
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Wednesday, April 15, 2026

1 message



Photo by NASA's Artemis II Crew

**“Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot,
the only home we’ve ever known.” — *Carl Sagan***

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Wednesday, April 15, 2026



Michigan **W**aterfront **A**lliance

P. O. Box 392

Mecosta, MI 49332-0392

michiganwaterfrontalliance.com

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.



Photo by Scott Brown

The Economic Value of Michigan's Inland Lakes

“Inland lakes are valuable ecological resources and provide tremendous aesthetic, economic, and recreational value for the people of Michigan.”

Source: Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy



Editor's Note: The well informed readers of this e-newsletter are surely aware that several important pieces of legislation have been introduced to recent sessions of Michigan's legislature - these include common sense legislation intended to rein in the operation of wake boats - Mi Senate Bill 812, to establish a first ever statewide septic code for Michigan - MI Senate Bill 771, and MI Senate Bill 431, which would usurp the ability of local townships to deny and/or otherwise regulate sand and gravel (aggregate) mining operations.

As many of our readers may also know, legislation intended to help protect our vast natural legacy of high quality inland lakes and their extraordinary contributions to Michigan's economy have often not been enacted in the past due to pro-active opposition from well-funded Lansing-based lobbyists. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that most our state senators and representatives are completely unaware of the fact that our vast natural heritage of high quality inland lakes play such a vital role in supporting Michigan's increasing "blue" economy.

Especially in an election year, one of the relatively simple things we can all do is to help "educate" our state's law makers in regard to the importance of our inland lakes. We can also provide support and encouragement to our state senators and representatives who, in

the past have demonstrated their support for legislation intended to help support our inland lakes and encourage defeat in the next election for those whose mis-guided voting record indicates chronic opposition to supporting the protection of our water resources.

The Economic Significance of Michigan's Inland Lakes

- Michigan has 62,798 inland lakes ≥ 0.1 acres; 11,037 lakes ≥ 5 acres; 6,516 ≥ 10 acres; 1,148 > 100 acres; 98 $> 1,000$ acres; 10 $> 10,000$ acres.
- Lakes cover 1.3% of Michigan's area (1300 sq miles) and support 154 fish species.
- Lakes provide critical habitat, ecological services, and recreational opportunities valued at \$15 billion annually.
- Lakes enhance property values; shoreline property exceeds \$200 billion, generating over \$3.5 billion in local tax revenue.
- Lakefront property values are increased by 56% with water views; restrictive zoning and water clarity improve property worth.
- Gentrification trends lead to larger, more expensive homes, impacting natural habitats and increasing impervious surfaces.
- Recreational boating supports 1 million boats, 58,000 jobs, and a \$7.8 billion annual economic impact.
- Recreational fishing generates over \$3.9 billion, with inland lakes accounting for nearly half of Michigan's fishing activity.
- Lakes support tourism, attracting 113.4 million visitors in 2014, spending \$22.8 billion, and generating \$2.4 billion in taxes.
- Ecosystem services include provisioning (fish, water, energy), regulating (erosion control, water quality), supporting (biodiversity), and cultural benefits.
- Restoring lakes can yield significant economic returns, e.g., \$26B investment in Great Lakes restoration could generate \$50B in ecosystem services.
- Native aquatic plants and biodiversity provide critical habitat, improve water quality, and support fisheries and hunting.
- Lakes contribute to Michigan's blue economy, supporting 1.3 million jobs and 21% of regional GDP.

- **Native American communities valued lakes highly for spiritual and subsistence reasons.**
- **Management and zoning influence property values, water clarity, and ecological health.**
- **Lakes' ecosystem services are undervalued; comprehensive valuation is needed for sustainable management.**





April 14, 2026

Contact: [Michelle Beloskur](#), Midwest Invasive Plant Network Director

Be on the lookout for lesser celandine: A new invasive plant making its way across the Upper Midwest

Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), sometimes known as fig buttercup, is a short, perennial plant that is spreading in the Midwest. It is a [watch list species](#) in Michigan, meaning it has a limited known distribution in the state. It has shiny, dark green, heart-shaped leaves and small, bright yellow flowers.

Natural resource professionals are asking for your help to prevent the spread of this invasive plant and protect our landscapes.

Lesser celandine is a spring ephemeral, meaning it emerges in early spring (March - April), then dies back when our native deciduous trees start to leaf out.

“There is only a short window of time when lesser celandine has emerged and is identifiable, so it’s critical to be on the lookout for this plant now” advises Michelle Beloskur, Director of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network.

Why be concerned?

