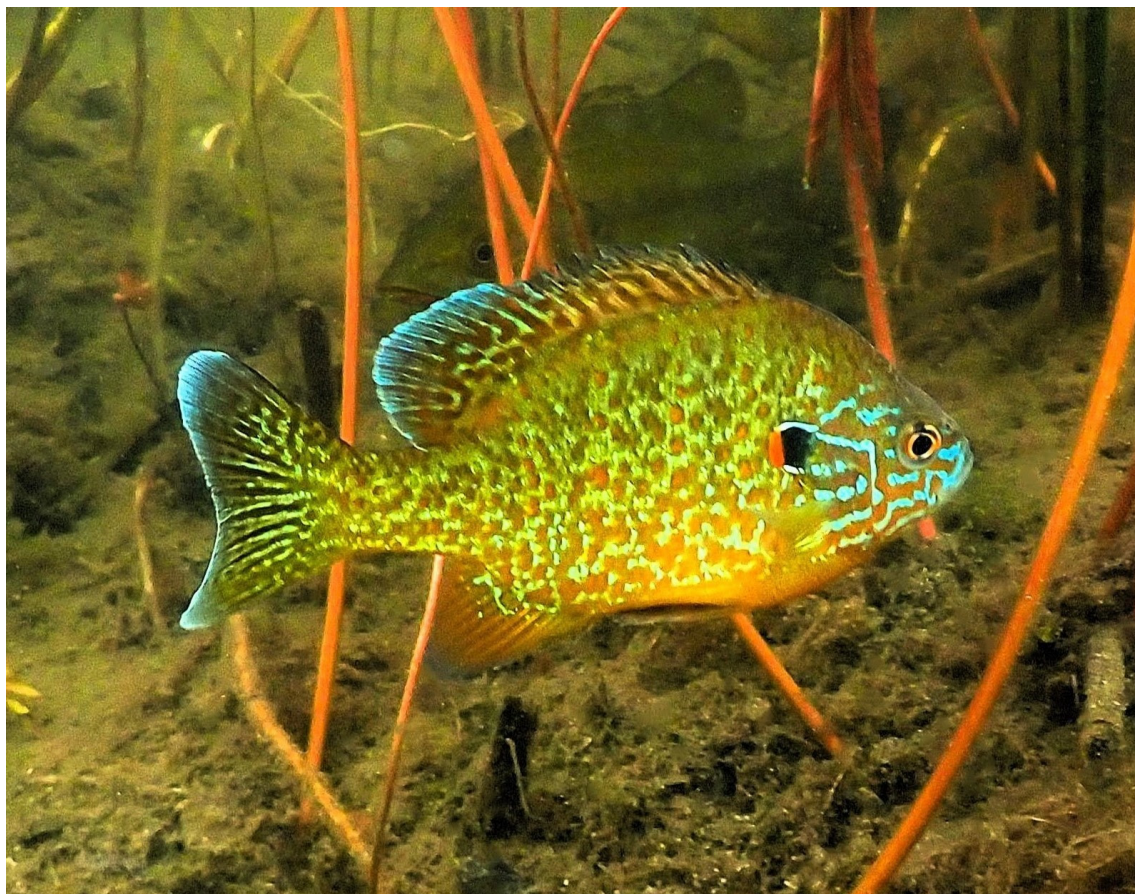

Fwd: Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Monday, June 15, 2026

1 message



Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Monday, June 15, 2026



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

P. O. Box 392

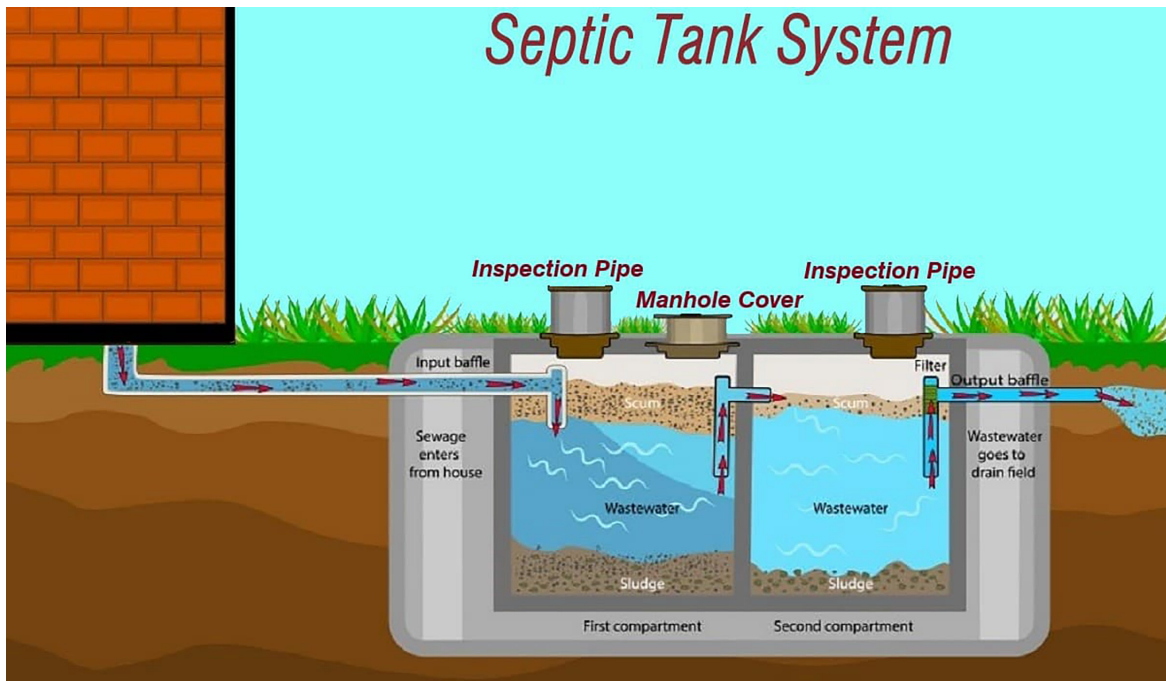
Mecosta, MI 49332-0392

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.



facebook



**Legislation to Establish a Statewide Septic Code is
Introduced to the Michigan House of Representatives**

by Scott Brown

MWA e-Newsletter Editor

In another attempt to remedy the fact that Michigan is the only state that does not have a statewide septic code, several state representatives recently introduced legislation whose language is defined by lengthy compliance timelines and conservative program administration and funding elements that bill sponsor's hope will enhance support and therefore the overall potential for the bill to become state law. If enacted, **Michigan House Bill 6066** as introduced by State Representatives Skaggs, Rheingans, and a broad coalition comprised of several other co-sponsors would amend Public Health Code (1978 PA 368) to

create a comprehensive new regulatory framework — Part 128 — that would govern the management of onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) in Michigan.

The significance of the problem created by the absence of a statewide wastewater system code is illustrated by the fact that the MI Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy estimates that approximately one third of Michigan's 1.2 million residential septic systems are currently in a state of dysfunction and are directly responsible for allowing millions of gallons of untreated raw sewage to flow unabated into Michigan's prized lakes, rivers, and streams each day.

The most significant provisions of Michigan House Bill 6066 include:

- Mandatory inspections of on-site wastewater treatment systems once every 10 years, with priority given to systems 20 or 30 years old or older, systems lacking a permit on record, and systems located within 500 feet of surface water.
 - A new statewide sewage code to be promulgated by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) within three years of enactment, establishing performance-based standards for both conventional and alternative septic systems.
 - A new registered evaluator credential for individuals who conduct onsite system inspections, along with training and continuing education requirements.
 - Civil fines for owners who fail to arrange required evaluations or remedy identified failures, with fine waivers available for low-income homeowners.
 - Financial assistance provisions, including grants and loans for homeowners below 400% of the federal poverty level to help cover evaluation and repair costs.
 - A new on-site wastewater treatment system administration fund, that would be funded through application fees, state administrative fees, and civil fines in order to support program administration and local health department grants.
-



