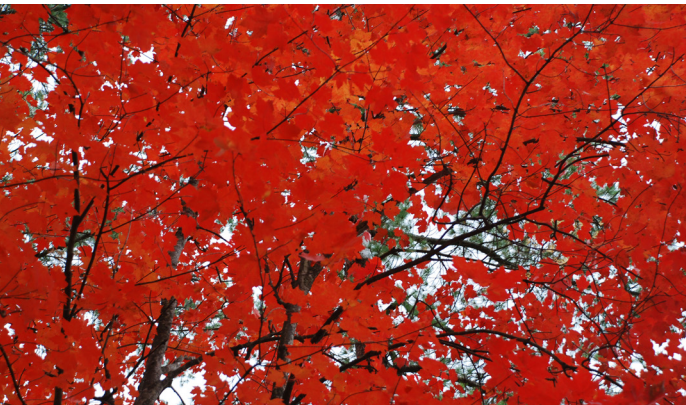


What Can I Do?

- Plant native trees on your property
- Help plant native trees at local parks and natural areas and water young trees to make sure they become well-established
- Ask your local government to develop tree cover goals and adopt and enforce ordinances that protect trees and forests
- Support organizations like The Watershed Center that are working to make our watershed healthier and greener

What is The Watershed Center Doing?

- Conducting analyses of the ecological services trees provide in sensitive watershed areas
- Identifying priority areas for tree planting
- Working with local governments to protect tree cover, including tree cover goals and ordinances to protect trees
- Educating local governments, developers and homeowners about the benefits of managing stormwater with trees and other types of native vegetation through Low Impact Development
- Supporting tree planting efforts throughout the watershed



Protecting our Up North water quality

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay advocates for clean water in Grand Traverse Bay and protects and preserves its watershed.

For more information, please contact us at 231.935.1514 or visit www.gtbay.org

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Plant a Tree for Water Quality



The Grand Traverse Bay Watershed

The Grand Traverse Bay watershed covers almost 1,000-square-miles in four counties, all of which drains via streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater to Grand Traverse Bay.

Watershed Threats

The top threats to water quality in the Grand Traverse region are sediments, such as sand and dirt, and excess nutrients, such as phosphorous. When it rains or snow melts, water that does not soak into the ground flows over impervious surfaces such as driveways, roads and parking lots into streams, lakes and the Bay, carrying sediments, nutrients and other pollutants with it. Managing this “stormwater runoff” is essential to ensure a healthy water supply for drinking, recreation, wildlife habitat, the economic vitality of our region and our quality of life.

Trees and Water Quality

Trees are one of the most cost-effective, efficient and beautiful tools to manage stormwater. Trees and other natural vegetation protect water quality, even if they are not next to a lake, river or stream.



Trees help to:

- Intercept and hold precipitation on leaves, branches and bark
- Increase infiltration/absorption of rainfall and snow melt through their roots
- Reduce erosion by retaining soil
- Take up nutrients and contaminants through their roots
- Slow down stormwater runoff
- Recharge groundwater aquifers
- Improve overall water quality

In addition to these stormwater benefits, trees provide a host of other benefits such as improved air quality, reduced air temperatures in summer, reduced heating and cooling costs, increased property values, habitat for wildlife, and recreation and aesthetic value.

Not Just Another Pretty Tree

Trees are an incredibly valuable resource when it comes to managing stormwater and provide a number of other environmental and property benefits.

Did you know that a 15-inch diameter sugar maple in a residential neighborhood:

- Provides \$140 in environmental and property benefits every year, including raising property value by \$43
- Intercepts 1,367 gallons of stormwater
- Conserves 233 Kilowatt/hours of electricity for cooling and reduces consumption of oil or natural gas
- Absorbs air pollutants like ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide through leaves
- Reduces atmospheric carbon by 689 pounds (most car owners of an “average” car drive 12,000 miles generating about 11,000 pounds of CO2 every year)

Imagine the total value of thousands of trees! Learn more about the value of trees on your property with the National Tree Benefit Calculator at www.treebenefits.com.

