



Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c) 4 non-profit corporation formed over twenty years ago in order to effectively advocate for the creation or preservation of state laws, and/or policies designed to protect, preserve, and promote the sustainable and wise use of our state's immense treasure of high quality freshwater resources. Our primary mission will be accomplished by pro-active participation in Michigan's legislative process (lobbying), by participating in court cases whose outcomes may have significant statewide ramifications, and/or by direct involvement with natural resources management, or environment focused state agencies or departments.



**U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and North American Lake
Management Society Encourages State Governors to Recognize the
Value of their Lakes by Declaring Lakes Appreciation Month**

by Ralph Bednarz

**Michigan Waterfront Alliance and Mi Chapter, North American Lake
Management Society Director**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the North American Lakes Management Society (NALMS) promote the value and health of the nation's lakes and reservoirs each year by designating July as Lakes Appreciation Month (www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/). Part of this promotion is to encourage the nation's Governors to recognize the value of the lakes in their state by issuing a proclamation for Lakes Appreciation Month.

In special recognition of the vital role that lakes and shorelines play in Michigan's environment, and the overall well-being of our state, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed July 2021 as Lakes Appreciation Month in Michigan (see the press release and proclamation below), and she encourages all citizens and communities to actively participate in the protection and preservation of our lakes and shorelines.

Michigan is very fortunate to have over 11,000 inland lakes, and over 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. The quality of Michigan's inland lakes is ranked among the highest in the nation. However, invasive species, nutrients, and other stressors continue to threaten these lakes and shorelines.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have programs to monitor lakes, manage fisheries, permit nuisance plant control activities, and promote best land management practices at the shorelines and on the shore lands. Through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps), hundreds of community volunteers are organized and trained to monitor their lakes every year - bringing education, resources, and assistance to lake properties and their owners across the state.

We need to continue to encourage all citizens and communities to actively participate in the protection and preservation of our lakes and lake shorelines.

Thank you for appreciating Michigan's lakes and shorelines, and for all you do to promote protection and preservation of these vital resources. Please share this information with your organizations.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2021

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Gov. Whitmer proclaims July Lakes Appreciation Month

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has designated July as [Lakes Appreciation Month](#), highlighting a resource that fuels Michigan's economy, is the source of drinking water for millions, draws tourists from around the world and offers countless opportunities for recreation.

"Michiganders are blessed with an abundance of natural water resources, namely our awesome Great Lakes and over 11,000 inland lakes. We have a duty to protect and preserve these precious resources as well as our wetlands, rivers and groundwater for future generations," said Gov. Whitmer. "Ending sewer overflows, fixing failing septic systems, cleaning up contaminated sites and planning for the effects of climate change are critical to a clean and healthy future for our lakes. We must work together to protect our treasured water resources and do everything we can to ensure they are here for Michiganders to enjoy centuries from now, just as we enjoy them today."

While there are many challenges facing Michigan's lakes and connected waterways, aging infrastructure and the effects of climate change are two highly important issues that require increased awareness during Lakes Appreciation Month and the months to come.

The Governor's [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#) creates a roadmap to a carbon neutral economy by 2050 that will also protect the state's natural resources, including lakes. The Governor's [MI Clean Water Plan](#) is a \$500 million investment in infrastructure from source to tap that will make for cleaner, more affordable water. Nearly \$3 million under the plan will help communities develop, update and improve

their wastewater and stormwater plans, keeping pollutants out of Michigan's lakes and rivers.

Protecting water resources is part of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) mission and the department is leading the development and implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan and the MI Clean Water Plan.

EGLE's [Water Resources Division](#) protects and monitors Michigan's waters by establishing water quality standards, assessing the health of aquatic communities, encouraging natural shoreline practices, regulating wastewater discharges and overseeing aquatic invasive species concerns and water withdrawals. EGLE's Office of the Great Lakes oversees Great Lakes water policy and strategy implementation as well as representing the state at national forums regarding the Great Lakes.

