
CHAPTER THREE: WATERSHED CRITICAL AREA

Critical Area Determination

Methodology

The critical area for the Cheboygan River-Lower Black River Watershed was determined using Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's priority area criteria. Criteria used to determine the priority area are as follows:

1. Areas within 1000 feet of the Cheboygan River and the Lower Black River.
2. Designated tributaries, including intermittent drainages.
3. Inland lakes within the watershed.
4. Contiguous wetlands.
5. Urban areas which drain to surface waters.
6. Contiguous steep slopes, defined as 10% slope or greater.
7. Areas of groundwater recharge.

The initial map was presented at the April 30, 2002 meeting. The critical area will be continuously adjusted according to the inventory results.

Defined Critical Area

The total area for the Cheboygan River/Lower Black River Watershed is 124 square miles. The total critical area is 52.8 square miles (33,798 acres). Most of the efforts of the watershed plan were directed toward protecting and restoring designated and desired uses within the critical area. The shaded portions of **Map 5** indicate the critical area of the watershed.

