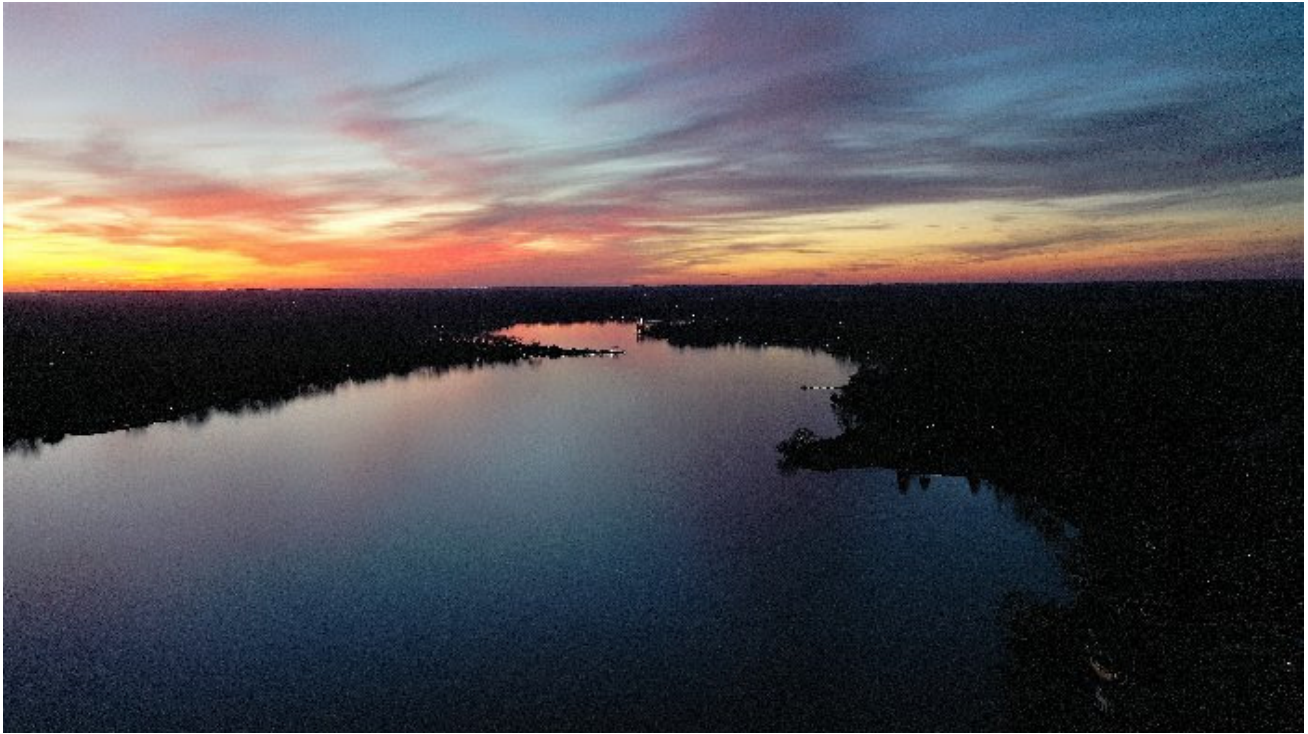

Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Wednesday, December 15, 2021

1 message



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.



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EGLE



Michigan Department of
AGRICULTURE
& Rural Development



December 6, 2021

Contact: [Bill Keiper](#), 517-342-4087; or [Joanne Foreman](#), 517-284-5814

Dreaded didymo – or ‘rock snot’ – found in Upper Manistee River

The Michigan departments of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and Natural Resources confirmed a report of didymo, a nuisance freshwater alga, in a stretch of the Upper Manistee River in Kalkaska County. Also known as rock snot despite its coarse, woolly texture, didymo can grow into thick mats that cover the river bottom.

