



Presented by: Adrianna Coultres



# History of Grass River Natural Area

- 45 years ago residents concerned about water quality and the flora and fauna of our area decided to save the area's wetlands from land developers
- Now GRNA has 1443 acres of land surrounding the Grass River between Clam Lake and Lake Bellaire.





# Issues with the GRNA watershed

- Upstream development by community
- Stream degradation (i.e. silting, chemicals, etc.)
- Development of a sustainable volunteer based stream monitoring program.
- Importance of Grass River in the Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes

## Fragile Shoreline



Grass River  
Natural Area

NO BEACHING OF BOATS

Adopted by the Board of Directors, 1998





# The MiCorps project at GRNA Stream Watch

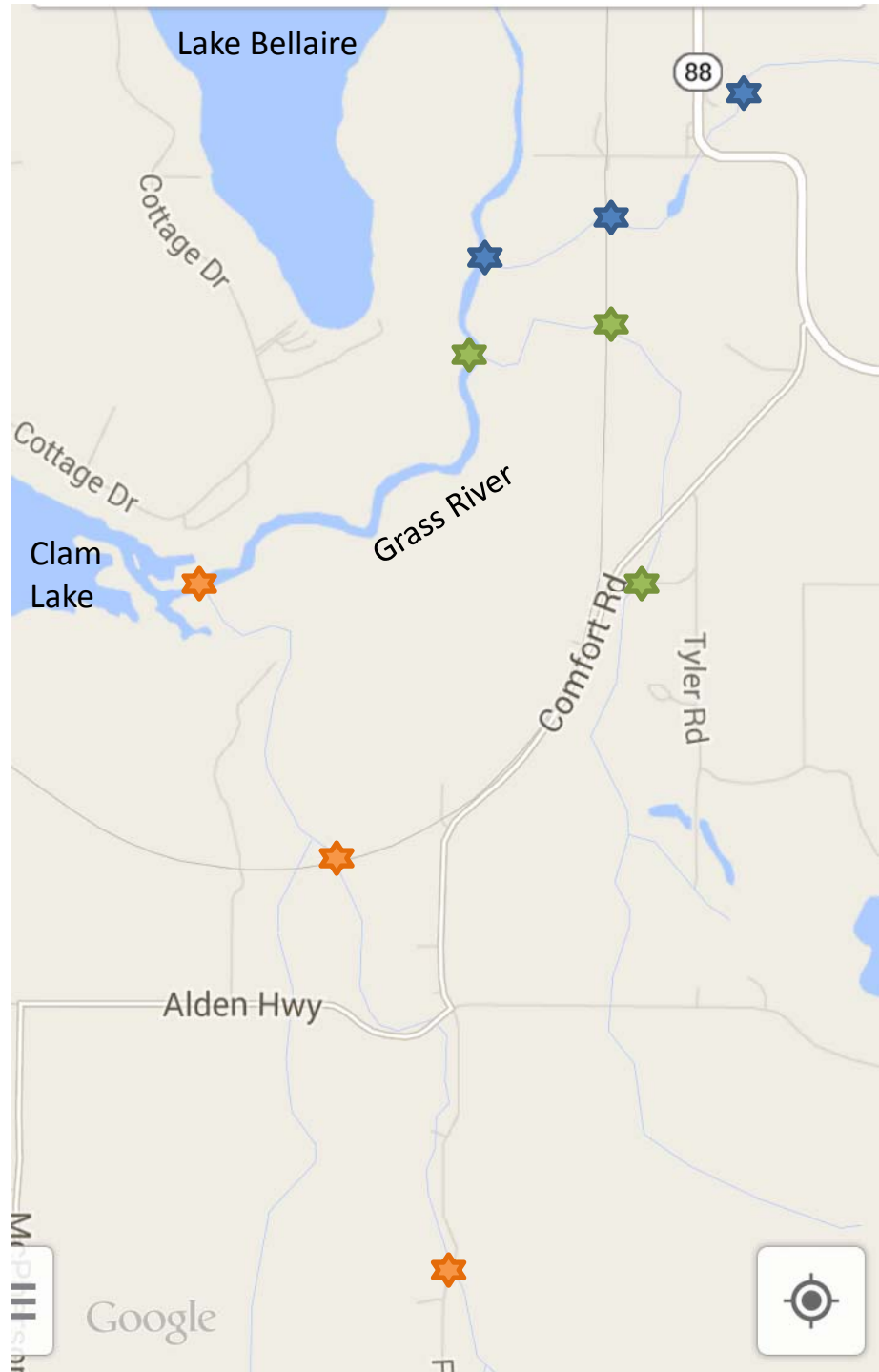


# Our Collection Sites

★ Shanty Creek

★ Cold Creek

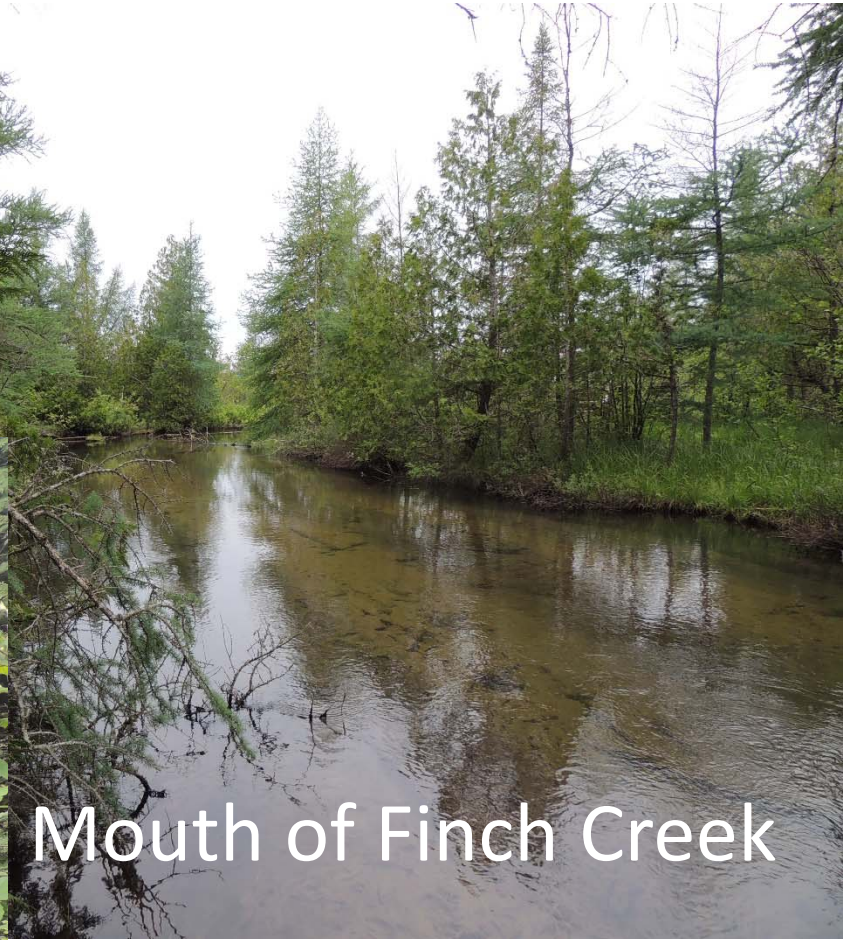
★ Finch Creek







Shanty Creek at the Rail Trail



Mouth of Finch Creek

Cold Creek at the Rail Trail



# Stream Sampling

- Received the grant in 2013
- 3 official collection events
- A few staffing changes in GRNA



