



Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve

Important Dates

- **October 2005**

- *Conducted very first meeting with community*

- **August 2006**

- *Submitted Proposal to form an underwater preserve*

- **June 6th, 2008**

- *Michigan's 12th bottomlands preserve became official*

Grand Traverse Bay Underwater Preserve

- Usually takes 6 - 9 years to become an “official” state underwater preserve.
- No state funds are available for program development (limited funds available for projects).
- **Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee** must review proposal prior to establishment of an underwater preserve.

How did the GTBUP do it in 22 months?

Explosive Growth

- After reviewing other preserve formations, we found that there wasn't a **significant** support system from the community.
- The GTBUP took a different approach and developed a Strategic Plan that would include local, regional, state, and national stakeholders.
- Some preserves never incorporated as a 501(c)3, non profit.
 - GTBUP functioned under the umbrella of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation from the start.
- Developed strong relationships with legislators.

Accomplishments

- Developed an innovative organization infrastructure in association with the GTRCF.
- Recruitment of numerous individuals and organizations from surrounding communities, as well as out of region and national professionals. (utilizing “in-state” before considering ‘out-of-state”).
- Preparation & submission of a preserve proposal to the SOM with substantive contributions and input from key stakeholders statewide.
- Organization of the first *Underwater Tourism Summit* in the Great Lakes region.
- Preparation of an initial Strategic Plan for the GTBUPC involving stakeholders statewide.
- Start-up of a diversity of projects in historical research, underwater archaeology, heritage education & underwater recreation and tourism.

- Cost to the State of Michigan: **\$0**

Improvements

- There needs to be consistency when it comes to decisions by agencies and departments within the State of Michigan.
- The proposal process was laborious ‘at best’ when it came time to work with state agencies.
- There needs to be a formal, state-wide [bottomlands management plan](#) prepared in collaboration with communities and other stakeholders.

Bottom Line

- There needs to be a seamless working relationship between 'bottomland managers', environmental agencies, natural resource agencies, economic development organizations, and communities.
- Ensures proper management and responsible use of our natural and cultural resources without compromising tourism related revenue.

Any Question?

- For a more detailed explanation on the process, please e-mail:
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