Lesser celandine thrives in moist, lowland environments including forest floors, riverbanks and floodplains. It is also hardy enough to spread into lawns and other upland areas. Its early emergence allows it to expand as a groundcover and outcompete native spring wildflowers such as mayapple, spring beauty, dutchman’s breeches and trout lily. Over time, it forms dense carpets, greatly reducing the biodiversity and quality of natural areas. It is actively spreading in Lower Michigan and southeastern Wisconsin and is starting to make headway in parts of northern Wisconsin and southern Minnesota.

What's being done?

Several initiatives are underway to increase awareness of lesser celandine, monitor for new introductions and develop best practices for controlling its spread.

In Michigan, the Eyes on the Forest Priority Plant Patrol is training community scientist volunteers to monitor and report lesser celandine. In addition, several partner organizations have come together to form the [Michigan Lesser Celandine Coalition](#). The Coalition is educating the public and recruiting volunteers to assess the spread of lesser celandine, particularly along the Grand River corridor, where the plant is already widely established. The Coalition is working closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to develop best management practices for control.

Elsewhere in Michigan, lesser celandine’s populations are largely unknown. [The Michigan Invasive Species Program](#) is working to better understand where this plant is – and is not. This information can help managers prioritize work and protect sensitive ecosystems.

You can help!

“At this point, the information we have indicates that lesser celandine is mostly concentrated in mid-Michigan, but the plant’s short growing season means we can’t be sure,” said Katie Grzesiak, terrestrial invasive species coordinator for the Michigan DNR. “Reports from people who are out in the spring, particularly in the Upper Peninsula, northern Lower Peninsula, and outside of the Grand River corridor are critical to understanding this plant’s range.”

A variety of resources can help you learn to identify lesser celandine. In Michigan, the [Priority Plant Patrol](#) and Michigan Invasive Species Program encourage reports via the [Midwest Invasive Species Information Network](#). You can also contact Julie Crick, Michigan State University Extension Natural Resource Educator at (989) 275-7179.

For information on common look-alike plants, visit [MISP's lesser celandine webpage](#).

Everyone can help prevent the spread of invasive plants like lesser celandine. When heading outdoors, “[Play, Clean, Go,](#)” by cleaning footwear, pets and recreational equipment before entering and leaving natural areas. Stay on designated walking paths. At home, avoid planting, moving or composting invasive plants.

To learn more about the known distribution of lesser celandine and other watch list species in Michigan, use the [Watch List Viewer](#).

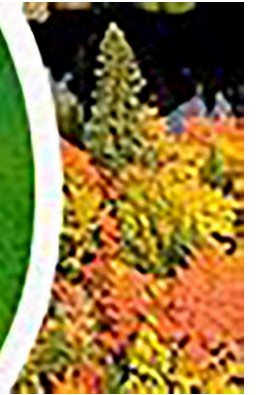
In Wisconsin, lesser celandine has three main hot spots. These are mostly confined to urban areas in the southern portion of the state. In conjunction with partners and private landowners, management is taking place on most of the known populations to prevent further establishment and spread. In Minnesota, there are three sites known to have lesser celandine. The managers of each site are actively monitoring, managing and treating these plants with the goal of containment and eventual eradication.

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; the Department of Natural Resources; and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

EGLÉ



Michigan Department of Natural Resources



DNR News

April 12, 2026

Contact: Contact: [Laurie Abel](#), 517-599-6703 or [Kathleen Lavey](#), 517-930-4218

Stay away from flooded areas, rushing rivers and streams

As a record volume of water driven by snowmelt and spring rain runs through the Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex, water is also high in many other areas of Michigan's northeastern Lower Peninsula, and that means putting safety first.

Resist the urge to fish, explore or put a watercraft in floodwaters or swollen rivers.

“Higher waters can cause fast-flowing currents, deeper and colder water, unpredictable conditions and more debris floating under the water’s surface, especially on rivers,” said Jen Wolf, acting assistant chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ Law Enforcement Division.

Throughout the season, any boat, regardless of size, must be equipped with a personal flotation device for each person on board.

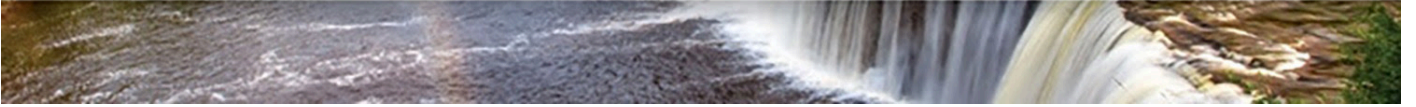
Here are additional tips from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for dealing with standing or flowing spring floodwaters:

- Do not walk, wade or try to swim in floodwaters. Floodwaters may be contaminated with bacteria, hazardous waste or chemicals.
- Floodwaters may cover live, downed electrical lines which could cause a fatal shock.
- Stay away from lakes and rivers when water is high. With soft ground, you can lose your footing and slip into water.
- If you are driving and water is over the road, turn around. Six inches of water is enough to lose control of your vehicle.