The Manistee River finding marks the first detection of didymo blooms in the Lower Peninsula. In 2015, extensive mats of didymo were found on the Michigan side of the St. Marys River near Sault Ste. Marie in the Upper Peninsula.

“Didymo can attach to fishing equipment, wading gear and other hard surfaces and be moved to new waterways,” said Bill Keiper, an aquatic biologist with EGLE’s

Water Resources Division. “With each new detection, it becomes more important for people who fish, wade or boat to clean boats and equipment, including waders, after each use.”

Anglers who have encountered didymo-infested streams in the western or eastern U.S. know that rock snot is more than just a nuisance.

“Didymo has potential to be a nasty nuisance species in Michigan’s cold-water fisheries,” said Samuel Day, a water quality biologist with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. “Unlike the harmful algal blooms that plague areas of the Great Lakes due to warm temperatures and excess nutrients, didymo blooms form in cold, low-nutrient streams that most folks would generally consider pristine and great habitat for trout. Didymo can become a problem when it blooms, covering streambeds and reducing habitat for macroinvertebrates, which are important food for fish.”

Day, who studied didymo in southeastern U.S. streams as a graduate student at Tennessee Technological University, discovered the algal blooms between the Three Mile Bend and Sharon Road Bridge landings on the Upper Manistee River while fishing with a friend Nov. 14. After Day examined collected samples, his findings were forwarded to the EGLE Water Resources Division, then verified by Julianne Heinlein, an aquatic ecologist and algal taxonomist with the Great Lakes Environmental Center, Inc.

Since 2015, the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program has supported researchers at Lake Superior State University’s Center for Freshwater Research and Education in an extensive study of occurrences of didymo in the St. Marys River and Upper Peninsula waters, the risk of spread and why nuisance blooms are increasing - a phenomenon being observed worldwide.

The Manistee River detection suggests didymo’s distribution in Michigan waters may be more widespread than previously expected. LSSU’s ongoing efforts will help guide didymo research and management needs statewide.

Didymo, a microscopic diatom (single-celled alga), may be present but undetected in some waterways until changes in water quality cause it to “bloom” or develop long stalks, making it visible on hard surfaces in the streambed. Further understanding of changes that trigger blooms may also help combat the species’ negative environmental impacts.

Currently, there are no effective methods to eradicate didymo once it is established in a river or stream. To prevent spreading didymo and other aquatic invasive species to new locations, it is critical for recreational users to thoroughly clean, drain and dry waders, equipment and boats upon leaving a waterway.

- **Clean by removing mud and debris from all surfaces.**
- **Drain water from all bilges, wells and tanks.**
- **Dry equipment for at least five days or disinfect with hot water or a dilute bleach solution.**

“Over the next few months, we’ll work with partners to assure aquatic invasive species signs are posted at access sites and to spread the Clean, Drain, Dry message to the fishing community,” said Keiper. “We want to encourage local fly shops, fishing guides and conservation groups to help out by stressing the

importance of decontaminating gear and equipment to protect these waters from didymo and other aquatic invasive species.”

If you observe didymo in the water, either as small, cotton ball-sized patches or thick blankets with rope-like strings that flow in currents, take photos, note the location and report it by using the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network, available online at

MISIN.MSU.edu

or as a downloadable smartphone app. The MISIN smartphone app will take a GPS location point if a report is made at the site; it also will allow you to upload photos with a report.

