Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council speaks for Northern Michigan's waters. We are dedicated to protecting our lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water through advocacy, education, water quality monitoring, research, and restoration actions. We achieve our mission by empowering others and we believe in the capacity to make a positive difference. We work locally, regionally, and throughout the Great Lakes Basin to achieve our goals.

Water resources in our service area include:

- More than 2,500 miles of rivers and streams
- Multiple blue-ribbon trout streams
- 14 lakes larger than 1,000 acres
- 250 lakes larger than or equal to 10 acres
- 490 lakes larger than or equal to 1 acre and less than 10 acres*
- 1,050 lakes greater than or equal to 0.1 acres and less than 1 acre**
- 339,000 acres of wetlands

*1 acre = 209' long by 209' wide
**.1 acres = 4356 sq.   = 66' long x 66' wide

Tip of the Mitt
Watershed
Council

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CONTRACT SERVICES

Shoreline Surveys

We conduct surveys on lakes to document and assess shoreline conditions that have the potential to impact water quality and ecosystem health. These surveys are typically performed for lake associations to provide a lake-wide assessment of the shoreline. Every property is surveyed for nutrient pollution, erosion, greenbelts, altered shorelines, and other relevant factors.

Endangered Species Surveys

We assess sites for the presence of threatened and endangered aquatic, riparian, and wetland species and make management recommendations if protected species or their habitats are found.

Aquatic and Riparian Plant Surveys

We conduct aquatic plant surveys on inland lakes that help identify aquatic plant management needs and strategies. Surveys are typically done lake-wide and provide information about invasive species, aquatic plant diversity, and fish habitat.

Shoreline and Streambank Restoration

We assess shoreline and streambank health and provide recommendations on riparian management and erosion control strategies, including bioengineering methods, which utilize native plants, coconut fiber bio-logs, and fieldstone to restore the natural function of the shoreline. Staff can assist with natural shoreline design for property owners and work with landscapers to guide installation practices.

Wetland Assessments

We conduct wetland identifications and delineations according to project and client needs. A wetland identification is simply the determination of whether an area is a wetland or not. A wetland delineation is the actual determination and establishment of wetland boundaries that can be used for permitting.

Water Quality Monitoring

We monitor water quality of lakes, streams, and stormwater to assess impacts from various pollutant sources, including but not limited to fertilizers, failing septics, and eroding shorelines and streambanks. Monitoring can include physical, chemical, and biological parameters.

Nature-based Stormwater Infrustructure and Assessments

We work with local units of government to assess impacts of stormwater runoff on local water resources through inventories and mapping of stormwater drainage areas, inlets, outfalls, and treatment structures in developed areas.

Staff work with private, public, and commercial property owners and other agencies to identify options and develop designs for various green stormwater infrastructure projects including rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavers to mitigate impacts of stormwater.

Mapping

We develop and print maps of lakes, streams, or other water features. Maps can be made for entire waterbodies, individual shoreline properties, or specific areas. Information such as lake-bottom contours or survey results can be included on the map.

Project and Site Plan Review

We offer recommendations on site development concepts and plans to better preserve water quality through stormwater management, invasive species control, habitat enhancement, and shoreline, streambank, and wetland ptrotection.