

2017

ER WATERFRONT DISTRICT

Let's Calm the Harbor Vibe 'til Then

That's when Commissions - Harbor and Parks & Recreation - must by law create new 5 year plan – **Go Forward**

Recommended to ER Village Council

Approve the Amendment to Parks & Recreation Plan, As is – and Now.

The Amendment is not about Harbor expansion – but is about water based recreation programs, and community outreach. There is no approved expansion plan – a 10 year process.

Call-off re-opening the 2013 Parks & Rec Plan that was approved by both Commissions and Village Council. Go forward to 2017.

Instruct both Commissions and the DDA to begin work on an inclusive 2017 Elk Rapids 'Waterfront District'.

This work would specifically consider increasing Memorial Park size by 5+ acres with the creation of new land.

The beach front would move out 200 feet to its former shoreline as marked by stone cairns.

The south break-wall for the Harbor could move out a like amount to not change the Harbor's relative reach.

New land can create more park, a wetland, protect known spawning reefs, create reefs, enlarge the beach

Land is readily created as was Dam Beach and Ptobego Preserve –

Learn how the Dutch handle beach erosion with a "sand engine".

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/to_control_floods_the_dutch_turn_to_nature_for_inspiration/2621/

View photos of a charming village that preserved bird/ fish habitat, and scenic views with homes, harbor, & business.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=enkhuijen+marina+netherlands&biw=1755&bih=786&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0CEUQsARqFQoTCKPw5bvUvMcCfcS XgAodnaMANA>

TNN Pres. Termaat volunteers to lead a study trip to the Netherlands.

HISTORICAL GRACE MEMORIAL HARBOR

Sources: Elk Rapids Historical Museum, Elk Rapids Harbor Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and oral recollections. Photo by Photography Plus. *North', 'Central' & 'South' are DNR Spawning Reef Locations. Locations of docks are consistent with documents and diorama in the Elk Rapids Historical Museum - Compiled by TNN.



EDWARD C. GRACE MEMORIAL HARBOR – A REGIONAL ASSET

Take the 2015 E.A.S.T Boating Survey Attached



Source: Elk Rapids Historical Museum

Boating is a much favored recreation. Inland lakes and East Bay feature thousands of them – most are smaller, 20 feet and 2,000 pounds or less - kept at cottages on hoists or trailer launched from local ramps. Skiing, fishing, cruising, tubing, wake boarding, anchoring near beaches are favorites.

Shallow, rocky, in-shore waters and windy East GT Bay force boats 25+ into the Harbor,

Or, except for sail, they are launched for day use from ramps. It is nearly always impossible to keep larger boats on a hoist in front of the cottage - boats 25+ feet and 5,000+ pounds, cruisers and sport fishing boats to 40,000 pounds, many pontoons, and all sail boats except board boats and beach cats.

Hoist boating limits family outings to flat water – it is arduous entering a hoist in waves.

Boats 25+ feet along 50 miles of Bayshore in townships and village have no choice but to lease slips in Grace Harbor. Hoists are not an option for larger boats – trailer boating works except for sail.

Boats – Hoist, Harbor or Trailer?

Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor (Elk Rapids) is a critical regional resource from its creation 150 years ago. The ritual of launching boats in spring and storing them in fall is a defining reality on local roads and ramps. Harbor size is two-thirds less than its historical scale – ER Village is also at two-thirds smaller than its peak population.

DESCRIPTION OF E.A.S.T

Source: GT Bay Watershed Protection Plan and Townships Master Plans.

E.A.S.T has 4% of Grand Traverse Bay water inflows

E.A.S.T has 24 streams entering the Bay – twice that number in total (map) from Elk Rapids to Norwood.

E.A.S.T. has forested residential living along East Bay beaches, inland living in dune settings, rural homes, villages, farms and businesses.

E.A.S.T upland farms feature orchards, some vineyards, row crops, confined or pastured feeding of cows. Uplands drain through 3 creeks; Mitchell Creek (not the one in TC), includes Mud Lake in its 12 sq. mile basin. Paradine-McGuire and Creswell Creeks.

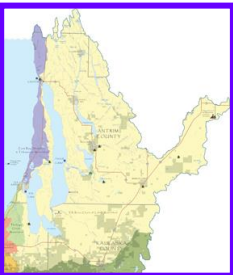
ERCOL – WPIT

E.A.S.T watershed - little sister to Elk River Chain of Lakes – ERCOL

E.A.S.T & ERCOL share a common boundary at the land ridge along US 31 from Elk Rapids to Norwood. WPIT is Watershed Plan Implementation Committee.

Waters flowing towards Grand Traverse Bay are in E.A.S.T.
Waters flowing towards the Chain of Lakes are in ERCOL.