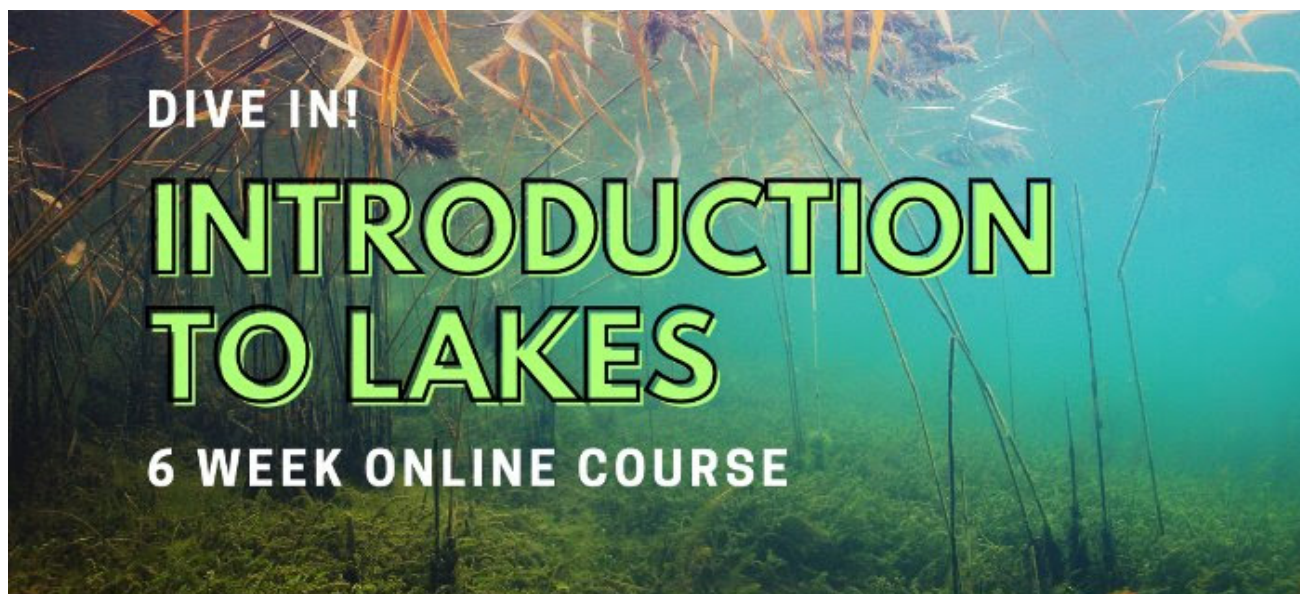
Find more information on [didymo](#) and how to identify it at Michigan.gov/Invasives.



One of the Simplest Animals on Earth, The Freshwater Sponge *Spongilla lacustris* Thrives in Many Michigan Lakes

Article and Photo by Scott Brown

For those of us who spend a lot of time during Michigan's wonderful summer months observing and photographing the incredibly diverse array of aquatic plants and animals that thrive in most of our inland lakes, the opportunity to view and capture images of a freshwater sponge represents a real treat! Capable of appearing as a crust, or in the shape of a spread hand, or in branched form (see the above photo), *Spongilla lacustris* is a species of freshwater sponge within the family [Spongillidae](#) of the phylum [Porifera](#). Sponges are invertebrate animals that live in both marine (salt-water), and freshwater habitats such as inland lakes and rivers. Lacking nervous, digestive, and circulatory systems, sponges are considered one of the simplest animals on earth due to the fact that their bodies lack organs, and are instead comprised of large groups of cells that work in unison to derive oxygen and food from the surrounding water. Usually found attached to rocks, logs and other hard surfaces, sponges live out their entire life cycles in an immobile state. *Spongilla lacustris* is one of the most frequently observed sponges in freshwater ecosystems distributed throughout Asia, Europe, and North America.



Register today! canr.msu.edu/lakesonline

MICHIGAN STATE
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Learn about inland lakes on-line from MSU Extension

Registration for the award-winning Michigan State University Extension [Introduction to Lakes Online course](#) is now open! This six-week online course runs January 25-March 16, 2022 and is designed for anyone interested in inland lakes, including lakefront property owners, recreational users, and managers. Course topics include lake ecology, watershed management, shoreline protection, aquatic plants, Michigan water law, and community engagement. Each topic is explored through pre-recorded video lectures, interactive activities, and discussion forums. In addition, there are three live Ask-an-Expert webinars featuring experts from Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Registration is open now through January 21, 2022. The cost of the course is \$115 per person. Register by January 3, 2022 for an early bird price of \$95.00.