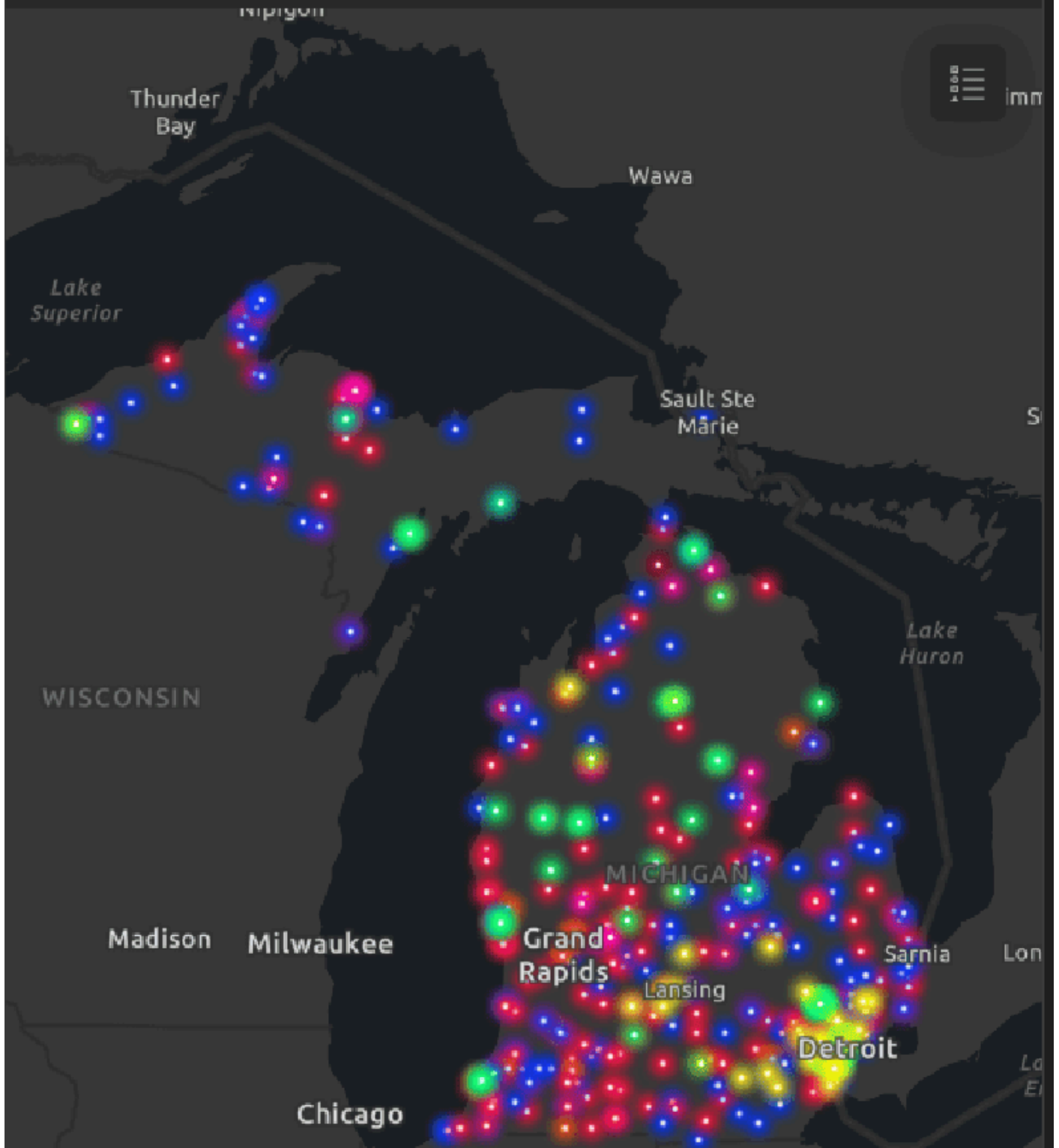
Get more information about preparing for floods and other weather events at [MIReady](#). Find additional [high water safety information on the DNR’s website](#).



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Grant Project Locations



See the impact: New Water Infrastructure Grants Dashboard visualizes the flow of

funds

April 14, 2026

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has announced the launch of the new [Water Infrastructure Grants Dashboard](#), providing an overview of active water infrastructure grant programs managed by the [Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section's Grants Unit](#).

