



Project Code: #VSM2015-05

Grand Traverse Adopt A Stream

June 2015 – November 2017



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The main goal of the Grand Traverse Adopt A Stream project was to significantly improve The Watershed Center's (TWC) current Adopt-A-Stream volunteer monitoring program by increasing the number of consistently monitored sites, raising awareness of the program and provide information to the public, and increase the program's volunteer base. Launched in June 2003, Adopt-A-Stream (then called "Stream Search") is TWC's bi-annual macroinvertebrate monitoring and habitat assessment program. Trained volunteers are assigned to a stream section within the Grand Traverse Bay watershed to monitor each spring and fall. In 2005, TWC received a MiCorps startup grant and started applying MiCorps standard volunteer monitoring procedures. TWC's Adopt-A-Stream program provides valuable water quality data that can be used to track stream trends and detect early changes to a stream system. The Adopt-A-Stream program also serves as an important educational tool and is currently marketed as an asset to our freshwater community where members can take ownership and pride in their local streams, while engaging them in a fun, hands-on program and providing education to adults and children on water quality indicators and issues.

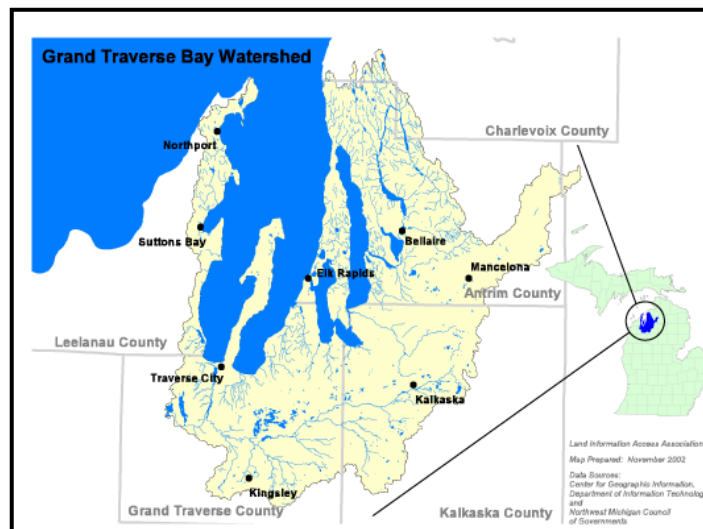
Grant Amount: \$ 8,500.00

Match Funds: \$11,102.28

Total Amount: \$19,602.28

Volunteer Monitoring Activities:

- Conducted 5 stream macroinvertebrate monitoring events and 5 team leader training events (October 2015, June 2016, October 2016, June 2017, and October 2017)
- Sampled 1-2 sites on 11 -16 different streams (depending on season)
- Average of 57 volunteers participating in each event



Key Accomplishments:

- Measurable Results – Most streams ranked in the Fair-Good range, with some fluctuations from year to year.
- Advertised and notified public of upcoming events and results through a variety of media including newsletters and social media, as well as a monthly eNewsletter sent to people interested in volunteer opportunities.
- Revised and update training documents and QAPP.
- Completed new AAS brochure that includes information about program and sponsorships.
- Developed an AAS Annual Report summarizing results for the past year that included relevant maps.
- Attended at least 10 events/presentations to educate people about the AAS Program.
- Observed high level of volunteer retention and recruited about 40 new volunteers (adults and children) in 2016 and 2017.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Team Lewandowski sampling Kids Creek.
Photo courtesy of Tonya Lewandowski



Grand Traverse Resort's Green Team monitoring
Acme Creek.
Photo courtesy of Michaelene Horton



Team Donaldson sampling the South Branch of
Boardman River.
Photo courtesy of Deb Donaldson