Register here for the [MSU Extension Introduction to Lakes On-line Course](#)



Governor Whitmer Applauds \$7.7 Million in Recommended Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants to Support Outdoor Recreation

Michigan Executive Office of the Governor sent this bulletin at 12/08/2021 09:26 AM EST FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2021

Contact: Christie Bayus, BayusC@Michigan.gov

LANSING, Mich. - Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have recommended 22 community and state parks, trails and sports facilities across the state to share \$7,790,400 in Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund is critical to creating quality outdoor recreation resources that add value and improve the quality of life for communities throughout Michigan," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "This fund is an excellent example of successful collaboration among federal, state and local government partners that yields health and social benefits for residents and visitors."

Projects recommended for funding are in Bay, Berrien, Emmet, Ingham, Kent, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Oakland, Oceana, Ontonagon, Otsego, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. That funding will support campground developments, park renovations and improvements, accessible playground development, accessibility improvements and more. Find more information on the projects [here](#).

"Michigan residents and visitors turn to trails, parks, campgrounds and other welcoming public places to connect with family, friends and the outdoors," said DNR Director Dan Eichinger. "The Land and Water Conservation Fund, along with other important grant programs administered by the DNR, continues to provide vital access to Michigan's out-of-doors."

Program background

The DNR uses Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to help develop public outdoor recreation facilities and to provide matching grants for local governments to do the same. The program supports Native American tribes, villages, cities, townships and counties, and divisions within the DNR in their efforts to give people better, broader access to quality public outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is supported by revenues from federal gas and oil development from the Gulf of Mexico. Following congressional appropriation, the monies are apportioned to the states by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior each fiscal year. The project recommendations will be sent to the National Park Service for federal approval.

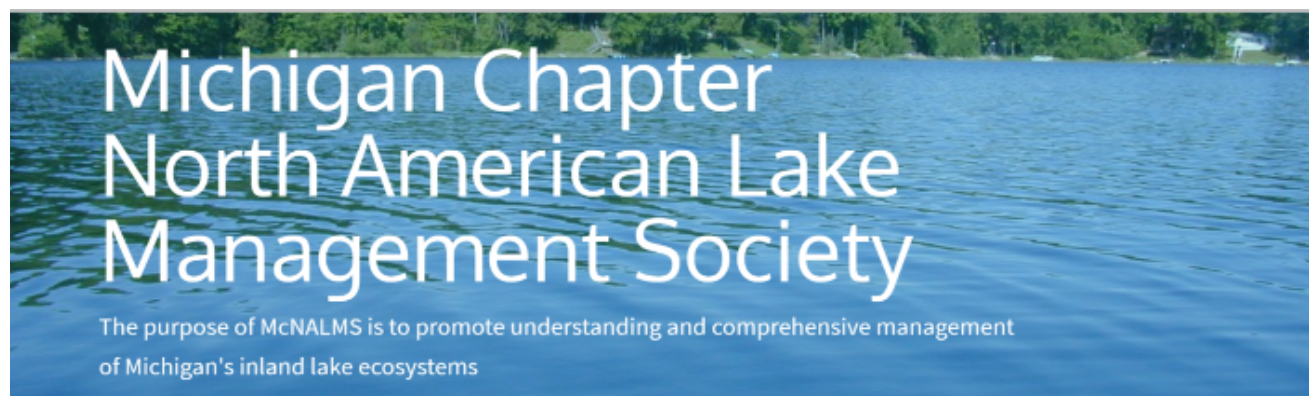
The [Great American Outdoors Act](#), signed into law in August 2020, established permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Just five years ago, Michigan was issuing just over \$2 million in annual grants on behalf of the National Park Service. With the change in legislation, the state will see more fiscal stability and increased funding in the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. These changes resulted in the DNR raising the maximum application request from \$300,000 to \$500,000 for application cycles.

