



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

Federal Clean Water Act
Nonpoint Source 319
2015-0030



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Elk River Watershed Protection

October 2015-July2019

The Elk River Watershed in Antrim County contains a chain of 14 lakes and interconnecting stream channels called the Elk River Chain of Lakes (ERCOL). Previous ERCOL-wide assessments found accelerated erosion, signals of nutrient pollution, and 75% habitat loss. This grant funded a comprehensive shoreline survey to identify new and chronic NPS pollution problems, inform property owners about best management practices, and share information with local governments. It also funded a cost-share program to install riparian buffers on 9 ERCOL private properties and one public shoreline restoration in Milton Township. This project also worked with local governments on septic system issues, and the Village of Elk Rapids enacted a septic time-of-transfer ordinance. Social Indicator Surveys were done to gauge attitudes and behaviors of local officials, watershed residents as a whole, and seasonal residents in the ERCOL sub-watershed.



Grant Amount: \$256,450
Match Funds: \$ 98,100

Total Amount: \$354,550

Partners involved:

- The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
- Antrim Conservation District
- Health Department of Northwest Michigan
- ERCOL Watershed Plan Implementation Team (ERCOL-WPIT)

Best Management Practices:

- 1,125 linear feet of Slope/shoreline stabilization on 9 private properties and 1 public site

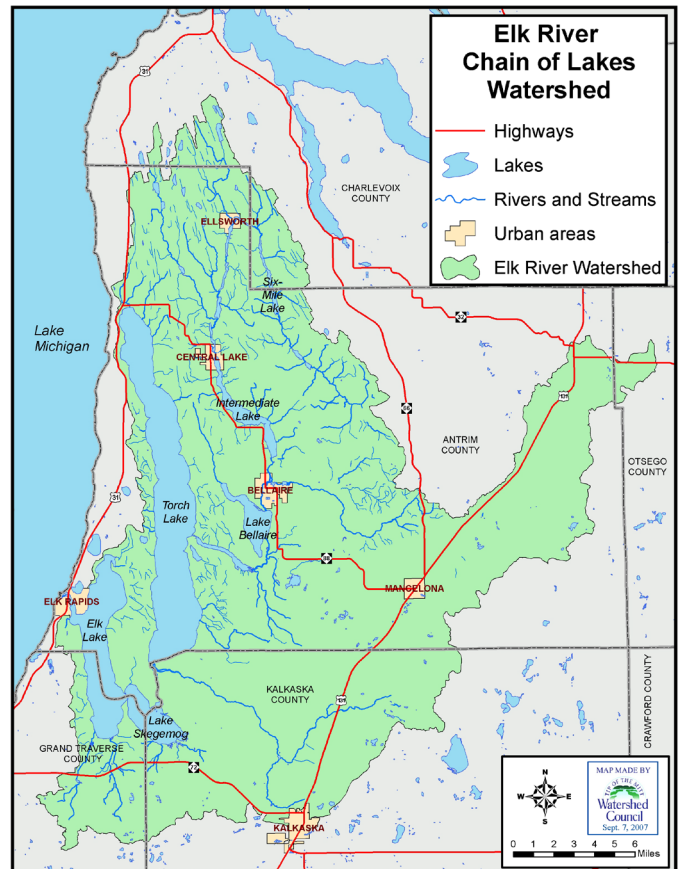
Annual Load Reductions:

- 46.8 tons of estimated Sediment reduction
- 39.6 lbs. of estimated Phosphorus reduction
- 79.3 lbs. of estimated Nitrogen reduction



I&E Activities:

- Social indicator surveys to help with future I&E
- Educated local officials and citizens about septic system oversight options
- Private landowners and local officials educated on shoreline BMPs





Spalding on Clam Lake Before: Maintaining turf to the water's edge. Minor erosion due to high waves overtopping existing rock revetment.



Spalding on Clam Lake After: Native plant buffer installed entire length of shoreline.



**Milton Township Park on Elk Lake After:
/ Native plant buffer installed entire length of
/ shoreline. Width varies.**