To learn more about Michigan's lakes or how to help keep them healthy, consult these resources:

- [OGL's State of the Great Lakes 2020 Report.](#)
- [Impacts of Great Lakes high water levels.](#)
- [Coastal Zone Management Program.](#)
- [Council on Climate Solutions.](#)
- [Lakes and beach water quality monitoring.](#)
- [MiCorps volunteer lakes and rivers monitoring program.](#)
- [Michigan Shoreland Stewards program.](#)
- [Great Lakes Areas of Concerns legacy contamination restoration.](#)
- [Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species cooperative.](#)
- [Clean Water State Revolving Fund.](#)
- [Nonpoint source pollution grants.](#)
- [Shorelands Management Program.](#)
- [Great Lakes Coordination Program.](#)
- [Shoreline Protection information and resources.](#)
- [BeachGuard Monitoring System.](#)

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40 Years Following their Introduction to the Laurentian Great Lakes Region, Exotic Invasive Zebra Mussels Continue to Spread from Lake-to-Lake

Native to freshwater ecosystems distributed throughout much of the Eurasian continent, the exotic zebra mussels that now occupy many of our favorite inland lakes were named for the distinctive striped pattern that defines the appearance of their finger nail sized shell. Introduced to North America via the ballast water discharges of trans-oceanic freighters originating from ports in Europe, the highly invasive mussel was initially detected in the waters of the Laurentian Great Lakes region in the 1980's. In addition to each of the Great Lakes, and thousands of inland lakes and rivers distributed throughout the region, zebra mussels have also successfully invaded large rivers located in the eastern Mississippi water watershed, and freshwater ecosystems located in California, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, and Utah.

Scientific name *Dreissena polymorpha*, zebra mussels are capable of having a significant impact on affected ecosystems due to their now well-known capacity to rapidly establish extraordinarily dense colonies on nearly any available natural or artificial surface, including the shells of native mussels, and the stems and leaves

of aquatic plants, and by subsequently depleting the foundation of affected aquatic food chains by effectively removing the micro-algae that serves as a critical food source for native mussels, and zooplankton in most northern temperate aquatic ecosystems. Capable of forming colonies of 100,000 individuals per square meter, zebra mussels are known to filter all the water in the freshwater portion of the Hudson River every two to four days! It is also important to point out that millions of dollars are expended each year in North America in order to fund continuous efforts to prevent zebra mussels from blocking the critical water intakes of hydro-electric power plants.

Frequently appearing in inland lakes that are not in any way connected to one of the Laurentian Great Lakes, zebra mussels are effectively spread from lake-to-lake by the 95% of recreational boat owners that tow their watercraft. Over the course of the past forty years, exotic invasive zebra mussels have established permanent residence within thousands of our inland lakes. The fact is, once the highly invasive exotic aquatic animal enters a particular aquatic system it is almost impossible to manage the abundance and influence of the pesky mussel.

For more valuable information on what you can do to help slow the spread of zebra mussels, and other harmful exotic aquatic plant and animal species, visit the [Michigan State University Extension Clean Boats, Clean Waters](#) website.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2021

Contact: Press@michigan.gov

Governor Whitmer announces historic \$150 million investment in local parks and trails

Together with proposed investment in state parks, the plan would provide \$400 million to revitalize communities across Michigan

LANSING, Mich. - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer today announced an historic investment in community parks and recreation facilities, proposing \$150 million in federal relief dollars from President Biden's American Rescue Plan be dedicated to addressing critical needs in local park systems. This investment will create good-paying, blue collar jobs across the state as we jumpstart our economy and get Michigan back to work.

Whitmer announced the proposal at the Idema Explorers Trail in Ottawa County, an example of a recreation property that could benefit from the new funding. The proposed investment would be administered as a grant program by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and would support the economies, health and recovery of communities across the state.

