

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SHORELINE PROTECTION

### GOAL STATEMENT

Protect and restore natural shorelines.

### ACTION STEPS, ROLES, AND TIMELINE

1. Strengthen, develop, and enforce setback and/or vegetated buffer ordinances.
  - a. Project coordination: The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association, Grass River Natural Area
  - b. Timeline:
  - c. Tasks:
    - i. Meet with local elected/appointed officials to discuss and assess community needs, priorities, and readiness
    - ii. Identify champions in high priority communities
    - iii. Identify zoning opportunities along Grass River area
    - iv. Develop best practices for policy development including checklist of strong provisions
    - v. Provide resources and expertise to local units of government regarding ordinance enforcement
2. Educate landowners, policymakers, and contractors about tools to protect shorelines.
  - a. Project coordination: Grass River Natural Area, Whitewater Township, The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association, Torch Conservation Center, Three Lakes Association
  - b. Timeline: ongoing
  - c. Tasks
    - i. Identify shared messaging, including informational materials
      1. "Then and now" perspective
      2. "Why" behind importance of shoreline protection
      3. Shared messaging focus group
    - ii. Identify key audiences (i.e. property owners, elected/appointed officials, contractors)
      1. Tip of the Mitt will host landscaping contractor trainings
    - iii. Provide case studies

### RESOURCES REQUIRED

1. Brochures/websites
  - a. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council [watershedcouncil.org](https://www.watershedcouncil.org)
    - i. Antrim County Local Ordinance Gaps Analysis [https://www.watershedcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/5/1/7251350/antrim\\_county\\_gaps\\_analysis\\_2020.pdf](https://www.watershedcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/5/1/7251350/antrim_county_gaps_analysis_2020.pdf)
  - b. Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership [mishorelinepartnership.org](https://mishorelinepartnership.org)

- c. Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network [habitatmatters.org](http://habitatmatters.org)
    - i. Go Beyond Beauty <https://www.habitatmatters.org/go-beyond-beauty.html>
  - d. Torch Conservation Center [conservetorch.org](http://conservetorch.org)
    - i. True Blue Landscaping <https://conservetorch.org/caring-for-water/true-blue-landscaping/>
    - ii. True Blue Lawns <https://conservetorch.org/caring-for-water/true-blue-gardening/>
  - e. Antrim Conservation District [antrimcd.com](http://antrimcd.com)
    - i. Healthy Lakes Healthy Landscapes (LINK)
  - f. Michigan Audubon [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org)
    - i. Plants for Birds <https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>
2. Funding
  3. Expertise
    - a. Peg Comfort's involvement and lessons learned in Forest Home Township
  4. Case studies/examples
    - a. Planning and Zoning Center at Michigan State University  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/landpolicy/program/planning\\_zoning\\_center\\_at\\_msu/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/landpolicy/program/planning_zoning_center_at_msu/index)
    - b. Environmental policy document for townships, villages, and counties in ERCOL
    - c. Riparian buffer provision memo from The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
    - d. Urban Cooperation Act of 1967 <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-act-7-of-1967-ex-sess-.pdf>
    - e. Manistee Lake Association <http://www.manisteelake.org/>
  5. Presentation to share with planning commissions and township boards

---

## METRICS AND INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

1. Linear feet of shoreline protected
2. Total phosphorous and nitrogen and suspended solids in waterways
3. Presence of ordinances
4. Enforcement of ordinances
5. Documentation of streambank stabilization projects and impacts