



Federal Section 319  
 Nonpoint Source Grant  
 2000-0162

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments  
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## Cheboygan River/Lower Black River Watershed Initiative

December 15, 2001-December 14, 2003

### Project Description:

This project developed a watershed plan for the Cheboygan River/Lower Black River sub-watersheds. This plan is the last of five phases to implement a water resource protection program for the entire Cheboygan River Watershed. It is the remaining area within the watershed that had not been inventoried for nonpoint source pollutants.

The Cheboygan River/Lower Black River watershed is a 19,212 acre watershed located in Cheboygan County and consists of 75% agricultural land. The rivers are part of the Inland Waterway with 36 miles of navigable water from Lake Huron to the inland lakes of Mullett, Burt, Crooked, and Pickerel.

Tourism is becoming an increasing part of the local economy, with residential seasonal home development occurring throughout the watershed. The overall water quality is good; however the rivers drain extensive agricultural lands and urban lands.

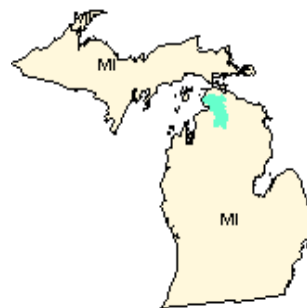
Suspected nutrient and sediment sources include livestock access to the river, barnyard runoff, stream bank erosion, road stream crossings, septic systems, development practices, shoreline lawn maintenance practices, and urban runoff. The Watershed management plan made recommendations to address these issues.

### Project Goal:

The goal of the Cheboygan River/Lower Black River Watershed Initiative is to protect and enhance the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Cheboygan River watershed so that it meets all its designated uses.

### Project Sustainability:

- o Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Science and Environmental Education for the North. are continuing efforts in educational programs
- o The Cheboygan District, USDA, and Natural Resources Conservation Service will continue to educate the agricultural community in ways to protect water quality and aid in incorporating BMP's
- o The City of Cheboygan, Cheboygan County, and Huron Pines RC&D Council is currently working to improve the storm water control program, including effective zoning and model storm water ordinances.
- o Northeast Michigan Council of Governments is funding this project to sustain this project in the lon term basis. Also they are going to continue to to pursue fiding for information and education programs, and implementation of the stormwater, agricultural, road/stream crossing, stream bank, and lake shore recomendations set forth by the Wateshed Plan.



Grant Funds: \$116,198

Match Funds: \$22,000

Total: \$138,198

### PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established a steering committee comprised of key stakeholders in the watershed to provide input and assistance on plan development.
- Established the administrative structure for program operations and management.
- Increased the awareness of key stakeholders in the watershed on ways to prevent nonpoint sources of pollution from occurring through the development of an Information and Education Program.
- Prevented sedimentation and nutrient inputs from occurring through the institution of land use management practices such as improved zoning and site plan reviews.
  - The County storm water program is now administered within the city limits
  - The City of Cheboygan is in the process of adopting an updated zoning ordinance and improved site plan review standards that will better protect the river from the impacts of development along the river corridor
- Inventoried major sources of nonpoint source pollution such as stream bank erosion, road/stream crossings, agricultural activities, storm water runoff, septic systems, and shoreline management practices.
- Developed recommendations and Best Management Practices for priority problems identified in the inventory.
- Completed a Watershed Management Plan for the Cheboygan/Lower Black Watershed.
- Developed evaluation program for planning and implementation phases of the program.

### PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Huron Pines RC&D Council
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Cheboygan Conservation District
- Douglas Lake Association
- District Health Department #4
- Petoskey Regional Audubon Society
- Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program
- Cheboygan Tribune
- Michigan State University Extension
- University of Michigan Biological Station

### PRODUCTS:

- Watershed goal and objectives checklist
- Digital stream bank erosion severity index
- Digital severity scoring worksheet for road stream crossing
- Yearly newsletters
- Informational packets including; maps, newsletters, and an overview of the watershed project
- Presentations
- Databases containing specific information on road/stream crossing sites, shoreline characteristics, stream bank erosions sites and agricultural sites of concern
- Numerous information articles
- Resource library containing a wealth of watershed information was assembled
- Completed and approved a watershed plan