**SUPPORT YOUR LAKES SUNFISH POPULATION BY PROTECTING THEIR VULNERABLE
SHALLOW WATER NESTS DURING PEAK SPAWNING SEASON**

by Scott Brown

MWA e-Newsletter Editor

The popular panfish known as bluegill (Scientific name: *Lepomis macrochirus*) and many other sunfish species that are often present in thousands of Michigan's inland lakes begin their annual spawning season in response to mid-to-late spring water temperatures of 67° F. The annual spawning ritual begins as male bluegills create protective depressions of up to twelve inches in diameter in water depths of up to four feet by using their tails to scoop out

sand and other organic materials while leaving gravel in place. Located in areas of flat or gradually sloping lake bottom not occupied by submerged aquatic plants, bluegill spawning beds often consist of up to 50 gravel lined depressions. The annual spawning ritual begins as a female bluegill approaches the nest prompting the male to begin circling and making grunting noises. The motion and sound of the males attracts females. If the female enters the nest, both the male and female will circle each other, with the male expressing aggressive behavior toward the female. If the female finds the male attractive and chooses to stay, the pair will enter the nest and come to rest in the middle. With the male in an upright posture, the pair will then touch bellies, quiver, and spawn. Successful spawning occurs when the male's sperm combines with the female's eggs that then fall gently into the protective interstitial spaces that exist between the gravel that lines the nest. A healthy large female bluegill can produce up to 100,000 eggs. Her role now complete, the female bluegill leaves the nest - leaving the male to protect the developing eggs. Male bluegills protect their nests by aggressively chasing away potential predators and by preventing sediment from smothering the eggs by fanning the nest with his tail (see photo above).

Lake associations and others interested in protecting the reproductive rituals of bluegill and other sunfish species can begin by identifying areas within a particular inland lake that support spawning beds and encourage boaters to stay out of these areas during the annual spawning period. The turbulence created by a single motorboat pass through an active spawning area occupying shallow water can cause tiny developing sunfish eggs to be flushed out of their nests that then become vulnerable to predation. Lake associations should also discourage fishermen from fishing in spawning areas - the loss of male bluegills who are actively defending their nests during the spring spawning period can result in the loss of tens of thousands of developing eggs as now unprotected nests become vulnerable to predators. It is also important to point out that male bluegills that are caught during the annual spawning period should be immediately returned to the lake so they can continue to pro-actively protect their nests. Lake stewards can also help ensure the success of bluegill annual reproductive cycles by preserving natural shorelines and native aquatic plant communities that each provide optimal habitat for the fry and juveniles of bluegills and other sunfish species.



Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921

June 9, 2026

Contact: [Nick Van Bloem](#), 517-388-7043

\$273 million in ARPA-funded state park projects entering final stretch

Powered by a historic \$273 million investment from the American Rescue Plan Act, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is entering the final stretch of extensive upgrades at state parks and trails.

Outlined in [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Building Michigan Together Plan](#), this unprecedented investment has allowed the DNR to tackle many needs from a decades-long maintenance backlog. It also funds the development of Flint's new state park – the first in Genesee County.

To date, 100% of the DNR's [197 planned improvement projects](#) are either complete or actively underway, ensuring every dollar is successfully put to work. This includes 142 completed projects and another 55 projects actively underway or in progress, all on track to cross the finish line by the end of the year.

“ARPA funding has been monumental for improving our state parks infrastructure,” said Kristen Kosick, DNR Parks and Recreation chief. “Michigan has one of the best state parks systems in the country, and it is vital that we appropriately fund and maintain our facilities to ensure safe, accessible, welcoming and memorable experiences for our visitors.

“These funds have allowed the DNR to modernize and enhance the state parks system, and we’re excited for visitors to enjoy these improved amenities in the parks this summer.”

Kosick said the influx of ARPA dollars was especially consequential, given that roughly 97% of state parks funding is generated by user fees, including the Recreation Passport, and royalty revenues – just 3% comes from Michigan's General Fund tax dollars.

Projects completed since July

Following are brief descriptions, organized alphabetically by park name, outlining the improvements and upgrades completed since July 2025. Check the status of all ARPA-

funded park projects at Michigan.gov/StateParksProgress.

