



TIPPING POINT PLANNER

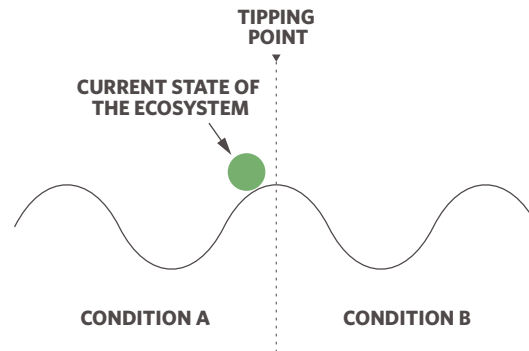
Supporting Sustainable Communities in Great Lakes States

Tipping Point Planner is a facilitated web-based program that gives watershed planning groups across the Great Lakes the information they need to protect natural resources, enhance local economies, and work with their community to develop watershed action plans.

TippingPointPlanner.org

What is a tipping point?

A "tipping point" is a threshold of human-induced ecological stress that can result in changes in how ecosystems function. To protect natural resources and enhance community resiliency, it is crucial to: understand human-induced ecological stress; identify indicators of natural resource conditions; and determine tipping points that trigger rapid and sometimes irreversible shifts in ecosystem functioning.

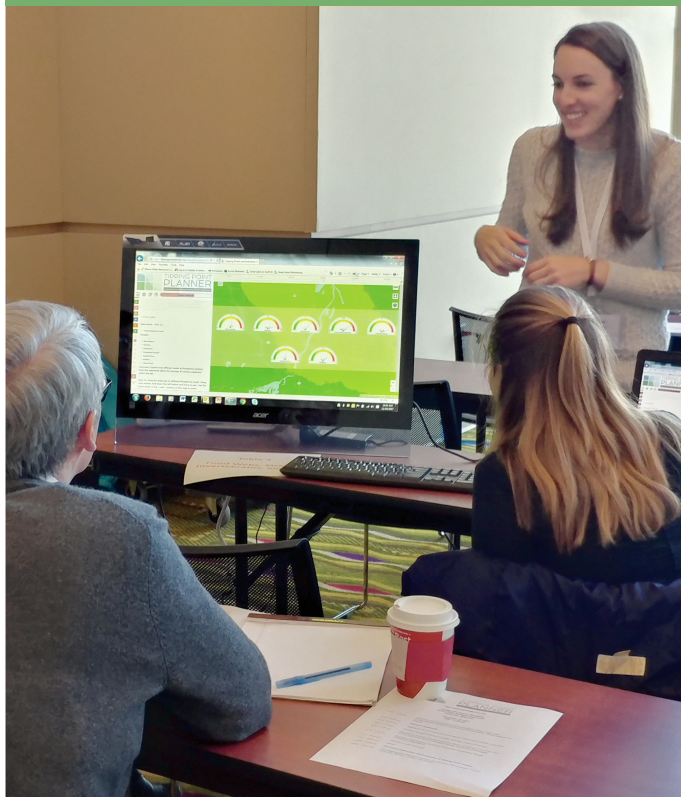


Using Tipping Point Planner for natural resource planning:

Tipping Point Planner participants are led through a process to examine past and predicted land use changes, identify environmental threats, and define natural resource assets in need of protection or restoration. Using innovative visualization dashboards, paint tools, and interactive visioning exercises, a community can define its priorities and explore land use strategies and policies that enhance local values. The facilitation process results in an action plan that includes an overview of the community's status, including whether it is nearing or exceeding environmental tipping points. And it provides customized implementation steps to improve current conditions and steer clear of tipping points.



The Tipping Point Planning Process



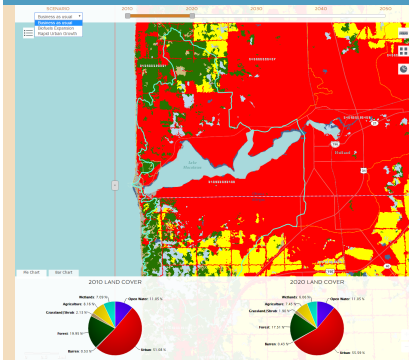
1 Visioning

CHARACTERISTIC	RATING
I can walk, bike, or take public transit.	★★★★★
There is common open space or park near house.	★★★★★
I am safe from flooding	★★★★★
Outdoor recreation areas are easily accessible.	★★★★★
I can have a large yard.	★★★★★
I can always find a parking spot quickly.	★★★★★
I can live a rural lifestyle	★★★★★
My house will significantly appreciate in value	★★★★★
My community has clean air and water	★★★★★
The natural beauty around me is protected	★★★★★

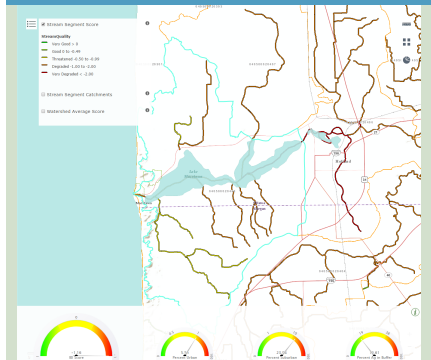
SUBMIT

CHARACTERISTIC	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I can walk, bike, or take public transit.										
There is common open space or park near house.										
The natural beauty around me is protected										
I am safe from flooding										

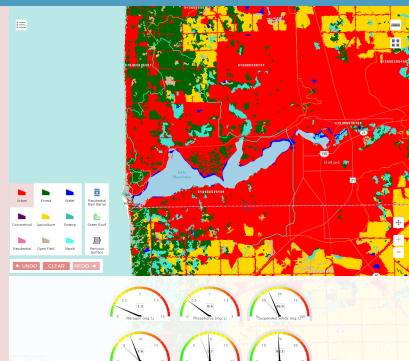
2 Community Overview



3 Tipping Point Models



4 Land Use Planning Tools



5 Action Strategies

WATERSHED EFFECTS ON COMMUNITY

PLANNING

WATER RESOURCES PLAN

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

OPEN SPACE PLAN

WATERSHED PLAN

ORDINANCES

CONSERVATION DESIGN ORDINANCE

LOW IMPACT REDEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

6 Watershed Action Plan

TIPPING POINT PLANNER

Supporting Sustainable Communities in Great Lakes States

Project Name : Coastal GeoTools
Group : CACT
REC : Willow Run-River Raisin

Project Description

Tipping Points and Indicators

Tipping Points and Indicators is a Great Lakes Ecosystem Program comprised of a web-based decision support system and the related community action planning process for a local watershed. The program is designed to enable effective protection and management of natural resources throughout Great Lakes states by providing local and regional, natural resource managers, and community stakeholder groups with a process to assess community vulnerability using Great Lakes tipping points. The collaborative research team identified and used indicator variables that determine the threshold or tipping points that when exceeded can impact aquatic ecosystems. The indicators provide insight into the stresses such as impervious surfaces, habitat fragmentation, and pollutants that negatively affect water quality and natural resources within the Great Lakes as well as allow for the identification of locations where the presence of multiple stresses are greatly impacting ecosystem health. The Great Lakes Ecosystem Program facilitates the Tipping Points and Indicators Program in each Great Lakes state to guide community groups through an interactive action planning process for a local watershed. The Tipping Points and Indicators program will use the webTIPS as the primary participation tool to allow for group collaboration, participatory decision making and exploration of the website, customized tools, and GIS maps to determine planning priorities.