

THE WATERSHED CENTER 2017 IMPACT REPORT





- 1** new strategic plan approved
- 11** stretches of east bay beaches monitored for avian botulism
- 18** streams monitored through Adopt-A-Stream
- 80** swimmers and volunteers at the Swim for Grand Traverse Bay
- 121** volunteers
- 727** donors
- \$14,000⁺** donated in in-kind goods and services
- \$20,227** raised through SwingShift and the Stars



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

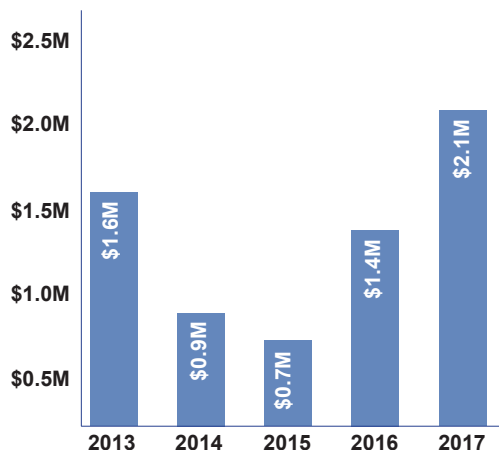
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Sarah U'Ren | Program Director
Heather Smith | Grand Traverse BAYKEEPER[®]
Shelli DiFranco | Dir. of Community Engagement
TJ Andrews | Legal Counsel

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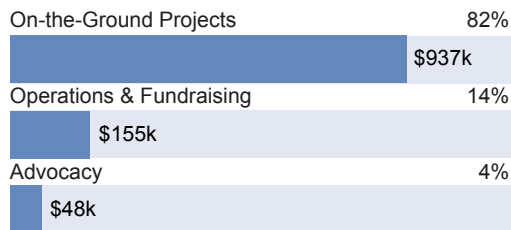
This Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Project has been funded wholly through the Michigan Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 2014-0011 to the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay for the Kids Creek Restoration Project Phase II. The contents of the documents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

ANNUAL BUDGET



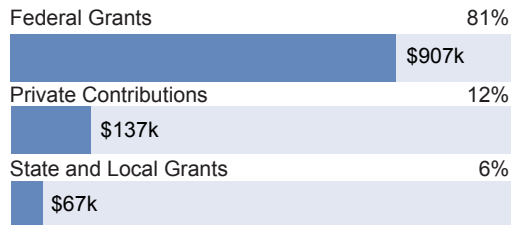
EXPENSES

\$1,140,336



SUPPORT

\$1,113,393



We made it easier to donate online. Check it out at gtbay.org/giving-opportunities/donate-now/



BAYKEEPER®'S CORNER: A YEAR OF ACTION



2017 brought another year of economic growth to our region. As areas prime for development diminish, our environmentally sensitive lands – wetlands, shorelines, steep slopes, and erodible soils – are faced with intense development pressure. As the Grand Traverse **BAYKEEPER®**, I track developments and policies that impact water quality and advocate for solutions to preserve and protect our water.

This past year, I wrote over 60 advocacy letters to local governments, responded to more than 40 citizen concerns related to water quality, met with several developers to suggest engineering solutions that protect water quality, and spoke as the voice for the bay at countless public meetings. To keep up the momentum, we need you. Our voice is stronger and most profound when it includes all who live, work, and play in this beautiful part of the world.

Please consider joining our Watershed Warriors, a group of engaged citizens who stand up for clean water. If you would like to be updated on public meeting and comment periods where you can voice your concern or support for projects and policy decisions that affect your water, contact me at hsmith@gtbay.org or 231-935-1514 ext. 3.

— Heather Smith, Grand Traverse **BAYKEEPER®**



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Simply put, without our volunteers, so much would not get done. In 2017, 121 volunteers supported our work. Their volunteerism took many shapes and forms, including:

- Entering stream and beach monitoring data
- Taking photographs and keeping swimmers safe at the Swim for Grand Traverse Bay
- Donning waders and looking for macroinvertebrates in a stream
- Walking stretches of east bay looking for evidence of avian botulism
- Picking up trash on a beach on a Saturday morning

Thank you for all your time and talent, volunteers! If you would like to get involved this year or receive our monthly volunteer e-newsletter during the warmer months, please email Heather Smith at hsmith@gtbay.org.



Volunteers celebrate after an Adopt-A-Beach clean-up at Traverse City State Park



Volunteers monitoring Leo Creek



SWAM TO PRESERVE CLEAN WATER

We held the second annual Swim for Grand Traverse Bay, which saw swimmers from as far away as Utah and Arizona head from Greilickville Harbor Park to Volleyball Beach. The event raised more than \$23,000 to further our work.



CELEBRATED THE END OF SUMMER

We toasted 2017 with some of our donors who have made a significant contribution to clean water. The September evening featured warm, fair weather and tours on our *Bay Monitor* tugboat.



CONTINUED TO RESTORE THE BOARDMAN RIVER

The Watershed Center and The Boardman River Dams Ecosystem Restoration partners were busy in 2017, completing major work removing Boardman Dam and routing the river back to its natural course.

Photo provided by Conservation Resource Alliance and AECOM



MET RED WINGS PLAYERS

Our executive director Christine Crissman was over-the-moon to meet three Detroit Red Wings players, give them a tour of Grand Traverse Bay, and receive a donation that will help us protect and preserve our watershed.



KIDS CREEK RESTORATION CONTINUED ON TRIBUTARY AA

The Watershed Center completed a number of green infrastructure projects in 2017, all aimed at restoring and improving Kids Creek, an urban stream that meanders through Grand Traverse County and Traverse City before outletting into west Grand Traverse Bay.

Pictured at left:

- **Top:** We restored a 2,000-foot section of Tributary AA between the Village at Grand Traverse Commons and the Grand Traverse Pavilions. Highlights included creating a floodplain to help alleviate the erosive pressure in the creek after a heavy rain, and installing dozens of flowering plants and 65 trees to create a vegetative buffer to improve water quality from stormwater runoff.
- **Middle:** AECOM, our design engineer for the Tributary AA project, caught numerous brook trout, Michigan's state fish, while on site. The brook trout were safely caught and released further downstream while temporarily re-routing the creek during construction.
- **Bottom:** An after-shot of a new rain garden installed at the State Office Building on Elmwood Avenue to collect stormwater runoff from their parking lot.





CLEAN WATER IS UP TO ALL OF US.