As part of widespread enhancements at Belle Isle Park (Wayne County), the historic Belle Isle Casino has received a new roof and upgrades in line with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. Additionally, the former zoo complex was removed to make way for several exciting, multifunded features. These upcoming additions include 20 acres of restored natural areas with new hiking trails, the reconnection of Vista Avenue and a 110-space specialized, eco-friendly parking area designed to manage stormwater runoff. These projects, among others, were supported by approximately \$35.25 million in ARPA funding.

Improvements at Bishop Lake Campground – including repaving campground roads and upgrading the electrical – at Brighton Recreation Area (Livingston County) were completed earlier this month. These improvements were supported by approximately \$2.97 million in ARPA funding.

Fayette Historic State Park (Delta County) completed several key improvements last summer. The projects delivered much-needed structural upgrades to the historic townsite, and accessible walkways and restrooms at the park's visitor center. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$3.05 million in ARPA funding.

Visitors can now enjoy the first phase of enhancements at the popular visitor center at Hartwick Pines State Park (Crawford County). Upgrades include a new roof, windows, carpeting and updated HVAC system, alongside an upgraded auditorium and an ADA-accessible, push-button entrance door. The building's aesthetics were also refreshed with new interior finishes, exterior painting, stone pointing and other finishes. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$3.4 million in ARPA funding.

The Gillette Visitor Center, a popular destination at Hoffmaster State Park (Muskegon County), reopened in February following extensive renovations. The building features a new roof, updated HVAC system, restored exterior brickwork, new flooring and updated interior railings. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$6.4 million in ARPA funding.

Campers at Ionia Recreation Area in Ionia County will notice several upgrades, including improvements to the toilet and shower building, campground roads, site pads and the park's electrical system. Additionally, the beach house received a new roof, and the historic schoolhouse underwent renovations. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$4.2 million in ARPA funding.

Visitors to Island Lake Recreation Area (Livingston County) will find several upgrades this season. The park now features a brand-new contact station with a roundabout, improved underground utilities and newly paved roads, sidewalks and beach parking. Additionally, sections of the popular Blue Trail have been rerouted to enhance safety. These improvements were supported by approximately \$2.95 million in ARPA funding.

As of last summer, Metamora-Hadley Recreation Area's (Lapeer County) modern campground features extensive campground upgrades, including campground paving and major electrical, water and sewer system improvements. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$5.9 million ARPA investments.

In October, Muskallonge Lake State Park (Luce County) unveiled a brand-new, accessible boardwalk and path to Lake Superior and newly paved campground roads. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$6.5 million in ARPA funding.

Upgrades at Snug Harbor in Muskegon State Park (Muskegon County) are now complete. Utilities have been modernized with new electrical, sewer and municipal water line systems, alongside a new ADA-compliant walkway leading to the fishing pier, improved parking and partial repaving. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$5.2 million in ARPA funding.

Improvements at Pinckney Recreation Area's (Livingston and Washtenaw counties) Bruin Lake Campground – including a new toilet and shower building and sanitation stations, and freshly paved roads – were completed in late May. These improvements, among others in the park, were supported by approximately \$2.65 million in ARPA funding.

Getting to the brink of the Upper Falls at Tahquamenon Falls State Park (Chippewa and Luce counties) got a lot easier earlier this spring. A [new 1,100-foot, fully accessible boardwalk](#) now features five switchback landings offering interpretive displays, pedestrian benches and panoramic views of the Upper Falls, Tahquamenon River and old-growth forest. These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$4.75 million in ARPA funding.

In April, the Eddy Discovery Center at Waterloo Recreation Area (Jackson and Washtenaw counties) welcomed visitors back to an enhanced space, including a new roof, modernized atrium, a state-of-the-art HVAC system and brand-new exhibits. Additionally, visitors were greeted with renovations at Sugarloaf and Portage lake campgrounds, a refreshed day-use playground, an improved fishing pier, newly paved park roads and updated water systems.

These improvements, among others, were supported by approximately \$2.58 million in ARPA funding.

