

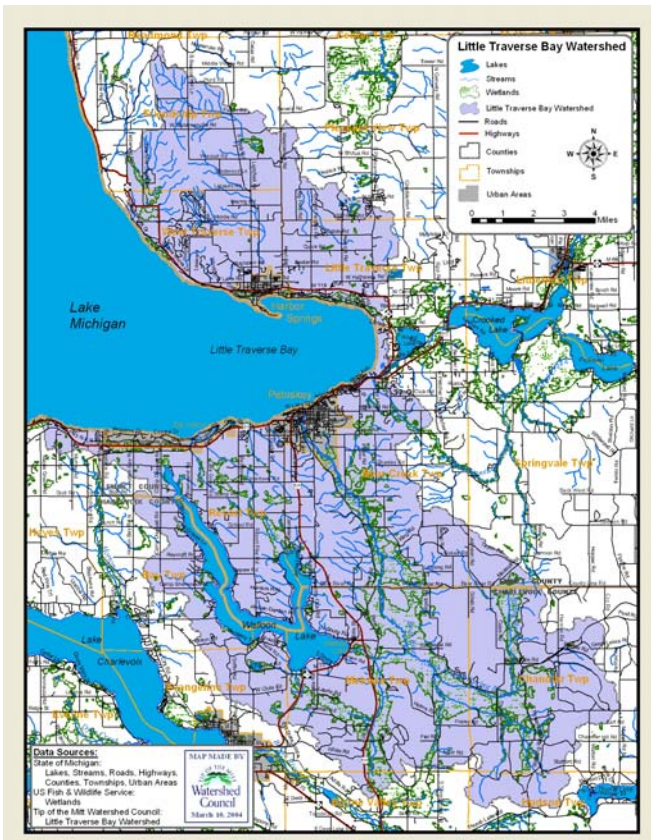


Federal Clean Water Act
 Section 319 Grant
 Tracking Code: 2003-0045

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
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Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Transition Project

August 2004-December 2005



Little Traverse Bay is Lake Michigan's fourth largest bay. The land use of this 153 square mile watershed is estimated to be 65% forested (including wetlands), 10% urban, and 25% agricultural. In addition to Harbor Springs, Petoskey, and Bay Harbor, the watershed contains nine local governments located in two counties. Little Traverse Bay's otherwise high water quality is impacted by historic lumbering and other erosion-causing land uses, increases in storm water runoff, and industrial contamination. Perhaps the greatest threat is the intense development pressure focused on the waters of the region and the associated nonpoint source pollution problems. A recent resident survey identified water quality protection as a top community priority. In March 2004, the *Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan* was developed with community involvement to establish a framework for activities to protect and enhance the water resources in the Little Traverse Bay Watershed.

Project Goal

The goal of the Transition Project was to gather additional information to build a strong foundation to implement the *Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan* recommendations and initiate implementing the priority tasks, and to protect and enhance the water quality and ecosystem integrity of Little Traverse Bay and its tributaries in a way that ensures all designated uses are restored and protected.



Grant Funds:	\$97,000
Match Funds:	\$41,900
Total Amount:	\$138,900

Project Accomplishments

1. Researched effective methods for reducing stormwater runoff from construction activities, and educating local residents on effective stormwater management.
2. Developed site plans and monitoring plans to manage stormwater runoff.
3. Distributed a summary of the *Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan* to over 11,000 watershed residents.
4. Researched effective methods to educate local government officials on how their decision-making role influences water quality.
5. Shared selection criteria for priority parcels with local governments in the watershed for use with master plans and land-use decisions.
6. Continued inventories of nonpoint source pollution sources such as stormwater runoff, nuisance algae, shoreline management practices, and streambank erosion.
7. Reduced nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities by developing site plans with agricultural best management practices.
8. Updated the *Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan* recommendations with the help of the Advisory Committee.
9. Updated the *Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan* to meet the EPA Nine Elements.
10. Communicated the project goals and activities to the community through an educational brochure, press releases, presentations, and field trips.



Project Partners

Bay Township
Bear Creek Township
Chandler Township
Charlevoix Conservation District
Charlevoix County Commission
Charlevoix County Drain Commission
Charlevoix County Farm Bureau
Charlevoix County Land Conservancy
Charlevoix County Road Commission
Charlevoix County Soil Erosion Control
Citizens for Open Space
City of Harbor Springs
City of Petoskey
Conservation Resource Alliance
Emmet Conservation District
Emmet County
Emmet County Farm Bureau
Emmet County Lakeshore Association
Emmet County Road Commission
Evangeline Township
Friendship Township
Harbor Area Board of Resources Inc.
Harbor Point Association
Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce
L'Arbre Croche Club
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Little Traverse Conservancy
Little Traverse Township
Mackinaw Forest Council
Melrose Township
Menonaqua Beach Cottage Owners Association
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Conservation Service
North Central Michigan College
Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce
Resort Township
SEE-North
Trout Unlimited
Walloon Lake Association
Wequetonsing Association
West Traverse Township