



**Federal Section 319  
Nonpoint Source Grant**  
2002-0038

**Benzie Conservation District**  
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**Platte River Watershed Implementation Project**  
July 2002 - July 2005

The Platte River Watershed extends westward from Long Lake in Grand Traverse County to Lake Michigan. It reaches north into Leelanau County and southward covering most of the northern half of Benzie County. The total drainage area is approximately 193 square miles and the Platte River Valley is about 14 miles in length. The largest land coverage, at 82%, is forested, open lands and wetlands. Second in land area is agriculture at 12%, followed by urban use at 7%. Approximately 76% of the watershed is publicly owned as National Park Service and State of Michigan holdings. Many sections of the watershed are considered sensitive, such as areas of groundwater recharge, headwater lakes or streams, steep slopes and water courses have little if any protection from non-point source pollution. Goals have been to preserve and protect the current good quality of water resources with a greater purpose, exceed minimum acceptable surface and groundwater quality standards, and preserve the resource for future generations. This project implemented numerous activities to meet those goals.

**Grant Amount: \$247,102**  
**Match Funds: \$ 62,230**

**Total Amount: \$309,332**

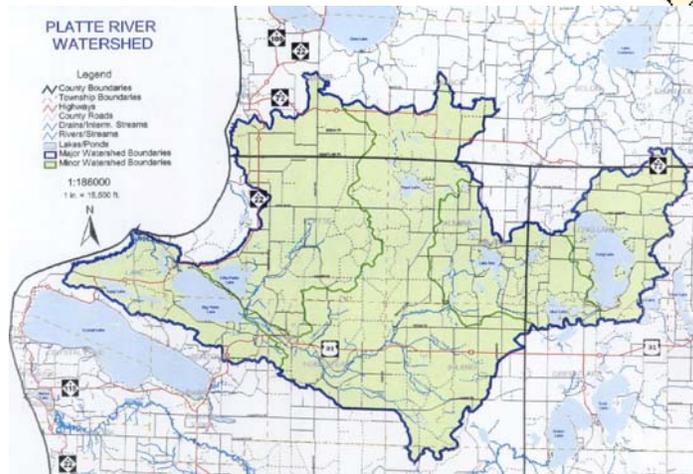
**Implementation Activities:**

- Developed and calibrated EPA BASINS Watershed Model
- Implemented 5 year sampling program
- Established 35 Priority Landowners in the Land Protection Program with our partner the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy; these total 359 acres
- Assisted Planning and Zoning officials with technical advice for the drafting of riparian development setback ordinance and storm water runoff control ordinance.
- Corrected 4 Road-Stream crossings with Benzie Road Commission.



**I&E Activities:**

- Installed 11 Watershed Road Signs 
- Assisted Lake Association with handbook
- Led "Leave No Trace in Your Waterway" Canoe trips - reached 1,000 people last yr.
- Installed a Greenbelt Demonstration Project on Platte Lake
- Developed hands-on watershed curriculum to build a watershed model.



**Partners involved:**

- Platte River Watershed Council
- Benzie Fishing Coalition
- Platte Lk. Improvement Assoc.
- Ann Lake and Pearl Lake Assoc.
- Almira Citizen for Preservation
- Benzie Co. Board of Realtors
- Benzie Chamber of Commerce
- Citizens for Positive Planning
- Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club
- MI Groundwater Stewardship Program
- Grand Traverse Land Conservancy

**Governmental Partners:**

- The Townships of Almira, Benzonia, Homestead, Inland, Lake, Platte, Empire, Kasson, Green Lake and Long Lake
- Village of Lake Ann & Honor
- Benzie-Leelanau Health Dept.
- Benzie County Planning Dept.
- Benzie Co. Road Commission
- Grand Traverse Drain Comm.
- MDNR -Fisheries & Forestry
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



**Road-stream crossings:**

Our road-stream crossing survey showed many sites needing work. Though grant funds could not cover the improvement costs, our partner, the Benzie County Road Commission, began to repair prioritized sites.



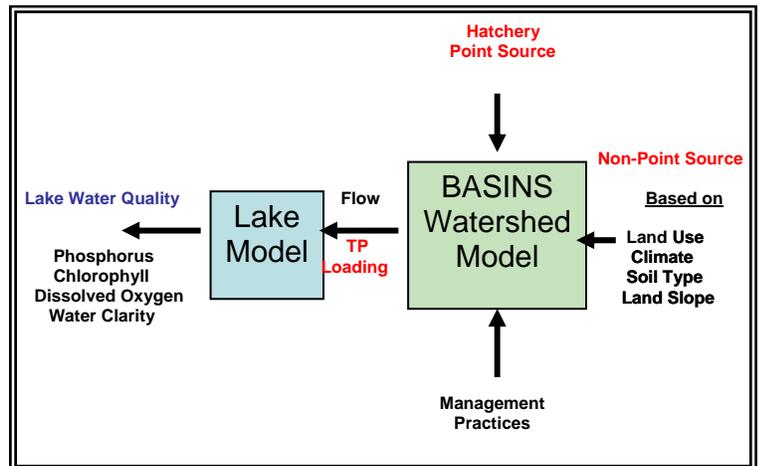
**Outreach and Volunteer Restoration:**

Through our "Leave No Trace in Your Waterway" program, facilitated with several watershed partners, we have reached 1,000 citizens, teachers, and students in one year. Participants assist in stabilizing and re-vegetating stream banks and old shoreline home sites along the Lower Platte River.



**Roadside Watershed Signs:**

Prevention of further Non-Point Source Pollution was a major goal of our Outreach Strategy. Installing these watershed signs in partnership with the Platte Lake Improvement Association and the Benzie County Road Commission made a lasting impression with watershed residents and visitors.



**EPA BASINS Watershed Model:**

We developed a scientific-based assessment and planning tool for land use decision making and for evaluating the effectiveness of restoration and water resource protection efforts.