Campers will take notice of campground repaving at Young State Park (Charlevoix County). This improvement, among others, was supported by approximately \$4.8 million in ARPA funding.

Project-related questions can be directed to Nick Van Bloem, planning unit manager for the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, at 517-388-7043 or VanBloemN@Michigan.gov.

A number of other ARPA-related projects are in the works through the end of the year. For the latest details on many of these projects, including anticipated closure timelines, visit Michigan.gov/DNRClosures.



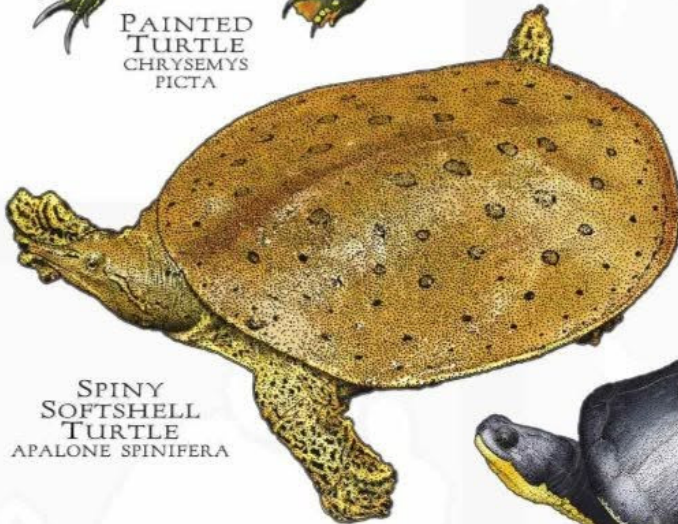
FRESHWATER TURTLES OF MICHIGAN



PAINTED
TURTLE
CHRYSEMYS
PICTA



NORTHERN
MAP TURTLE
GRAPTEMYS *GEOGRAPHICA*



SPINY
SOFTSHELL
TURTLE
APALONE *SPINIFERA*



COMMON
MUSK TURTLE
STERNOTHERUS *ODORATUS*



POND
SLIDER
TRACHEMYS
SCRIPTA



BLANDING'S
TURTLE
EMYDOIDEA *BLANDINGII*



COMMON SNAPPING
TURTLE
CHELYDRA *SERPENTINA*



WOOD TURTLE
GLYPTEMYS *INSCULPTA*



What do you think the deepest part of the Great Lakes looks like? Well, this past Saturday a Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist joined filmmakers and Great Lakes Now for a trip to the bottom of Superior Maximus, the deepest place in Lake Superior.

If you're not the biggest fan of deep water, be warned.

The live dive into the depths can be found at <https://inspiredplanet.ca/hidden-below-live/>



OPEN FOR SCHEDULING!



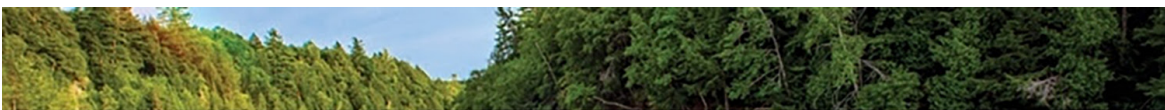
Host your own boat wash this summer!

Get ready for this invasive species season by hosting your own free, boat wash event this summer! We are once again scheduling for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters mobile boat wash program. Our crew comes with a trailered, pressure washer for boat cleaning demonstrations as well as loads of brochures and swag!

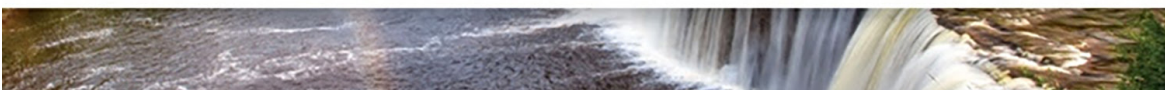


Email bockelm4@msu.edu to schedule today!

