

In late 2001, the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay received a \$250,000 Watershed Management Planning Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The grant was for the development of a comprehensive watershed protection plan for Grand Traverse Bay and its 973 square mile watershed.

The plan summarizes existing water quality conditions and identifies current and potential threats to the health of our waters.

The Grand Traverse Bay Protection Plan outlines more than 200 separate tasks recommended for implementation over the next 15 years. These tasks include not only “on the

ground” projects such as streambank restoration or repairing road stream crossings, but also a myriad of public education and outreach projects. The current version of the plan is available for everyone on our Web site at www.gtbay.org.

Freshwater Focus is one of those projects. In partnership with the Record Eagle, The Watershed Center develops this piece each year to highlight area water quality issues and the many accomplishments throughout the previous year.

This year we have more successes to share than ever. We also have suggestions for where you can obtain more information, how you can get involved, and things you can do around your own home to protect our spectacular resource.

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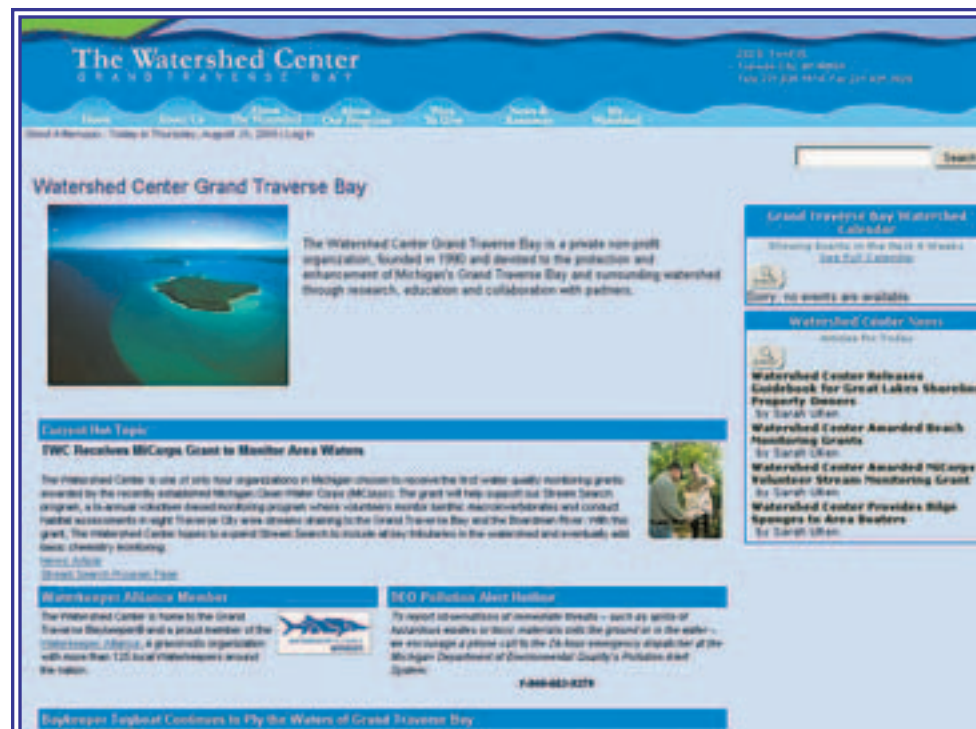
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Living on an Inland Sea

Your Stewardship Guide for Living on the Shores of the Great Lakes

The Watershed Center's new *Living on an Inland Sea: Your Stewardship Guide for Living on the Shores of the Great Lakes* is now available at coastal township offices and through The Watershed Center. This handy, concise guide answers many questions for shoreline owners, including the ins and outs of current beach maintenance laws, how to make ecologically sound decisions regarding your property and where to go for more help. If you own a home on the bay, or other Lake Michigan shoreline, call The Watershed Center or stop by your township offices for a free copy.

www.gtbay.org



The Watershed Center's Web site has recently undergone another round of updates to better serve our cyber-visitors. There are updates about current projects, links to more resources, and updated data from recent studies including summer beach monitoring results.

Did you know?

Each drop of water is estimated to stay in Lake Michigan for 99 years, Lake Superior for 191 years, Lake Huron for 92 years, Lake Ontario for 6 years and Lake Erie for only 2.6 years.

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