Application information

Eligible applicants include any unit of government including Native American tribes, school districts or any combination of units with the legal authority to provide recreation. Applicants can seek funding for a variety of projects, including development of and improvements to playgrounds, trails and walkways, skate parks, boat launches, picnic areas, sports fields and campgrounds, in addition to improved access for users of all abilities beyond Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Application materials and information for LWCF grants will be available early in 2022 at Michigan.gov/LWCFGrants. Applications for the 2022 funding cycle are due April 1.

Questions? Call the DNR Grants Management Section at 517-284-7268 or email DNR-Grants@Michigan.gov.



[Click here](#) to download and read the

Michigan Chapter, North American Lake Management Society

Fall 2021 Newsletter

MI Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants Now Available!

**\$25,600 is available for
passionate organizations
dedicated to aquatic
invasive species education.
Grant applications close on
Dec. 17th, 2021.**

For more information:
www.micbcw.com



MICHIGAN STATE
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Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grants Now Available

Calling all lake associations, watershed groups, non-profits, and local and tribal units of government! The Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program has grant funding available to support your aquatic invasive species outreach efforts. This funding opportunity is for any organization dedicated to boater education about aquatic invasive species and the protection of Michigan's waterways.

Funding requests can range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and do not require local match or cost sharing. Clean Boats, Clean Waters grants can be used for a variety of activities including signage, invasive species removal supplies such as plant removal tools, sponges and towels, and staff time to perform watercraft inspections and demonstrations of boat cleaning techniques.

Interested groups can apply for a grant now on the [Clean Boats, Clean Waters website](#). The deadline to apply is **December 17, 2021**. This is a competitive funding opportunity and complete applications will be ranked based on eligibility, project significance, and overall strategy. Learn more and apply today !



Funding available for natural resource restoration in the Saginaw Bay watershed

Contact: Georgia Parham, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 812-334-4261, Ext. 203 John Pepin, Michigan DNR, 906-226-1352 Hugh McDiarmid, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and, Energy, 517-230-7724 Frank Cloutier, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe

Agency: Natural Resources

November 4, 2021

This news release is being issued jointly today by the The Natural Resource Trustees for the Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay to alert the public to settlement funding available to restore natural resources in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. The Michigan DNR is one of the Trustees acting on behalf of the public.

The Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay Natural Resource Trustee Councils are jointly announcing the availability of funding for restoration projects to be implemented in the Saginaw Bay watershed, including in and along the Tittabawassee and Saginaw rivers.

This funding is derived from two sources, a 2020 settlement with The Dow Chemical Company and a 1998 settlement with General Motors and others for natural resource

damages. The two Trustee Councils will provide approximately \$5.7 million to fund restoration projects, in addition to projects already specified in the two settlements.

The Trustees are asking people to submit pre-proposals that the Trustee Councils will then screen and evaluate for their merit relative to restoration project criteria. The criteria that the Trustees will use to evaluate restoration proposals are described within the respective restoration plans for the Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay.

A web-based application portal will be used to collect project ideas from the public and other stakeholders as pre-proposals. Access to the application portal, the restoration plans and a summary of the criteria to be used to evaluate pre-proposals may be found at a [website for the Tittabawassee River](#).

Restoration project pre-proposals must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2021. Following evaluation of the pre-proposals submitted, the Trustees will jointly develop a restoration plan that includes proposed restoration projects that rank highly based on the Trustees' criteria.

The Trustees will then release a draft of this restoration plan, with specific projects proposed for funding, for public review and comment in mid- to late 2022. The Trustees will evaluate public comments and respond to them as they finalize the restoration plan. Funding for projects selected in the final restoration plan will likely be available in 2023 and may require full proposals or scopes of work be submitted to the Trustee agency administering the funding for each project.