Last month, Whitmer announced [a similar proposal to invest \\$250 million of American Rescue Plan funding in parks and trails managed by the State of Michigan.](#)

“These two new investment programs, totaling \$400 million, mark a once-in-a-generation chance to improve quality of life for our residents, support local economies and bring people back to Michigan as the state continues its recovery from the effects of the pandemic,” Whitmer said. “These investments will ensure our children and grandchildren continue to enjoy the rejuvenating benefits of natural beauty and outdoor spaces so prized by Michiganders. I look forward to working with the Legislature to secure this investment for our communities.”

“Local parks are a critical part of the network of recreational opportunities throughout Michigan,” said DNR Director Dan Eichinger. “People just want good parks, and they don’t usually care who manages those parks provided the work is done well. Our local community partners do an outstanding job and we continue to support their work through a variety of means, including our Recreation Passport Grant program, which provides a portion of money generated by state parks to local communities for their park development. This new program would generally be modeled on our Recreation Passport grants to help local communities develop the recreational assets they need for the next generation.”

"Infrastructure needs in the state’s estimated 4,000 local parks are substantial," said Emily Stevens, president of mParks Michigan Park and Recreation Association. "Local parks saw an influx of visitors in the past year as people sought safe, socially distanced outlets for recreation during the pandemic."

“We have been singing about the benefits of our local parks, trails, and greenspaces for years, however the investments have not always matched those benefits,” said Stevens. “This monumental funding will address the needs at our neighborhood parks and community gathering places to make them safer, more accessible and inclusive.”

Tourism to Michigan parks generates value for surrounding communities, creates jobs, and sustains small businesses. Michigan’s outdoor recreation industry supports billions in state Gross Domestic Product and sustains 126,000 jobs and over \$4.7 billion in wages and salaries in the state. On average, every \$1 invested in land conservation leads to \$4 in economic benefit.

“Vibrant public parks and trails are essential to healthy communities, and they allow local economies to thrive,” said Jill Martindale, advocacy director for Velocity USA, a bicycle rim manufacturer in Grand Rapids. “This funding will support companies like ours that rely on these public spaces to help keep people employed. Besides, having access to beautiful parks and trails just makes our work more fun.”

One measure of recreational needs in local communities is the number of grant requests received each year by the DNR that go unfunded. Over the last five years, the average of development grant applications to the DNR for three primary grant programs – the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants and Land and Water Conservation Fund – has approached \$40 million annually. Nearly \$20 million of those annual requests could not be met because of lack of available funding.

“As residents recognized during the pandemic when they flocked to our parks, natural spaces should not be considered a luxury, but a necessity for our wellbeing,” said Jason Shamblin, director of Ottawa County Parks and Recreation. “The cost of acquiring natural spaces; designing, permitting, and building park infrastructure; and maintaining these facilities is consistently increasing. To keep providing this critical access to the outdoors through parks and trails, additional funding is an urgent need.”

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer also proclaimed July as Parks and Recreation Month to highlight Michigan’s abundance of state, county and location community parks, as well as the many opportunities for outdoor recreation that residents can enjoy in every county across the state.

View full proclamation [here](#).

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>> We Need Your Help!!! <<

Why You Should Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance?

Do you care for your lake, river, or stream? Do you care enough to contact your state senator or representative about issues that affect your waterbody? Do you keep track of the bills that are important to your lake, river, or stream? The good

news is that Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is doing this for you. MWA hires a lobbying firm to keep track of issues and bills which may affect Michigan's waterfronts, and remain in constant contact with senators and representatives. These lobbyists have relationships with those serving in our state legislature, willing to present bills that MWA would support to help protect Michigan's inland waterways, and help to defeat bills that may be detrimental to our waterways. There is an old saying that "you can't fight city hall." This may be true if you do not know how, but with the help of MWA's attorneys, MWA has the experts that know how to deal with legal issues. There have been laws interpreted incorrectly when it comes to our lakes, rivers, and streams. MWA, with its attorneys, has argued these cases when we believe the law has been misinterpreted.

