



# Huron Pines

*Conserving the Forests, Lakes and Streams of Northeast Michigan*





## Huron Pines Mission

Huron Pines works to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan. We bring partners together to take a hands on approach to conservation problems. Our vision is that through active leadership and coordination of conservation projects, Huron Pines makes the region a better place to live, work and enjoy.

## Watersheds in Northeast Michigan

Huron Pines covers the 11 counties of Northeast Michigan. Within this service area, there are over 5,000 miles of river, nearly 173,000 lake acres and 467 miles of shoreline. Our major watersheds include:

**Au Gres, Au Sable, Black, Manistee, Muskegon, Ocqueoc, Pigeon, Rifle, Sturgeon, Tawas and Thunder Bay.**

## Hands-on Conservation with Measurable Impacts

- Through the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, 19 members served throughout the year with a number of conservation organizations to help develop and implement projects and services.
- We launched programs to target invasive species, dam removal, and technical help for landowners to combat some of the most important conservation problems in Michigan.
- 400 volunteers helped with our project efforts including river clean-ups, erosion control projects and protecting fish habitat.
- Huron Pines directly provided 35 jobs during the course of the year.
- We also brought more than \$1 million in grants from outside of our service area into Northeast Michigan, improving natural resources and providing income for local contractors and businesses.
- We directly reached over 2,000 people through more than 30 presentations and workshops throughout the state and nearly 150 site visits in Northeast Michigan.
- We assisted 12 watershed-based committees with organizational development, financial management, fundraising, project coordination, keeping our commitment to assisting other groups strong.
- Lastly, we leveraged every \$1 contributed by individual donors into \$10 for conservation project efforts.

## Annual Budget

2004 \$800,000

2005 \$1,100,000

2006 1,300,000

2007 \$800,000

2008 \$1,400,000

## 2008 Expenses

\$1,450,000

Land Stewardship 46%

Conservation Leadership 15%

Watershed Protection 30%

Operations, Management and Fundraising 9%

## 2008 Support

\$1,426,000

State and local grants and contracts 11%

Federal grants and contracts 70%

Contractual services 11%

Annual giving program and other support 8%





## Conservation Leadership: Huron Pines AmeriCorps

The Huron Pines AmeriCorps program is part of the solution to help address both the natural resources and funding problems that exist in Michigan. Now in its second year, the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program is using new approaches and improving collaboration. Full-time AmeriCorps members, serving 1,700 hours throughout the year, are placed at a number of conservation nonprofits and conservation districts. The members help nonprofits develop new programs, improve public outreach efforts, incorporate volunteers into local projects and get hands-on conservation work done. In 2008, Huron Pines AmeriCorps members made great strides for conservation in Michigan.

- 19,556 river feet restored
- 3 river cleanups hosted
- Resource Stewardship Workshops
- 1,703 people reached by presentations
- 2,355 volunteer hours
- 466 volunteers recruited

## Watershed Protection: Grayling Stormwater Project

In 2002, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality selected Grayling as a pilot project site to demonstrate Low Impact Development techniques for reducing stormwater runoff. Since then, Huron Pines has partnered with the City of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan Department of Transportation, Trout Unlimited chapters, Michigan Fly Fishing Club, area residents, local businesses and nonprofits to reduce unfiltered stormwater runoff from entering the Au Sable River. For the past six



years, Huron Pines coordinated the installation of nearly 90 residential rain gardens throughout Grayling and a city park rain garden. As water drains into these gardens, native plants naturally filter out pollutants. To maintain the rain gardens and to promote community involvement, Huron Pines organized an Adopt-A-Rain Garden program as well. In addition to rain garden filtration, seven oil/grit separators called Vortech units, were installed near the river to help remove pollutants. **Now, all major outputs of polluted stormwater from the city's streets are filtered before reaching the Au Sable River.**

## Au Sable River Watershed Restoration

The goal of the Large Woody Debris program is to reestablish naturally occurring in-stream habitat in the form of woody debris material. With DNR Large Woody Debris funding that many of our partners helped campaign for, Huron Pines was able to add over 1,800 trees to the Au Sable River in 2008. The river restoration crew worked tirelessly in all weather to get as many trees in by hand as possible, and the annual helicopter work resumed in the fall using trees from MDNR and the USDA Forest Service. This year's work was concentrated on the main branch of the Au Sable from Burton's Landing to the Parmalee Bridge. The work will continue during the 2009 field season. **We would like to thank the many partners who helped make this project possible.**



