

The Watershed Center's Adopt-A-Stream Program



Photo credit: Rotary Club of Traverse City



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The Watershed Center advocates for water quality in the Grand Traverse Bay and acts to protect and preserve its watershed



Mission:

The Watershed Center advocates for clean water in Grand Traverse Bay and acts to protect and preserve the Bay's watershed

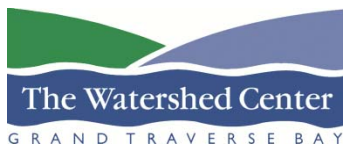


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Grand Traverse Bay Watershed



Author: H. Smith - The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, 2016.



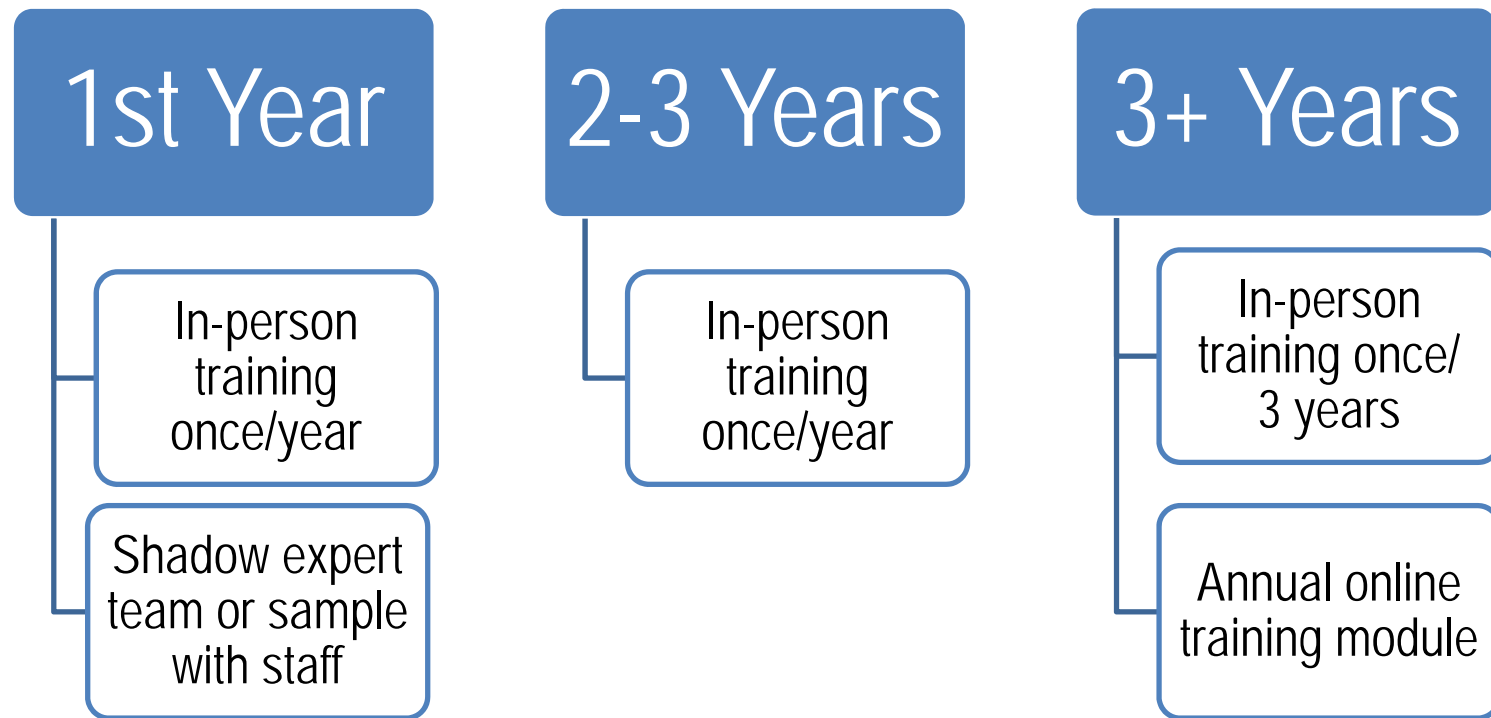
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Volunteer Stream Monitoring

- Volunteer teams “adopt” a stream site
- Monitor anytime within a two week window twice a year
- Utilize MiCorps protocols (order level)
- Preserve bugs for later “professional” verification



Training



In-Person Training

- Classroom introduction and invert ID
- Stream-side protocols and invert ID
- All volunteers welcome; mandatory for team leaders

Online Refresher Training

- "Refresher Training" PDF
- Survey Monkey "Quiz"
- Developing training videos



Quality Assurance and Quality Control

- Sample alongside 10% of teams each season
- Feedback on each invert datasheet
- Annual “Commonly Misidentified Inverts” PDF

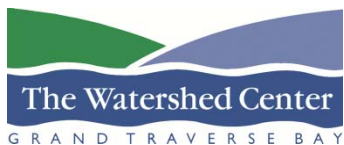


Volunteer Stats

- Program created in 2004
- High retention rate:
 - >75% volunteers returned in 2017
 - Handful of 10+ year volunteers