This new tool is designed to help stakeholders, community members, and other interested users easily explore the status and scope of water infrastructure projects taking place across Michigan. The dashboard shows approximate project locations and offers quick access to essential information for each grant-funded project. Users can view details such as funding sources, total award amounts, project summaries, and current project status.

By sharing this information, EGLE aims to support transparency, strengthen public understanding of infrastructure investments, and help individuals identify projects relevant to their communities or areas of interest.

Water infrastructure grants provide critical funding to counties, cities, villages, townships, authorities, and other public entities to help public water systems address environmental and public health concerns. These grants support improvements to water quality, system reliability, and long-term sustainability.

Programs featured in the dashboard

The dashboard includes projects across several major grant programs:

- **Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM):** Supports Type I Community Water Supplies and Type II Non-Transient Non-Community systems in completing Asset Management Plans and Distribution System Materials Inventories.
- **Consolidation and Contamination Risk Reduction (C2R2):** Funds projects that reduce PFAS and other regulated contaminants or help connect contaminated systems to municipal supplies.

- **Substantial Public Health Risk Program (SPHRP):** Supports projects that address direct discharges of raw sewage posing substantial public health risks.
- **Community Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) Support for Lead Line Replacement:** Helps communities prepare to access Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund dollars for lead service line replacement.
- **Drinking Water and Wastewater/Stormwater ARP Grants:** Provide financial assistance for infrastructure projects that address Safe Drinking Water Act requirements, water quality improvements, and environmental or public health concerns.
- **EPA Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC SDC):** Supports public water systems in small or disadvantaged communities in addressing contaminants such as PFAS.
- **EPA Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN):** Assists small or disadvantaged communities in meeting Safe Drinking Water Act requirements through infrastructure improvements and capacity-building activities.

Learn More

To learn more about EGLE's [Water Infrastructure Grants](#), please visit the Water Infrastructure Grants webpage or contact us at EGLE-DWGrants@Michigan.gov.

Contact:

MI Environment Team

EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov

517-284-9278



Adopt a Lake: Monitor water quality, fish habitat on your favorite lake this summer

Is there a favorite lake where you love to swim, boat or fish? Do you want to take part in protecting the water quality of that lake? If so, you're invited to become a volunteer lake monitor for the [MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program](#).

For more than 50 years, CLMP volunteers have collected valuable data on inland lakes statewide. This information is used by residents, local communities, researchers and state agencies like the DNR to better protect and manage Michigan's 11,000 inland lakes and the fish and wildlife that rely on them.

This community science opportunity gives an inside look into what's happening in your favorite lake. Volunteers receive detailed instructions, training and equipment to collect this data. You choose which lake to sample and which measurements to take. You can collect data on water quality (water clarity, nutrients, dissolved oxygen and algae), invasive species, native plants and shoreline conditions.

[Free training](#) is available May 1 and May 7. There is a small fee to cover the costs of supplies and analyzing samples, but volunteers often can collaborate with local lake associations or other organizations to help pay for these costs.

The MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and is administered in partnership with Michigan State University Extension, the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association and the Huron River Watershed Council.

Visit the [CLMP enrollment webpage](#) for more information or contact [Erick Elgin](#) (MSUE) at 218-340-5731 or [Joe Nohner](#) (DNR) at 517-599-6825.



DNR News

April 13, 2026

Contact: [Addie Myers](#), 989-778-0389 or [Jay Wesley](#), 616-490-5090

Lake Macatawa acoustic telemetry project shows surprising muskie movements

The Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division has partnered with the [Michigan Muskie Alliance](#), [Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System](#) (GLATOS) and Grand Valley State University to track movement of muskellunge in Lake Macatawa (Ottawa County) with acoustic telemetry.

In April 2025, acoustic telemetry tags — provided by the Michigan Muskie Alliance — were implanted in 20 Great Lakes strain [muskellunge](#) from Lake Macatawa. These acoustic tags

are about the size of an AA battery and have a life of approximately seven years. After tagging, the fish were returned to the lake.

Next, eight GLATOS receivers were placed in Lake Macatawa. This equipment and other receivers in the GLATOS network “listen” for signals from fish that have been implanted with acoustic transmitters. As of November 2025, there were over 69,000 detections of the 20 tagged muskie by GLATOS receivers.

Based on the data collected so far, these Great Lakes strain muskie appear to be traveling out of Lake Macatawa for at least part of the year. Some fish were tracked to Chicago, Grand Haven, Saugatuck and even Green Bay! If you catch a muskie, that fish may have been stocked hundreds of miles away.