While the MWA Board of Directors is made up of volunteers, it is expensive to hire lobbyists and attorneys. The Michigan Waterfront Alliance membership is made up of individuals, lake associations, and corporations who care about Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams. Would you like to be more involved? You can by becoming a member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance and by becoming an active partner in MWA. Membership in MWA is inexpensive:

**We rely entirely on membership dues to fund
the operating costs of our organization...**

**TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE VISIT OUR
>>>>> MEMBERSHIP PAGE <<<<<<**

Annual Dues are:

\$50 for an individual;

\$100 for a lake association; and

\$200 for a corporation

With support from individuals like you, lake associations, and corporations, we can continue to work together as a unified voice choosing to protect Michigan's water resources for future generations. Thank you for your consideration!!!



Invasive species pose a threat to Michigan's environment, economy, and sometimes even human health. What is at stake? What is being done? This webinar series will explore how agencies, universities and locally led organizations are working together to protect Michigan's natural resources through the Michigan Invasive Species Program. If you are concerned about the impacts of invasive species or interested in the techniques used to control them, join us as we examine species-specific actions, innovations in research and technology, and programs designed to help communities prevent and manage harmful invasive species. A question and answer period will follow each presentation.

Upcoming Webinars in the Series

July 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

[Hey! What's that in your backyard? An introduction to Michigan's Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas](#)

Wouldn't it be great if there were a local resource you could go to for help with invasive species on your property? Spoiler alert: there is! Michigan is home to 22 Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas, or CISMAs, that are on the front line for prevention, detection, and control of invasive infestations. Katie Grzesiak, Nick Cassel, and Fallon Chabala, representatives from the Michigan Invasive Species Coalition, will discuss what a CISMA is, how they can help with management of invasives on your property, and the benefits of partnering with your local CISMA.

**Registration and
Information**





Michigan Waterfront Alliance is a proud member of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

A Collaborative Partnership Dedicated to Protecting Michigan's Vast Heritage of High Quality Inland Lakes

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP) is made up of a broad range of organizations and agencies that have a common interest - protecting inland lakes. Explore this site to learn more about Michigan's lakes, the organizations involved with the Partnership, and how you can be a part of the effort. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes. Most are high quality resources highly valued by society for recreation and as places to live. These cultural demands place significant stresses upon these ecosystems, often resulting in undesirable changes. How can these lakes be strategically managed to minimize undesirable changes and protect them for this and future generations?

The purpose of the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (Partnership) is to engage state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions (universities and other educational institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, industries and citizens in a collaborative effort to ensure the quality, sustainability and ecological diversity of lakes, while considering society's needs. The Partnership will promote communication and cooperation between partners, communities and citizens interested in the management of Michigan's inland lakes, educating leaders, and strengthening stewardship efforts.

The MILP Coordinating Council is the decision-making body of the Partnership. The Council sets the goals of the Partnership, and all Council Partners have a vote in the activities and policies of the Partnership. The Council currently meets four times per

year. Coordinating Council member organizations are listed alphabetically below. Clicking on an organization name will take you to that organization's website.

To learn more about the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, and its ensemble of inland lake protection focused collaborative organizations, [click here](#)



Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

- Are you tired of funding the management of aquatic invasive species on your lake that were introduced by recreational boaters using the local MI Department of Natural Resources public boating access site?
- Are you just a bit angry that recreational boaters using your lake are not being asked to contribute their fair share to combat the negative influences of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you worried about the fact that your lakefront residential property values are being negatively influenced by the steadily increasing presence of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you concerned about the fact that it is nearly impossible to find an inland lake in Michigan that does not currently host one or more potentially harmful aquatic invasive species?
- Are you aware of the fact that inland lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource, and that our state legislature has thus far appropriated almost nothing in the way of budget resources to help ensure they remain healthy and viable?

If your answer is yes to any of these important questions, please help ensure that your voice is heard in Lansing by joining Michigan Waterfront Alliance today.

[Click here to Join MWA](#)

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here

[Unsubscribe](#)

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