NOTE: TNN is working under the auspices of the Watershed Center – GT Bay, with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. This work is part of the overall MDEQ and EPA sanctioned GT Bay Watershed Protection Plan.



E.A.S.T
Shown in purple.

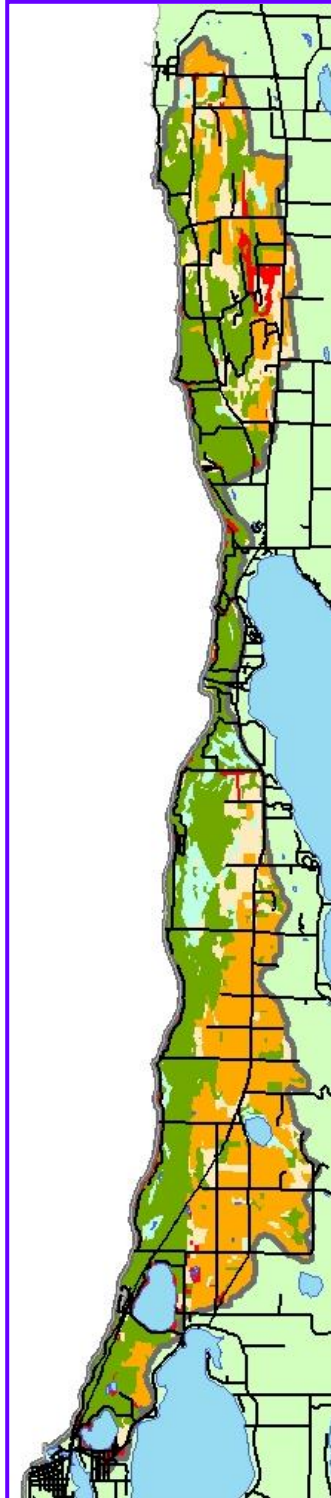
ERCOL
Shown in yellow

EASTBAY ANTRIM SUB-WATERSHED TEAM - E.A.S.T

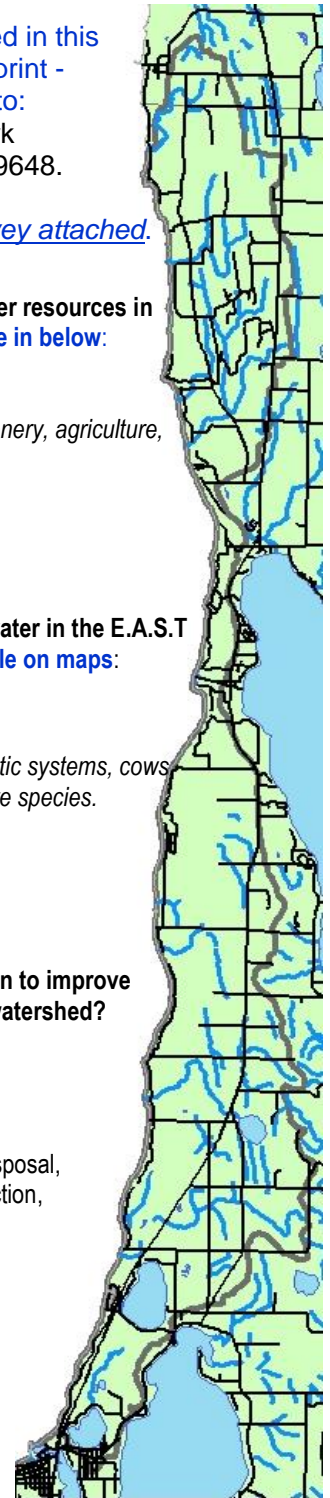
Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan

Maps by Maureen Pfaller of gtbay.org. Questionnaire by ERCOL WPIT & UM School of Natural Resources

Watershed



Streams



QUESTIONNAIRE.

Community survey conducted in this Edition of TNN News - Just print - Write-in your answers, mail to: Township Neighbors Network PO Box 288, Kewadin, MI 49648.

Please include Boating Survey attached.

QUESTION 1

What are the greatest uses of water resources in the E.A.S.T Sub-watershed? **Write in below:**

e.g. boating, swimming, fishing, scenery, agriculture, birding, watering plants, hunting

QUESTION 2

What are the greatest threats to water in the E.A.S.T sub-watershed? **Write in and circle on maps:**

e.g. upland run-off, road run-off, septic systems, cows land disposed human waste, invasive species.

QUESTION 3

What efforts have been undertaken to improve water quality in the E.A.S.T Sub-watershed? **Write in and circle on maps.**

e.g. end local human waste land disposal, road end rain gardens, septic inspection, public awareness.

Survey Results will be reported in Autumn Edition of TNN News