The muskie will continue to roam Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan and will be tracked for the next seven years. Annual updates will be provided at the Michigan Muskie Alliance banquet, and a final report will be written once the project is completed.

This muskie tagging research is one of many projects on which the DNR has partnered with the Michigan Muskie Alliance over the 25 years that organization has been in operation. The group has also provided forage for fish rearing and supported hatchery improvements and operations at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery — including donations for fish food and hatchery infrastructure needs, along with volunteer hours.

Partnerships with sportfishing groups have been essential for conducting this kind of local, species-specific research for which state, federal or grant funding is not available.

Learn more about Michigan Muskie Alliance projects at MichiganMuskieAlliance.org and how the DNR manages Michigan's muskellunge at Michigan.gov/Muskie.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



EGLE supports water resources protection through outreach efforts for local leaders and the public

April 06, 2026

One of the many roles of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in protecting lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands is to provide training opportunities that place the power of knowledge in the hands of local leaders and the public. EGLE has several upcoming training events and ongoing initiatives to meet this goal. Many are of no or low cost and accessible to anyone interested in attending. This includes several webinar series with water-related topics.

- [Local Leaders Webinar Series](#) – A webinar series dedicated to helping Michigan's local officials and community leaders gain a better understanding of EGLE and the environmental regulations that affect their communities.
- [NotMiSpecies Webinar Series](#) – This webinar series explores how agencies, universities and locally led organizations are working together to protect Michigan's natural resources through the Michigan Invasive Species Program.
- [Drinking Water: Protecting MiSource Webinar Series](#) – EGLE presents this webinar series to highlight how agencies, communities, universities, local organizations, and citizens can promote and protect drinking water sources.
- [MiEnviro for Everyone Webinar Series](#) – A webinar series designed to engage and inform Michigan residents on the environmental data and information at their

fingertips including beach information, sewage spills, and water permitting information.

The webinars in these series can be attended by anyone, and recordings of past webinars can also be viewed. In addition to webinars, EGLE also hosts live events, which can be accessed through EGLE's [Outreach](#) webpage or EGLE's [Event](#) listings.



Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

Events Listing

All times Eastern. "\$" indicates there may be a cost to participate.

April 15, 9:00 AM: [Rock snot on the radar: Tracking didymo in Michigan rivers](#). Presented by Ashley Moerke, Lake Superior State University; and Bryan Burroughs, Michigan Trout Unlimited. Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.

April 15-17: 2026 [Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention](#). (*In-person conference with virtual attendance option*). Host: Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership. \$

April 16, 10:00 AM: [Beach monitoring: Protecting your beaches and community](#). Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

April 21, 6:00 PM: [Fisheries Workshop: Lake Huron: Saginaw Bay](#). Host: Michigan Sea Grant.

April 28, 6:00 PM: [Fisheries Workshop: Lake Huron: Les Cheneaux Islands & St. Marys River](#). Host: Michigan Sea Grant.

(NEW) May 13, 10:00 AM: Finding beach water quality information: Part of the MiEnviro Portal for Everyone webinar series. Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

September 1, 2:00 PM: MGLP Lake Conservation Grant. Presented by Joe Nohner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

October 13, 2:00 PM: Disentangling the historical impacts of warming and fishing on exploited freshwater fish populations. Presented by Luoliang Xu, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

October 20, 2:00 PM: Lake weeds or plant communities? Some thoughts on Eurasian watermilfoil management, control prioritization, and new work to nurture care and appreciation. Presented by Alison Mikulyuk and Katie Hein, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

October 27, 2:00 PM: Protecting land for water quality: Watershed-based land conservation strategies. Presented by Steve Epting, US Environmental Protection Agency. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

November 17, 2:00 PM: Walleye stocking success in the Midwestern USA. Presented by Robert Davis, Young Harris College; and Daniel Isermann, US Geological Survey/University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.



**PASSING MUCH NEEDED WAKE BOAT AND SEPTIC CODE RELATED
LEGISLATION WILL REQUIRE YOU TO WEIGH IN WITH YOUR STATE
LEGISLATORS**

The passage of Senate Bill 771 which would establish Michigan's first-ever comprehensive framework for the oversight and on-going maintenance of septic systems (on-site wastewater treatment systems); and Senate Bill 812 which would prohibit the operation of vessels operating in "wake sport mode" in waters of this state where the water depth is less than 20 feet and to a distance of not less than 500 feet from the shoreline or a dock, a raft, a buoyed or occupied bathing area, or a vessel moored or at anchor are well written, reasonable pieces

of legislation that, if enacted, will make important contributions to helping preserve and protect Michigan's wealth of inland lakes, rivers, and streams.