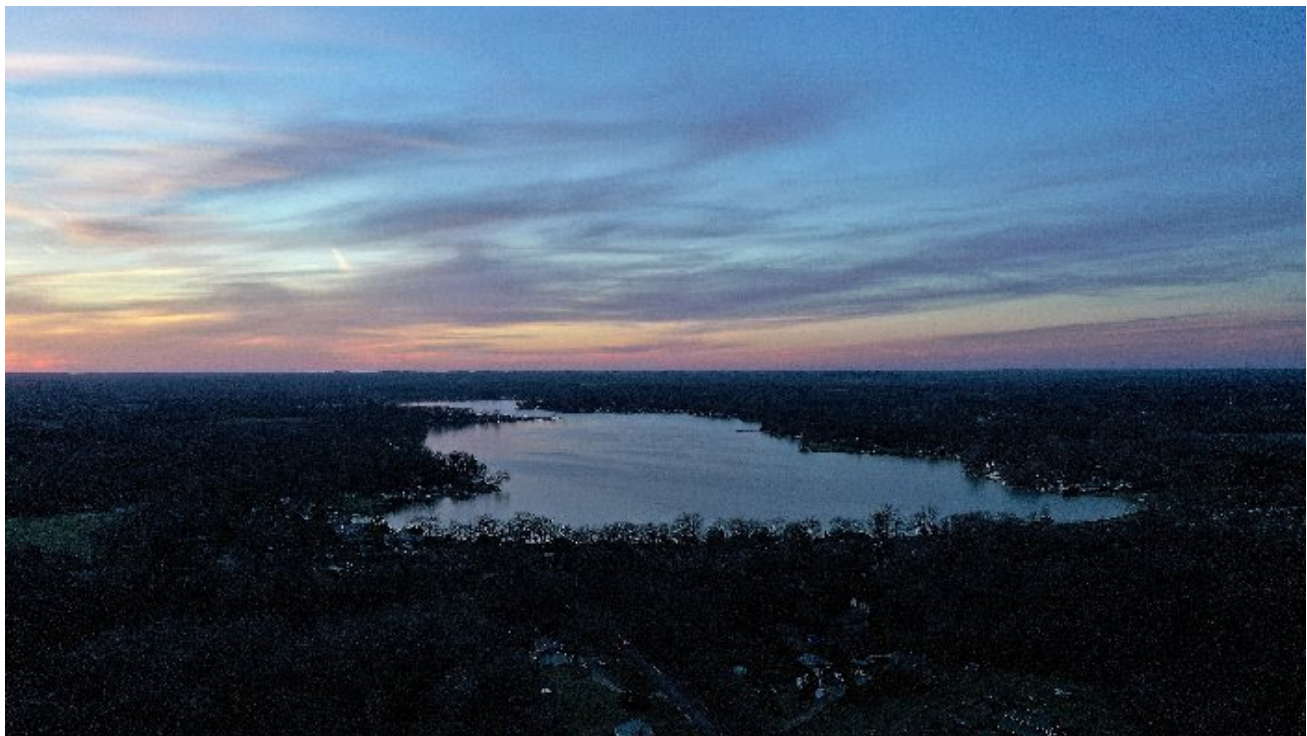
Restoration projects must provide some benefit to the natural resources that were injured as a result of the release of contaminants at issue in one of the relevant court settlements. The contaminants at issue in the two settlements are dioxins and furans in the Dow settlement and polychlorinated biphenyls in the General Motors settlement.

Restoration projects may also improve public use or enjoyment of those natural resources, if they meet the requirement that they also benefit the relevant injured natural resources. Projects anywhere in the Saginaw Bay watershed may be eligible for funding, but projects most closely linked to the areas in and around the Tittabawassee River, downstream of Midland, the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay that were more impacted by contaminants will tend to rank higher.

