

# Betsie-Platte Watershed

Hydrologic Unit Code: 04060104

For more information, see the USEPA "Surf Your Watershed" website at [cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc\\_code=04060104](http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/huc.cfm?huc_code=04060104), contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at 517-335-6969 to request:

- Report #07/107 "A Biological Survey of the Betsie and Little Betsie Rivers and Dair Creek. Benzie and Manistee County, Michigan. July 15-17, 2003"
- Report #07/111 "A Biological Survey of the Platte River System. Benzie County. July 14-15, 2003"

## Watershed Management Plans

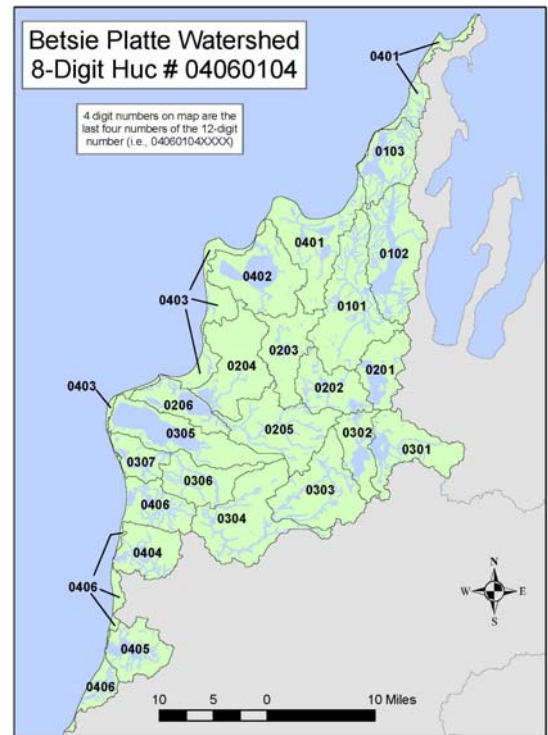
- Betsie River — Conservation Resource Alliance, [www.rivercare.org/](http://www.rivercare.org/)
- Glen Lake/Crystal River — Glen Lake Association, [www.mlswa.org/gla-916/WaterQualityRpt.htm#GLCRWMP](http://www.mlswa.org/gla-916/WaterQualityRpt.htm#GLCRWMP)
- Lake Leelanau — Conservation Resource Alliance, [www.rivercare.org/](http://www.rivercare.org/)
- Platte River — Benzie Conservation District, [www.benziecd.org/watershed.html](http://www.benziecd.org/watershed.html)
- Long Lake

## Watershed Groups

- Conservation Resource Alliance — [www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org)
- The Leelanau Conservancy — [www.theconservancy.com](http://www.theconservancy.com)
- Glen Lake Association — [www.glenlakeassociation.com](http://www.glenlakeassociation.com)
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy — [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org)
- Crystal Lake & Watershed Association — [www.clwa.us](http://www.clwa.us)
- Northwest Michigan Council of Governments — [www.nwm.org](http://www.nwm.org)

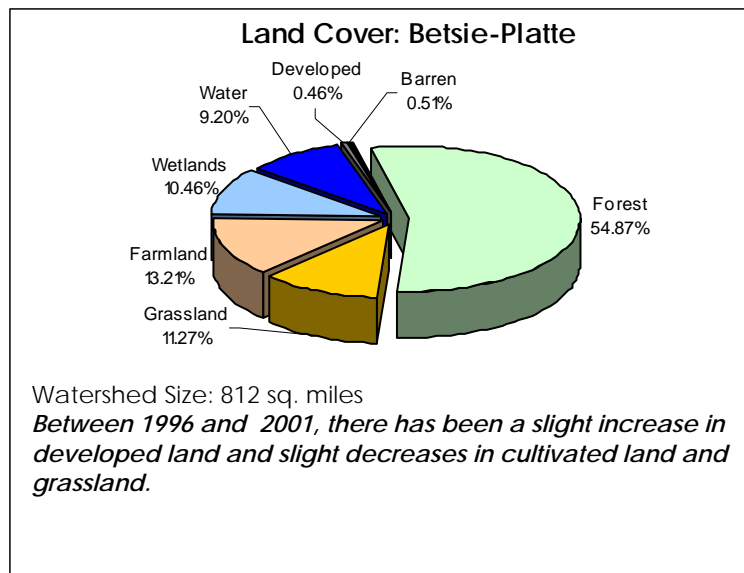
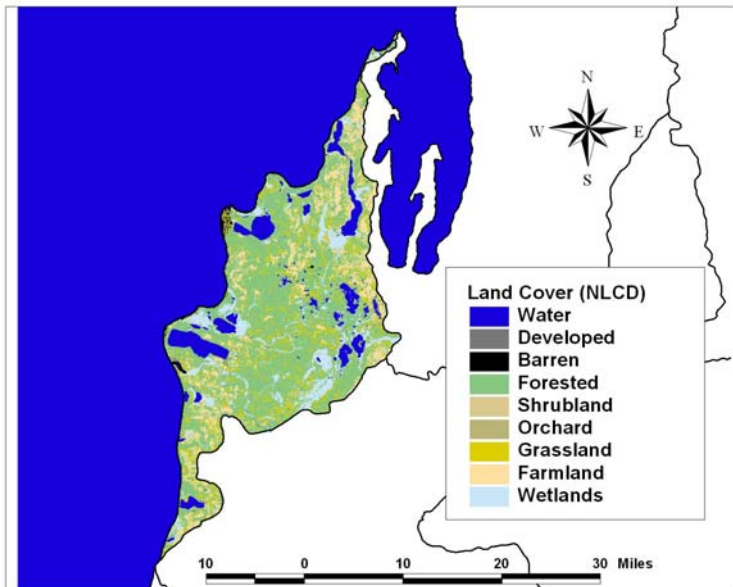
## Watershed Overview