It is important to note, however, that Senate Bill 812 and Senate Bill 771 represent only the most recent attempts to enact common sense state law - past attempts to rein in out-of-control wake boat operators and at least begin to repair the 330,000 failing residential septic systems that pour billions of gallons of raw, e-coli inundated sewage into our lakes, rivers, and stream each year have failed in the past due to the well-funded efforts of professional lobbyists that seem to lurk around in every corner of our state capitol. We also know that the well-funded efforts of state lobbyists in preventing the passage of legislation that does not meet the needs of their profit driven employers is made much easier due to the fact that only a tiny fraction of Michigan voters ever attempts to communicate with their respective state senators or representatives.

The readers of this newsletter need to know that the latest straight forward, scientific evidence-based attempts to rein in out of control wake boat operators (Senate Bill 812); and establish a first ever statewide septic code (Senate Bill 771) will again each meet with failure in the next few months if those of us concerned about preserving the quality of our incredibly valuable inland lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater do not devote the relatively small amount of time and effort that is necessary to write, call, message, or e-mail their state senators and representatives in the very near future.

To identify your MI State Senator and their contact information

[click here](#)

To identify your MI Representatives and their contact information

[click here](#)

Michigan Invasive
Species Program



MI Landowner's Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Management Available for Download Here

An Introduction to this Guide

This guide is designed to help Michigan property owners and managers identify, report, prevent and control aquatic invasive species (AIS). For the most up to date information about invasive species in Michigan, visit www.michigan.gov/invasives.

Contents:

- **AIS in Michigan**
- **Michigan's Invasive Species Watch List (Page 2)**
- **Prohibited and Restricted Species (Page 2)**
- **Reporting and Identification Resources (Page 2)**
- **Prevention: Information and resources to help stop AIS from spreading (Page 2)**
- **Monitoring: Why and how to monitor for AIS (Page 3)**
- **Management and Control: General strategies and resources useful for successful AIS management and control (Page 4)**
- **Disposal of AIS Plant Materials (Page 5)**
- **Permitting: An overview of AIS related permits, including when permits are required (Page 8)**
- **Local AIS Resources and Expertise: AIS topic experts, online resources and local resources for AIS issues (Page 12)**
- **Related Programs: Contact information and ways to get involved with helpful programs for AIS issues (Page 13)**

To download a free copy of MI Landowners Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species Management, click here



To download a copy of the MWA

2026 Winter Newsletter,

[click here](#)



The Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing Michigan residents the opportunity to share input and ideas on policy decisions, programs and other aspects of natural resource management and outdoor recreation opportunities.

One important avenue for this input is at meetings of the public bodies that advise the DNR and, in some cases, also set policies for natural and cultural resource management.

Frequently check the [DNR boards, commissions, committees and councils webpage](#) for updates.

The links below will take you to the webpage for each group, where you will find meeting details such as location and agenda (when finalized).

NOTE: Please check these pages often, as meeting details may change and sometimes meetings are canceled.

To visit the MI DNR web page dedicated to Boards,

Commissions, Committees and Councils, [click here](#)



Michigan Invasive Species Program

Michigan's Invasive Species Watch List

Invasive species on the watch list have been identified as posing an immediate or potential threat to Michigan's economy, environment or human health. These species either have never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan or have a limited known distribution.

If you think you have found any of these species in Michigan, please report the occurrence via the methods given below by clicking on an individual species name.

View the watch list as a printable PDF - [InvasiveSpecies-WatchList](#)

Invasive Species Watch List Viewer

Use this mapping tool to find out where watch list invasive species have been confirmed in Michigan and where they have been successfully eradicated.

[Invasive Species Watch List Viewer](#)

EGLE



Michigan Department of
AGRICULTURE
& Rural Development



Our long-term vision is to address Michigan's most pressing lake, stream, and watershed conservation and stewardship challenges and provide research-based, timely support to clientele and partners.

The Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams stream lines lake and stream research, engagement, and education activities at the university and highlights the many programs MSU Extension and its partners offer throughout the state. The MSU Extension Center for Lakes and Streams is not a physical center with a brick-and-mortar headquarters. It is a team of Extension educators and outreach faculty based throughout Michigan with a shared mission of advancing the conservation and stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes and streams.

To achieve this vision, the Center will welcome affiliated faculty from various departments at MSU and will invite external stakeholder input. Affiliates and stakeholders will support the work of the Center by identifying emerging issues and assisting with the prioritization of research and education activities. The Center will welcome stakeholder input from diverse perspectives, including state agencies, tribal partners, other Michigan universities, local and regional decision makers, agricultural producers, and nonprofit, community and riparian organizations.

Want to learn more?