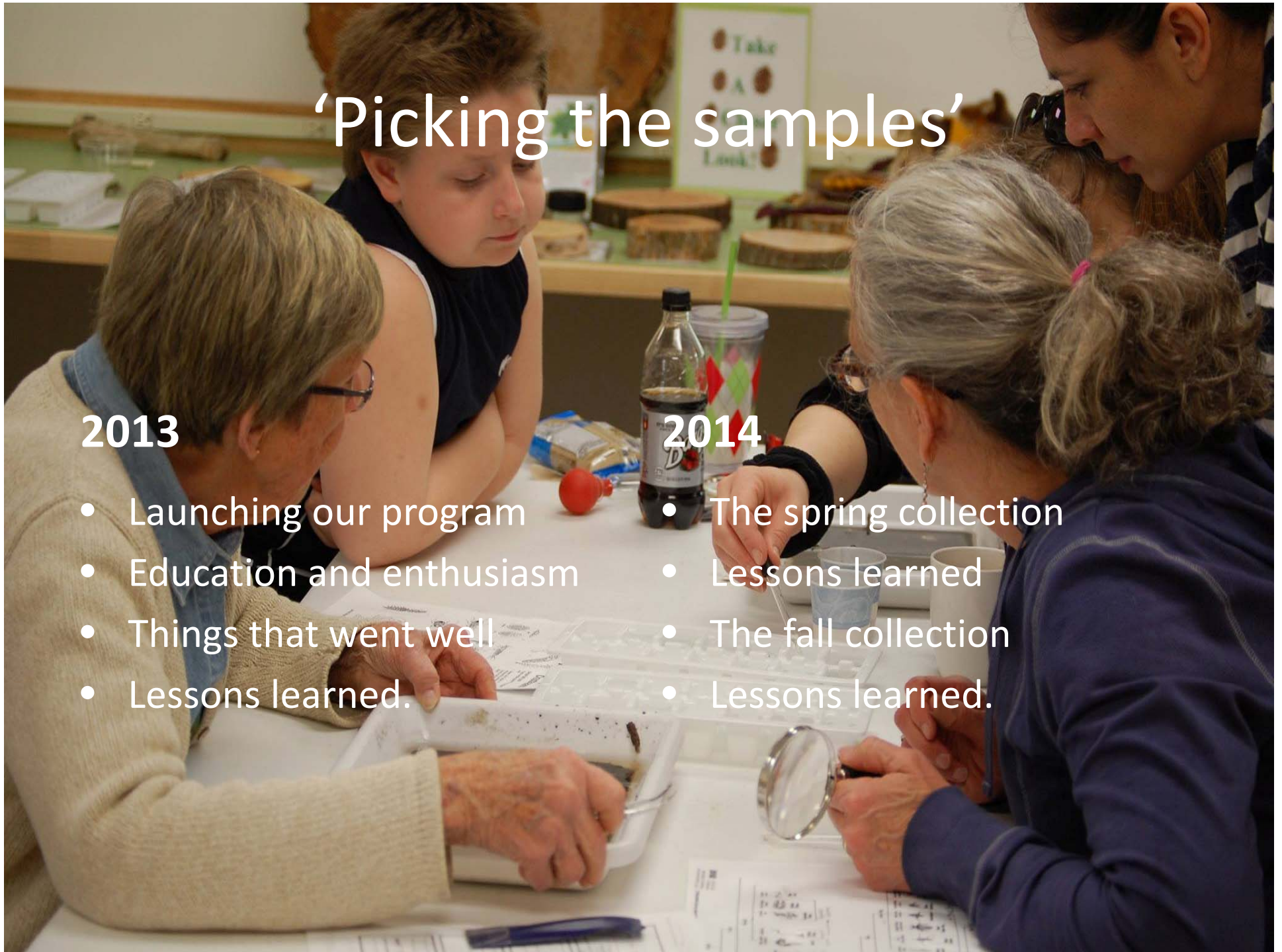
# 'Picking the samples'

**2013**

- Launching our program
- Education and enthusiasm
- Things that went well
- Lessons learned.

**2014**

- The spring collection
- Lessons learned
- The fall collection
- Lessons learned.





# Stream Results

- Overall Cold Creek has turned out to be fair
- Finch Creek is fair - bordering good
- Shanty Creek is fair bordering poor

# Volunteer Results

- Many returning volunteers
- Many younger people interested
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.







# Conclusions

- The watershed has issues and must be monitored on a regular basis.
- Critical to develop a sustainable, volunteer based monitoring program operated through the Conservation Program at GRNA
- Many trials overcome, a few more to iron out



# The Future

- There is a commitment by some in the community to monitor this watershed
- The work will be to 1. organize and have sampling events and 2. find funds to sustain the basic needs in order to make this effort a long term one.





# Acknowledgements



- MiCorp for supporting guidance and financial support for the development and evolution of this critical program
- GRNA Board of Directors
- Antrim County's continued support of GRNA

## Questions?