## Volunteers Make the Difference

All across northern Michigan, conservation projects are getting accomplished through the efforts of volunteers. At Huron Pines, while we count on staff for project coordination, it's volunteers that form the lifeblood of our organization. For our volunteers, the benefits include a real sense of accomplishment in seeing projects move from the idea to the implementation stage. Volunteers often get to meet like-minded folks and enjoy an opportunity to apply their skills in ways different from what they've been involved with in the past, sometimes even learning something new. Huron Pines coordinated projects directly involving more than 400 volunteers in 2008. We're thankful to all of them—they make our hands-on river improvement projects possible, respond to questions from landowners, conduct resource inventories and collect important data needed to improve efforts for the future. Beyond working in the great outdoors, we can also always use help with technology, mailings, preparing business plans, fundraising, etc.



# Thank You 2008 Supporters

The Board and Staff of Huron Pines are very grateful for our generous supporters. These contributors are directly responsible for making our work possible.

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# Emerging Projects

Many times conservation issues are not addressed until an emergency arises, costing more money and doing more damage. Therefore, Huron Pines is proactively responding to a number of conservation concerns in our region. Through improved project planning, we are staying at the forefront of conservation issues and better protecting Northeast Michigan's natural resources.

## *Dam Assessment and Management Strategies (DAMS)*

One major concern for Michigan, and in fact the nation, is that of aging dams on our rivers. Of the regulated dams in the United States, 80% of them are expected to be reaching their life expectancy by 2020. Therefore, we are developing the framework for inventorying dams throughout our region and addressing the sites where we will have the most impact through our Dam Inventory. We're working with partners to strengthen the program and bring diverse groups together for a common goal.

## *Invasive Species Program*

Invasive species are an international problem and have already cost our state millions of dollars. They adversely affect the habitats they invade by displacing native species, disrupting ecosystems and damaging commercial and natural resources. This is why we created the Invasive Species Removal program. The program will begin mapping and removing target species throughout the 2009 field season.

## *Northeast Michigan Coastal Stewardship*

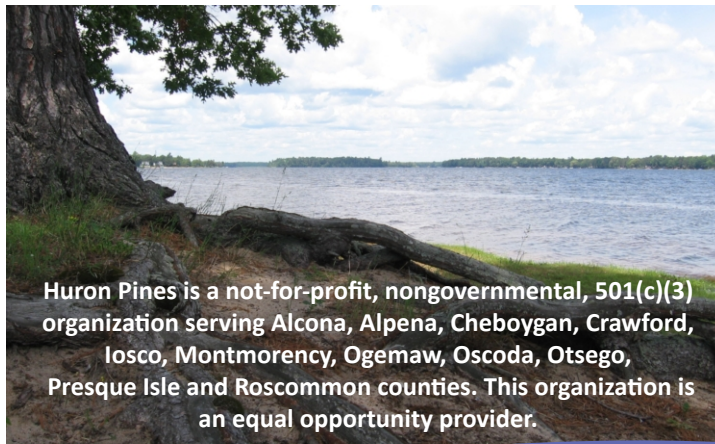
Through a project funded by the MDEQ's Coastal Management Program, we've developed a geographic database of the 467 miles of Lake Huron shoreline from Cheboygan to Iosco counties, identifying sensitive areas and prioritizing areas in need of protection, restoration and management. During the 2009 field season, we will implement on-the-ground improvement projects and promote good stewardship practices in these coastal areas. Projects will focus on creating partnerships with private landowners to install conservation measures that will enhance their property and protect coastal resources.

## *Conservation First Responder*

All across Northeast Michigan there are landowners who have questions about land management and conservation. To help answer some of these questions, Huron Pines is launching the Conservation First Responder program. We are coordinating a volunteer network of natural resource professionals who can walk the land with property owners.

## *Stormwater Treatment*

Polluted stormwater runoff, carrying sediment, oils, grease, trash and other hazardous material, is a big problem for our lakes and streams. We need to work with communities to better implement projects that will reduce and filter stormwater before it reaches our lakes and streams. In 2009, Huron Pines is targeting the cities of West Branch and Roscommon to improve water quality through stormwater treatment.



Huron Pines is a not-for-profit, nongovernmental, 501(c)(3) organization serving Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle and Roscommon counties. This organization is an equal opportunity provider.



**Huron Pines**  
501 Norway Street  
Grayling, MI 49738

Phone: (989) 344-0753  
Fax: (989) 348-7945  
info@huronpines.org  
www.huronpines.org

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