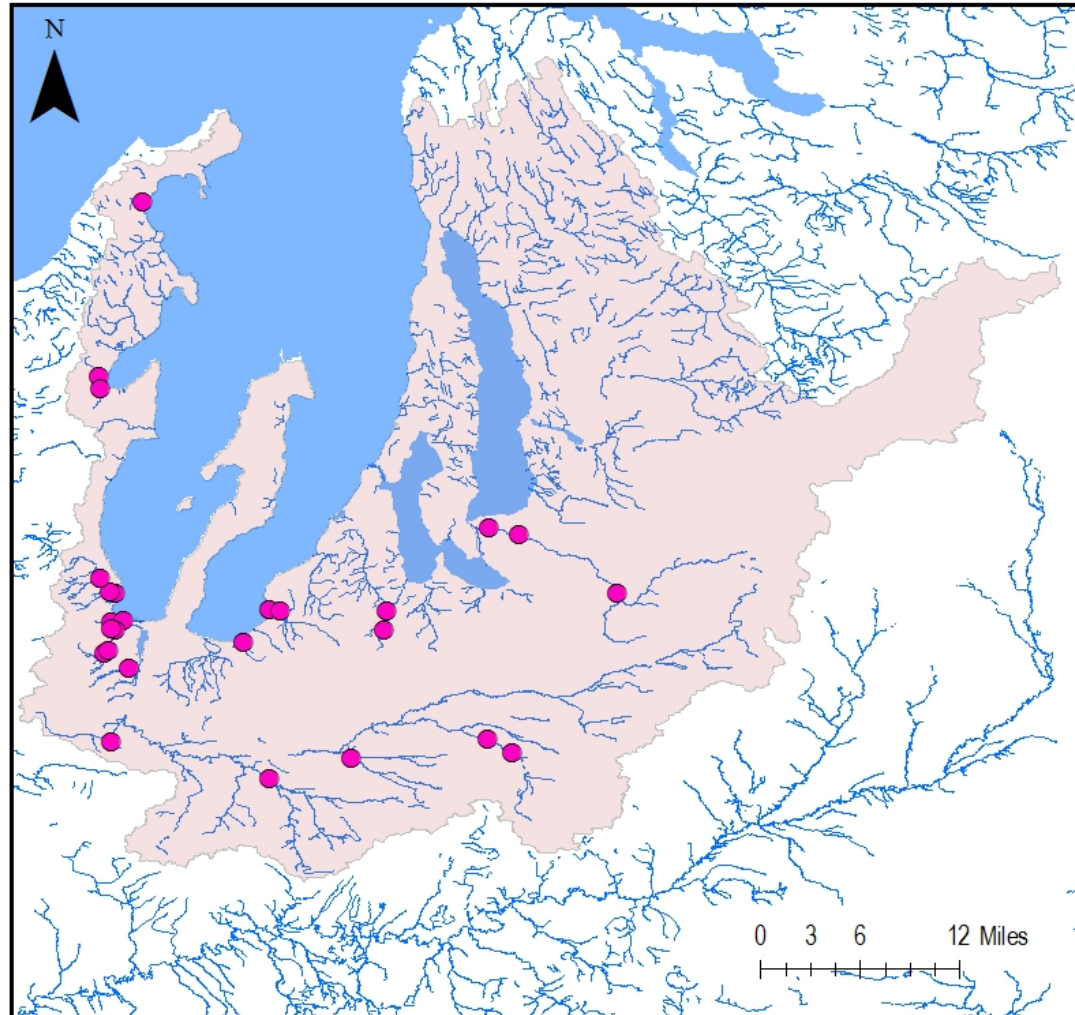


ADOPT-A-STREAM 2017



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Volunteer Sites



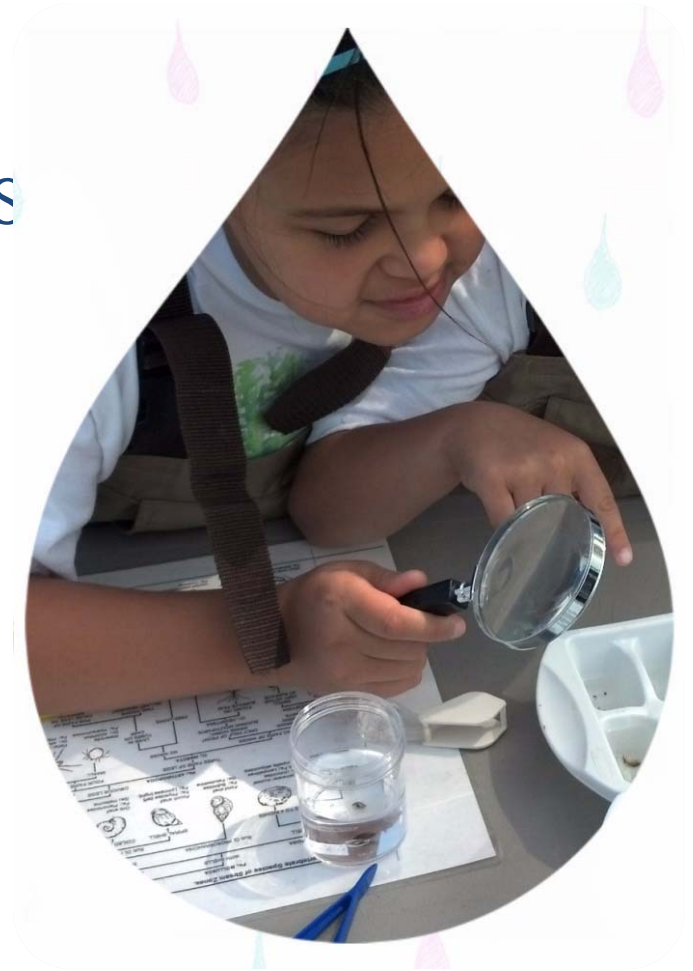
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Advantages

- Flexibility in sampling dates/times
- Ownership of sites
- Solicit sponsorship for teams and/or sites
- Training flexibility



Disadvantages



- Volunteers to “switch” sites every 3 years
- Unable to coach volunteers through invertebrate ID
- Less of a social networking event
- Realizing program reach

On The Horizon

- Training videos
- Sample with all teams
- Demonstrate how data is used locally
- Highlight volunteer stories
- Increase reach of program



Thank You



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