- The basin was known for a large logging industry in the late 1800s and early 1900s that led to deep sand deposits in the rivers and creeks and roads cut through forests.
- Attempts at crop farming on the cut over land proved largely unsuccessful due to poor soils.
- The area is known for orchards and vineyards.
- The watershed has large stretches of State forest and Federal parklands.
- A majority of the land is forested.
- Native plant species in the area range from the extremely drought tolerant species Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uvaursi*) and Stiff Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*) to the wetland species of Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*) and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). More unusual species include the Red Milkweed or Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), desired by the Monarch Butterfly as the favorite food source for the larvae.
- The watershed is home to critical habitat identified by the Nature Conservancy include: Great Lakes Hemlock - Beech - Hardwood Forest, Great Lakes Beachgrass Dune, Great Lakes Shoreline Cattail - Bulrush Marsh, Great Lakes Dune Pine Forest, Great Lakes Beachgrass Dune, Interdunal Wetland.
- Critical species identified by the Nature Conservancy and other partners include Prairie Moonwort, Prairie Dunewort, Piping Plover, Pitcher's Thistle, and Michigan Monkey-flower.



### Subwatersheds of the Betsie-Platte Watershed

- 0101 Cedar Run
- 0102 Mehert Creek-Lake Leelanau
- 0103 Lake Leelanau
- 0201 Long Lake-Platte River
- 0202 Bronson Lake-Platte River
- 0203 Pearl Lake
- 0204 North Branch Platte River
- 0205 Collision Creek-Platte River
- 0206 Platte River
- 0301 Duck Lake
- 0302 Green Lake
- 0303 Little Betsie River-Betsie River
- 0304 Dair Creek-Betsie River
- 0305 Crystal Lake Outlet
- 0306 Rice Creek-Betsie River
- 0307 Betsie River
- 0401 Shalda Creek-Frontal Lake Michigan
- 0402 Crystal Run
- 0403 Otter Creek-Frontal Lake Michigan
- 0404 Arcadia Lake
- 0405 Portage Lake
- 0406 Lower Herring Lake-Frontal Lake Michigan



### Watershed Priorities

- Identified Platte River impairments include fertilizers; human and animal waste; oils, toxic chemicals, and salt; sediment; heated runoff; altered stream; pesticides; bacteria; and channel flow.
- The watershed has listed impairments for mercury, PCB and chlordane fish consumption advisories for a limited number of waterbodies (see table on opposite page).
- The watershed has seen significant erosion at stream crossings.
- There is significant sedimentation that has occurred in the watershed.
- Watershed and environmental groups have been undertaking significant projects to protect and restore the watershed. The primary focus of the protection and restoration efforts include:
  - Improving water quality and Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.
  - Removing manmade drainage features on former farmland to reduce excess storm water runoff.
  - Purchase of easements to protect open space and improve environmental functions.
  - Protecting ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands and their associated forests as well as undeveloped shoreline.
  - Protected sensitive "dune and swale" topography at Sleeping Bear Dunes. The area is recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "globally rare habitat."
  - Remove invasive species and restore dunes in the Greater Point Betsie landscape. The project facilitates activity at the greater Pt. Betsie landscape to remove invasives and restore dunes to benefit the rare natural communities, including Pitcher's thistle, a threatened species.
  - Improve habitat for critical species like the piping plover.

### Impaired (303d) Waters

Waterbody	Impairment
Bass Lake	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Crystal Lake	PCB Fish Consumption Advisory
Crystal Lake Bellows Beach	Pathogens
Glen Lake	Chlordane Fish Consumption Advisory, Mercury (Fish Tissue), PCB Fish Consumption Advisory
Green Lake	PCB Fish Consumption Advisory, Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Lake Ann	Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Lake Michigan - North of Frankfort	Chlordane Fish Consumption Advisory, Dioxin Fish Consumption Advisory, PCB Fish Consumption Advisory, Mercury (Fish Tissue)
Lake Michigan - South of Frankfort	Chlordane Fish Consumption Advisory, Fish consumption advisory (dioxin), PCB Fish Consumption Advisory, mercury (Fish Tissue), Fish consumption advisory (DDT)
North Lake Leelanau	PCB Fish Consumption Advisory, Mercury (fish tissue)
Portage Lake	PCB Fish Consumption Advisory
Unnamed Tributary to Platte Lake	Bacterial Slimes, Macroinvertebrate Community Rated Poor, Organic Enrichment

More information on specific projects are available from the local watershed groups listed at the beginning of this fact sheet.

Data Sources. Land cover map and percentages: National Land Cover database, 1992 (edc.usgs.gov/products/landcover/nlcd.html); Land use change: NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program, 1996 and 2001 (www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/lca/ccap.html); Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Impaired Waters: Surf Your Watershed (www.epa.gov/surf)