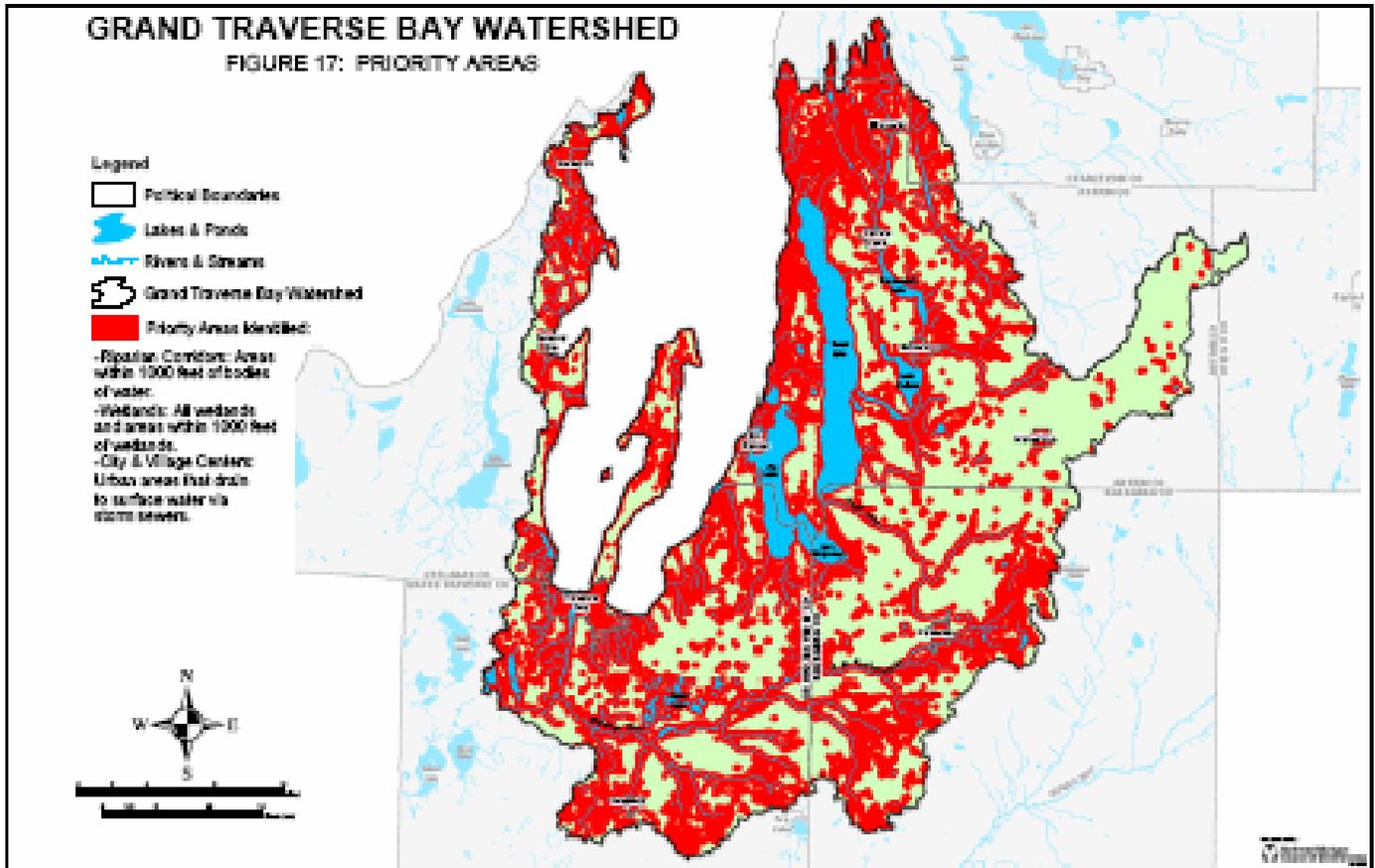
Partners who provided technical and informational assistance as well as offering guidance on project components include:

- MDEQ • MDNR • Conservation Resource Alliance
- Northwestern Michigan College Water Studies Institute • Antrim Conservation District • Grand Traverse Conservation District • Kalkaska Conservation Districts • Natural Resources Conservation Service Michigan Sea Grant Program • Garfield Township • City of Traverse City • The Elk River Chain of Lakes Steering Committee.



GRAND TRAVERSE BAY WATERSHED

FIGURE 17: PRIORITY AREAS



Key Accomplishments and Products:

- Updated Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan to comply with required USEPA watershed plan elements.
- Initiated the development of a regional stormwater task force to tackle urban stormwater issues and provide a forum for discussing and finding solutions to problems.
- Conducted initial information and education tasks in the watershed as referenced in the GT Bay Watershed Protection Plan Information/Education Strategy.
 - Printed 12 copies and made 150 CD's of the revised GT Bay Watershed Protection plan for public distribution.
 - Marked 240 storm drains (curbside catch basins) in six Traverse City neighborhoods with a "Dump No Waste, Drains to Bay" message
 - Published 3 editions of TWC newsletter
 - Published 2 editions of the educational Freshwater Focus insert to Traverse City Record Eagle newspaper
 - Published informational brochure containing a summary of the protection plan (5,000 copies)
 - Reprinted 3,000 copies of TWC's Great Lakes Shoreline Property Owners' Guide.
 - Updated elements of project display to incorporate information from protection plan
 - Continual updates to project website (www.gtbay.org).