**CLEAN BOATS
CLEAN WATERS**



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Cleanups and checkups: How MiCorps volunteers protect Michigan waters

June 09, 2026

Media Contact:

Tamara Lipsey

Aquatic Biologist

LipseyT@Michigan.gov

517-342-4372

Every time Michiganders protect water quality, support its sustainable use, or engage in local opportunities to steward our Great Lakes ecosystem (like community events to remove trash from rivers) we support the ability to cast a fishing line into a healthy lake, paddle a pristine stream, or sit on a clean beach to watch waves roll in.

In other words, Protecting the Great Lakes Sustains Us – the theme of this year's [Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week](#), continuing through Sunday, June 14.



Volunteers from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council identify aquatic organisms at a MiCorps stream monitoring event. Credit: Tip of the Mitt.

Protecting our lakes includes the work of [Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\) Program](#) volunteers who give their time to ensure water ecosystems will be cherished for generations to come.

MiCorps advances water stewardship and protects Michigan's natural environments by funding stream cleanups, providing essential scientific data for lake monitoring and stream monitoring, and awarding grants to local governments and nonprofits.

MiCorps has a long history. In 1974, the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR) invited volunteers to collect water clarity data from their lakes in a program called the Self-Help program. Volunteers also collected water samples to check chlorophyll levels as an indicator of algae abundance in lakes.

In the 1990s, the name was changed to the [Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program](#) (CLMP), and additional lake monitoring was added, including measurements of phosphorus. Also in the '90s, the [Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy](#) (EGLE) launched the [Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program](#) (VSMP) to engage local organizations in monitoring the health of creeks and streams statewide. In 1998, the [Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program](#) (VSCP) began, using [Water Quality specialty vehicle license plate funds](#) to provide grants to local governments to remove trash from Michigan's rivers and streams.

In 2004, these volunteer programs became known collectively as MiCorps, created by then-Governor Jennifer Granholm to highlight volunteers' contributions to water quality in Michigan. In 2024, the CLMP celebrated its 50th anniversary and in 2025 achieved a new record with 337 lakes enrolled. MiCorps is sponsored by EGLE and administered in partnership with [Michigan State University Extension](#), the [Michigan Lakes and Streams Association](#), and the [Huron River Watershed Council](#).

Since the program began in '74, 1,072 lakes have been monitored, contributing to one of the nation's richest long-term lake datasets. Since 2021, MiCorps volunteers have cleaned up 297 miles of streams.

This year, MiCorps [awarded a total of \\$99,965 through 20 grants](#) to fund projects for eight local governments and 16 governmental or conservation organizations as part of the VSMP and VSCP. Included in the awards were eight stream cleanup grants to remove trash from local rivers and streams, two startup grants to support the development of local monitoring programs, three implementation grants to fund the first two years of monitoring, and seven maintenance grants for those with existing programs to upkeep their equipment and projects.

Today, any Michigander can get involved with monitoring, sampling, and cleanups.

The VSMP helps monitor stream habitat and organisms such as insects, crayfish and other organisms every fall and spring. Nearly [30 VSMP groups](#) across the state have more than

1,000 volunteers annually. Both the VSMP and CLMP make their data available on the [MiCorps Data Exchange](#). Local watershed organizations and municipalities use these data to make informed decisions about land use and watershed protection.

The CLMP collects scientific data on lakes throughout Michigan. The program trains volunteers on best practices in lake monitoring, identifies monitoring needs for surface waters, and supports how to best protect ecosystems.

The thousands of trained MiCorps volunteers are vital in protecting Michigan's waterways. Once the volunteers collect the data and enter it into the database, EGLE can use the data to determine water quality conditions over time in Michigan lakes using water clarity, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll measurements.

Using temperature and dissolved oxygen data collected by MiCorps volunteers from 2024-26, EGLE identified [34 coldwater lakes](#) as not having the conditions needed to support healthy coldwater fish communities. Information like this can be used to make land and water management decisions on how to better protect and restore these water bodies.

About Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week

EGLE's [Office of the Great Lakes](#), the DNR, and the [Southeast Michigan Council of Governments](#) partner on the annual dedication focused on fostering community connections and [improving stewardship](#), strengthening Michigan's water-centered blue economy, and furthering lakes-based education. Governor Gretchen Whitmer dedicated the week, June 6-14, 2026, [in a proclamation](#).