Examples of appropriate projects that address injuries to natural resources may be found within the respective restoration plans for these two cases: the [Tittabawassee River Restoration Plan](#) and the [Saginaw River and Bay Restoration Plan](#).

The Natural Resource Trustees represent the public to accomplish the mission of restoring, rehabilitating, replacing or acquiring the equivalent natural resources, and the services those natural resources provide, that have been injured from the release of hazardous substances.

The Natural Resource Trustees for the Tittabawassee River and the Saginaw River and Bay include the State of Michigan, acting through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Attorney General; the United States Department of the Interior, acting through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.



The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) brings together resource agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in naturally formed lakes of the Midwest. We foster collaborations on fish habitat science, education and outreach, and conservation.

Request for proposals: 2023 Lake Conservation Grant

We request project proposals for funding from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) 2023 Lake Conservation Grant. The MGLP is one of twenty partnerships that span the nation under the umbrella of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The MGLP area of focus is glacial lakes and their watersheds as depicted by the recently updated service area in the second article below. Nine Midwestern states, federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Forest Service, tribal partners, and private natural resource entities including The Nature Conservancy, have been integral partners in the development and operation of the MGLP.



Examples of past MGLP projects that have restored natural shorelines (left; photo by Mark Keiser), removed fish passage barriers (center; Joe Nohner), and assessed nutrient loading in the watershed (right; Jerry Sweeten).

We support conservation projects that work toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the MGLP Strategic Plan to benefit glacial lake fish habitats, which include addressing the chemical, physical, and biological components of the habitats that fishes found in glacial lakes use throughout their lives. We have directed funding toward a wide range of aquatic conservation projects that benefit imperiled, endangered, and recreational fish species and their habitats. We typically fund 3-5 projects annually between \$30,000 and \$100,000, but larger projects will be considered for funding up to a maximum of the approximately \$360,000 expected for distribution. Projects have been successfully implemented because contributions and capabilities of many partners have been combined to accomplish project goals that none of the partnering entities could accomplish on their own.

Projects considered for funding must align with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and can range in scale from projects that affect one or more sites, lakes, or watersheds. Projects should address the processes that cause fish habitat impairments as opposed to managing or treating the symptoms of those causes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **projects that implement or demonstrate new approaches**
- **watershed-level nutrient control projects;**
- **water quality and erosion control measures;**
- **native vegetation or wetland rehabilitation;**
- **natural riparian or in-lake habitat restoration and protection;**
- **barrier removal for improved native fish passage;**
- **fish population or watershed assessments needed for project evaluation;**
- **habitat assessment, prioritization and planning for future habitat projects;**
- **evaluating current and future habitat conditions;**
- **projects addressing climate change adaptation or mitigation through fish habitat;**
- **projects training biologists and managers on inland lake fish habitat management tools and approaches; and**
- **community outreach and education on the importance of and how to better conserve glacial lake fish habitat.**

In addition to conducting independent outreach and/or education, successful applicants will be expected to work with the MGLP to coordinate media and public outreach to raise the profile of MGLP-funded projects.

If you have a lake conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and need financial assistance, we encourage you to submit a proposal for project funding. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov or 517-284-6236 or Gary Whelan, MGLP Steering Chair, at whelang@michigan.gov. Applications for funding are available at the Lake Conservation Grant website. Applications are due on February 18, 2022, and you can submit your application by emailing it to MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov.



ATTENTION READERS!!!

In order to add your friends, neighbors, and/or fellow lake or watershed conservation focused association member e-mails to our growing list of water resource conservation minded people who would like to receive this Michigan freshwater resources focused twice monthly newsletter, contact Editor Scott Brown at scottb1952@gmail.com



>> 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!!!



**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

This message was sent to olivia.kasle@gmail.com from scottb1952@gmail.com

William Brown
Michigan Waterfont Alliance, Inc
[5989 Sibley Road](#)
Chelsea, MI 48118-1261