Reach out to the Center for Lakes and Streams Director

Dr. Jo Latimore at latimor1@msu.edu.



What We Would Like Readers of this Newsletter to Know about Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Our Mission:

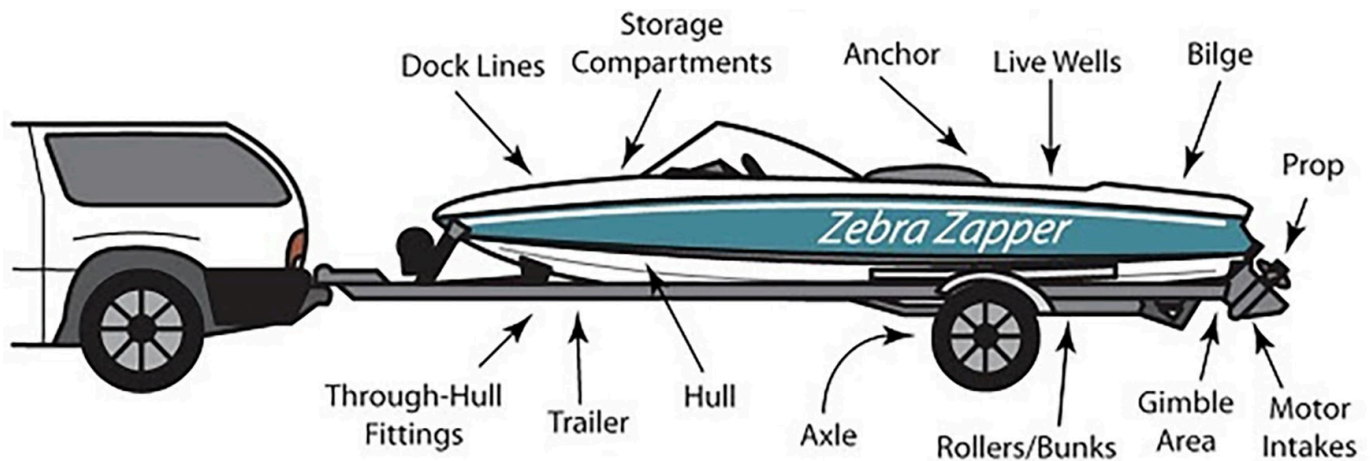
Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation formed to protect, preserve, and promote wise use of the inland waters of the State of Michigan. Our mission will be accomplished by active participation in the legislative process, court cases, and/or direct involvement with related state agencies or departments. This membership-enabled corporation maintains the ability to influence legislation through lobbying, an action that is not permitted by 501(c)3 non-profit organizations.

- **Michigan Waterfront Alliance is one of just a few non-profit organizations that is permitted by law to influence our state's legislative process in regards to the**

enactment of state laws, regulations, or policies whose implementation and enforcement ultimately have a direct impact on Michigan's vast natural legacy of high quality freshwater resources by lobbying. Lobbying is defined as the act of attempting to influence decisions made by government officials. Enabled through direct communication and pro-active advocacy, lobbying involves various activities aimed at persuading policymakers, especially state legislators, to support or oppose specific legislation, regulations, and/or other government actions.

- The vast majority of the revenue derived through membership or by donations to Michigan Waterfront Alliance is utilized to compensate our Lansing-based lobbyist - Michigan's longest serving multi-client lobbying firm, Karoub Associates.
- Not a single person who works for Michigan Waterfront Alliance, including the Officers and Directors of our Board of Directors, receive any form of monetary compensation.
- Those who work to enable the day-to-day operation of Michigan Waterfront Alliance are motivated by the desire to contribute in some modest way to the conservation of Michigan's extraordinary valuable natural legacy of high quality inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.
- It is important for our readers to understand that most of the revenue we receive through the payment of individual, association, or corporate dues as well as donations to Michigan Waterfront Alliance go directly to support our Karoub Associates enabled Lansing-based lobbying efforts that occur on behalf of our freshwater resources, associations, and lakefront property owners (riparians). A small percentage (about 10%) of our total revenue goes to fund the payment of non-discretionary administrative expenses.
- The fact is, only a small fraction of the thousands of readers of this newsletter have thus far chosen to become individual, association, or corporate members, and/or to donate to Michigan Waterfront Alliance.
- In order for Michigan Waterfront Alliance to sustain our commitment to working on behalf of the preservation of our precious inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, and the protection of the riparian rights of lakefront property owners, we desperately need many more of our readers to make the

wise decision to become Individual, Association, or Corporate members, and/ or to make a generous donation to our efforts by becoming a Bronze, Silver, or Gold MI Healthy Lakes Champion today!!!