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.

TO BECOME AN MWA MI HEALTHY LAKES CHAMPION

[CLICK HERE](#)



Photo by Scott Brown

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.

[View Michigan's invasive species watch list](#)

Use the Invasive Species Watch List Viewer to find out where watch list invasive species have been confirmed in Michigan and where they have been successfully eradicated.

[Use the Invasive Species Watch List Viewer](#)



Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership

Events Listing

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

June 17, 2:00 PM: [Starry Trek: Mobilizing volunteers for early detection of aquatic invasive species](#). Presented by Megan Weber, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center/University of Minnesota Extension. Host: North American Invasive Species Management Association.

July 8, 2:00 PM: [Genomic surveillance of zebra mussel populations using genotyping by sequencing](#). Presented by Daryl Gohl, University of Minnesota. Host: University of Minnesota AIS Detectors.

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

September 9, 2:00 PM: [Restoring our underwater forests: Can native revegetation enhance invasive resistance in lakes?](#) Presented by Abha Panda, University of Minnesota. Host: University of Minnesota AIS Detectors.

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.

You may also wish to explore these websites for additional events, recordings of past events, and more:

[Michigan Inland Lakes Convention presentation recordings](#)

[Michigan Lakes and Streams Association](#)

[Michigan State University Extension Center for Lakes and Streams](#)

[Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#)

[North American Lake Management Society](#)

To have your live webinar or virtual event included here, [contact us](#).

Michigan Invasive
Species Program





Photo by Scott Brown

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'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](#)





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.



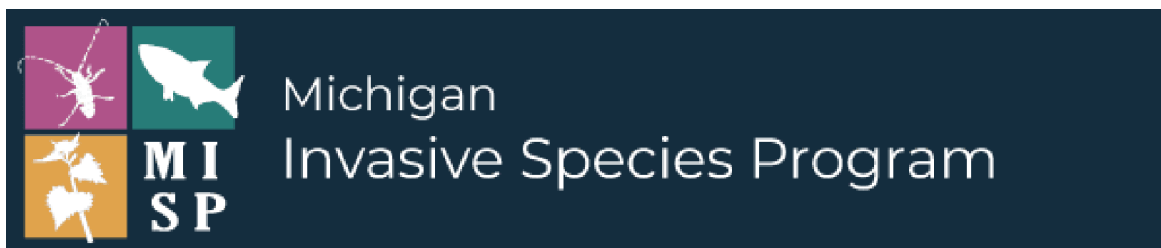
What We Would Like Readers of this Newsletter to Know about Michigan Waterfront Alliance

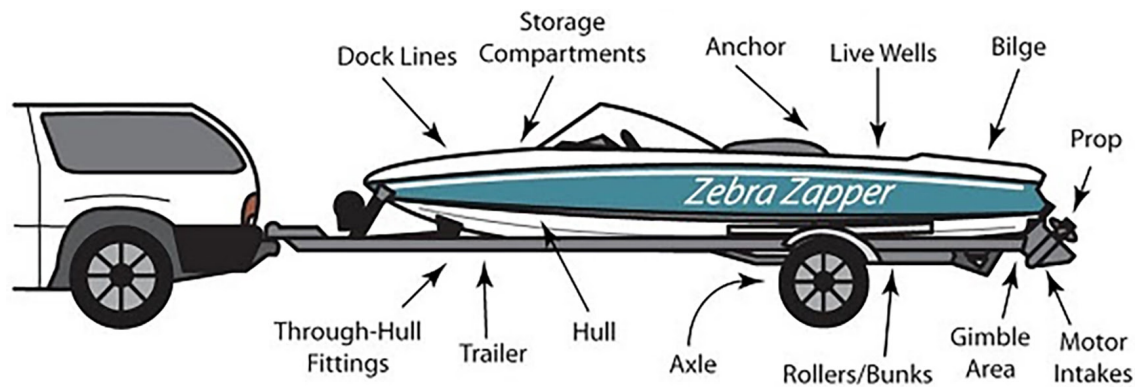
Our Mission:

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.

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.

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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.