



IMPACT REPORT

2020



We protect the water you love

We are passionate about safeguarding the beautiful waters of Grand Traverse Bay and our inland lakes and streams for all to enjoy. As scientists, we understand how to protect our waters and proudly lead long-term planning and advocacy efforts.

By getting our hands dirty with projects that restore and improve our waters, we are making a difference. We manage many projects and engage partners and volunteers, taking action together for a clean and clear future.

We restore the waterways that lead to Grand Traverse Bay

We connect people to clean water

We understand our region's unique bond with Grand Traverse Bay and its waterways. We work to strengthen this bond, engaging people with water in ways that increase knowledge, enjoyment, pride, and informed decision-making.

In memory of Kevin Dillan, TWC Board Member



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

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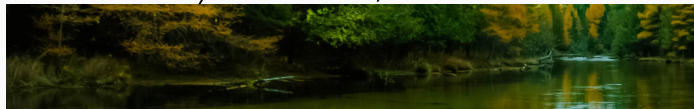


[@watershedcenter](https://www.facebook.com/watershedcenter)



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The Watershed Center is a proud member of the Waterkeeper Alliance.

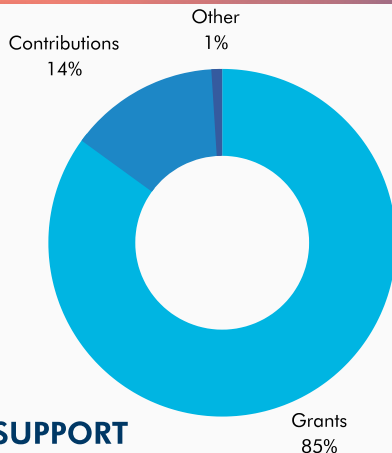


THANK YOU

As a local nonprofit, we rely on grants to fund our on-the-ground work and donations to sustain all other services and programs. Giving to The Watershed Center protects the water you love in the Grand Traverse region.

In 2020, your generosity enabled us to assess flooding and shoreline impacts due to high water levels, install several green infrastructure projects to reduce stormwater impacts, and engage people with water in ways that fuel loyalty and action.

In addition to your financial contributions, dozens of businesses and individuals donated in-kind products, services, or knowledge.



SUPPORT \$838,489

Grants (public & private)

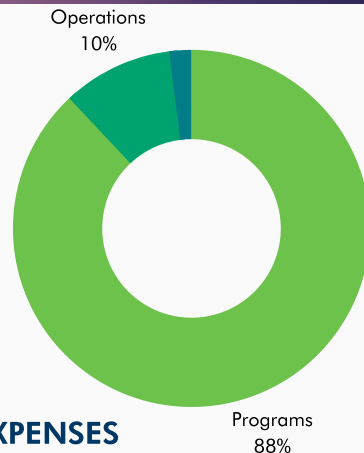
\$712,528

Contributions

\$121,193

Other (includes interest)

\$4,768



EXPENSES \$811,864

Program Services

\$715,652

Operations

\$80,164

Fundraising

\$16,048

PROTECT



RIPARIAN BUFFERS

We presented several local governments with example ordinances, provided expertise on proposed policies, and helped navigate a variety of legal considerations regarding shoreline practices that preserve water quality, prevent erosion, and protect fish and wildlife habitat.



BEACH MONITORING

We conducted water testing for bacteria at 25 Great Lakes and inland lake beaches. Our effort provides critical information that protects the health of people enjoying our area beaches.



WATER-SIDE DEVELOPMENT

We provided municipal staff, local officials, and developers with best practices to reduce water quality impacts and protect natural shoreline habitat for dozens of water-side developments.



HIGH WATER LEVELS

We assessed shoreline impacts due to high water levels, served as a voice for coastal resiliency practices, and provided ecologically sensitive solutions when appropriate.



COASTAL GT BAY PLAN

We submitted a draft of our Coastal Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Plan that summarizes current water quality data and pollution sources in the coastal areas of the bay.

RESTORE



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

We installed two remote water quality sensing stations in Kids Creek. Continuous monitoring over the next several years will help determine potential water quality impacts from road salts and other pollutants.



KIDS CREEK RESTORATION

We continued planning projects to restore Kids Creek, including rebuilding three undersized road-stream crossings on Cedar and 6th streets and replacing two culverts with pedestrian bridges on Traverse City's Safe Routes to School.



ELK RAPIDS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE


We installed two bioswales at the harbor and numerous rain gardens along River Street in the Village of Elk Rapids. We also began preparations to install an underground infiltration trench under Cedar Street in 2021.



14TH STREET STORMDRAIN

We installed a 1,065-foot vegetated bioswale to receive water from the 14th Street stormdrain outlet in Traverse City. This reduced the amount of stormwater (by 170 million gallons/year) and sediment flowing into Kids Creek.

CONNECT



ADOPT-A-STREAM

We adjusted our volunteer stream monitoring program to continue to collect high-quality stream data despite the global pandemic. This included a web-based platform for trainings and using creative ways to sample alongside volunteers using CDC protocols.



COMMUNITY VALUES

We conducted in-depth assessments of local planning and zoning policies related to water quality protection in the Elk River Chain of Lakes.



STUDENT EXPERIENCES

We took students from Northwestern Michigan College into the field to collect water quality data and demonstrate the utility of monitoring efforts. These students gained valuable experience and could become some of our area's next water quality professionals.



CHAIN OF LAKES WATER FIRST

We completed a draft Action Plan to guide collaborative efforts regarding shoreline protection and septic system management in the Elk River Chain of Lakes.



BOARDMAN RIVER COLLABORATION

We reengaged with organizations interested in furthering conservation, restoration, and protection efforts in the Boardman River watershed.



>75

Public meetings attended and advocacy letters written to local government staff and elected/appointed officials

26

Stream sites monitored by Adopt-A-Stream volunteers

7

Green infrastructure projects installed in Traverse City and Elk Rapids

48

Volunteer Watershed Warriors that are committed to taking a stand for clean water in their communities

> 130

Water quality concerns addressed from engaged citizens