Bringing a boat

When a watercraft is part of your fishing routine, remember to “Clean, Drain and Dry” boats, trailers and all equipment and gear after each use on any lake, river or stream. State law requires:

- Making sure watercraft and trailers are free of all aquatic organisms and plants before transporting or launching.
- Removing drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells before transporting watercraft over land.

Drying boats, trailers and gear is an important step to ensure live organisms, like hard-to-see zebra mussel larvae, plant fragments and didymo cells, don't travel to the next fishing spot. Between sites, do one of the following:

- When possible, dry boats, trailers and gear in the sun for five to seven days.
- Wash boats and trailers with a pressure washer.
- Apply a chemical disinfectant like those listed above.
- Dry surfaces with a towel.

Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the responsibility of everyone who uses Michigan's valuable fresh-water resources. For more information on invasive species and prevention methods, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives.

Michigan's Invasive Species Program is cooperatively implemented by the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Natural Resources.





Please join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

We Need the Support of People Like You Who Care about Preserving and Protecting our Extraordinarily Valuable Freshwater Resources for Future Generations Now!!!

- 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 owned and operated 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 Michigan Waterfront Alliance today !!!



---The Problem is Real---

***The loss of natural shorelines is the biggest threat
to the overall health of Michigan lakes***

National Lakes Assessment

Shoreland development is impacting Michigan's lakes causing issues such as poor water quality, erosion, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Taking action on your property now can help reverse these effects and protect the health of your lake.

To learn more about the mission, goals, and unique educational opportunities provided by the

Michigan **N**atural **S**horeline **P**artnership

[Click here](#)



MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

BRONZE

MI Healthy Lakes
Champion

\$250

Donate

SILVER

MI Healthy Lakes
Champion

\$500

Donate

GOLD

MI Healthy Lakes
Champion

\$1000

Donate

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MICHIGAN WATERFRONT

ALLIANCE MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION TODAY!!!

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATION OF \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 WILL
AMPLIFY OUR CAPACITY TO LOBBY FOR THE PASSAGE
OF COMMON SENSE LEGISLATION THAT IS PENDING IN
LANSING IN REGARDS TO REGULATING WAKE BOATS AND
SEPTIC TANKS!!! AS OUR READERS ARE WELL AWARE,
OUT
OF CONTROL WAKE BOATS ARE DAMAGING OUR LAKES,
AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DYSFUNCTIONAL SEPTIC
SYSTEMS ARE DEGRADING OUR LAKES, RIVERS,
STREAMS,
AND GROUNDWATER!!!**

**TO BECOME AN MWA MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION
[CLICK HERE](#)**



Please Consider Donating, and/or Becoming a Dues Paying Member of Michigan Waterfront Alliance Today

Please don't count on others to support the only organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to voicing your legitimate concerns to our state legislators in Lansing.

We hire professional lobbyists - Karoub Associates - who understand the intricacies of dealing with state government - to reach out to our legislators. As you might imagine, the cost of hiring a professional, highly respected Lansing-based lobbying firm whose downtown Lansing office is

located within a literal stone's throw of Michigan's state capitol building is expensive - we believe, however, that to have someone in constant contact with our state senators and representatives it is more than worth the significant on-going expense.

To put it in blunt "no ifs, ands, or buts" terms, without your generous support we will be unable to continue our erstwhile efforts in Lansing.



If not **you**, then **who**?

We need **you!**

Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) is the only all-volunteer non-profit organization in Michigan that is dedicated to reaching out on a daily, pro-active basis to our state representatives and senators about their on-going need to act **now** to protect our precious inland lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams.

Please do not expect other lake associations, other individuals, and other corporations to fund MWA's efforts in Lansing.

If **you** want your voice to be heard in Lansing **you** need to be the other lake association, the other individual, and the other **corporation** to make a generous contribution to helping fund our on-going efforts in Lansing.

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Please also remember that with the exception of a few relatively minor expenses related to keeping our website updated, and on-line, and a few relatively minor costs associated with distributing our e-newsletter, **all** of our membership and donation derived income goes to paying our downtown Lansing-based lobbying firm, and our attorneys. No exorbitant employee salaries or fringe benefit packages to pay!!!!!!!!!!

It is also important to note that last year **Michigan Waterfront Alliance** lawyers took a case all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court in order to get the State of Michigan to do it's job in protecting our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Thank you for reading and considering this hopefully convincing appeal for donations - **no amount is considered too small** - all donations of money are happily received and acknowledged within the context of the generous spirit that prompted them!!!!!!!!!!

[Click here](#) to become a dues paying member of MWA

[Click here](#) to make a generous donation to MWA
