
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Tuesday, September 15, 2026

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Tuesday, September 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.



Wake Boat Challenge

by Jason Broekstra, Aquatic Biologist

MWA Board Member

On Wednesday, July 15th Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) participated in a Zoom meeting with Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA), several divisions of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (including Fisheries and Law Enforcement), and representatives from Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA). The shared goal was encouraging: to work toward a consistent voice and provide educational resources for current and future wake boat owners. During the meeting, DNR Fisheries introduced an interactive GIS map that includes lakes across Michigan. With a simple click, residents can identify inland lakes that are better suited for wake boat use. Based on the growing body of knowledge derived from scientific research, the map incorporates recommendations to operate wake boats in surfing mode at least 500 feet from shore and in water deeper than 20 feet. This gives boaters a practical way to understand where wake surfing can be enjoyed while helping to protect sensitive shorelines, aquatic habitat, and lake ecosystems. The map also includes Michigan's existing 100-foot no-wake law, reinforcing safe and responsible boating practices. It seemed like an outstanding educational tool, one that could benefit both boaters and our lakes.

As lake stewards, we all share a responsibility to make decisions that protect the long-term health of our lakes. Healthy lakes support thriving ecosystems, provide outstanding recreational opportunities, and ultimately help preserve lakefront property values and local economies. In many ways, those priorities build upon one another: first we care for the resource itself, then we enjoy everything it has to offer, and robust economic benefits naturally follow. Protecting our lakes is an investment that benefits everyone.

Organizations naturally bring different perspectives to the conversation. The Michigan Boating Industries Association plays an important role in supporting the boating industry, while organizations like MWA, MLSA, and the DNR are focused on ensuring Michigan's lakes remain healthy for generations to come. These goals do not have to compete. By providing clear, science-based guidance to current and prospective wake boat owners, we can support responsible recreation while preserving the lakes that make boating possible in the first place.

Most of us expect thoughtful discussion and differing viewpoints as legislation moves through the process. However, it becomes more concerning when those discussions have the potential to limit the DNR Fisheries Division's ability to provide objective, science-based educational information to

the public. Education gives boaters the tools they need to make informed, responsible decisions and remains one of the most effective ways to protect Michigan's lakes while still enjoying them. MBIA has expressed support for a 200-foot setback without consideration of water depth. However, the growing body of research continues to demonstrate that both distance from shore and water depth are important factors in reducing the impacts of wake-enhanced waves.

If our goal is to protect Michigan's lakes while ensuring they remain places where people can boat, fish, swim, and recreate for generations to come, then our educational resources and future decisions should reflect the best science available. By providing clear, science-based guidance, we can help boaters make informed choices that benefit both recreation and the long-term health of our lakes.

The logo is set against a dark green rectangular background. On the left, the words "MICHIGAN STATE" are stacked above "UNIVERSITY" in a white, all-caps, serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned between "MICHIGAN STATE" and "UNIVERSITY". To the right of this text is a vertical white line. Further to the right, the word "Extension" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below "Extension", the words "Center for Lakes and Streams" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | **Extension**
Center for Lakes and Streams



Late summer is a great time to take a closer look at what's growing in Michigan lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

Michigan State University Extension has created a series of illustrated aquatic plant identification cards to help people tell the difference between invasive aquatic plants and similar native species. Each card highlights key features to look for and includes information on how to report a suspected invasive species.

The series includes common aquatic plant look-alikes such as Eurasian watermilfoil and native watermilfoils, curly-leaf pondweed and native pondweeds, hydrilla and common

waterweed, starry stonewort and muskgrass, European frog-bit and white water lily, and water lettuce and water hyacinth.

Learning what to look for is an important part of slowing the spread of aquatic invasive plants in Michigan waters. Organizations can also request packs of the cards for distribution while supplies are available.

Read the full article with link to cards here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/is-this-aquatic-plant-invasive>



Photo by Scott Brown

**To download a copy of MWA's Summer
2026 Newsletter, [click here](#)**



A young muskellunge is shown at the Thompson State Fish Hatchery in Schoolcraft County.

Showcasing the DNR: Why didn't you stock my lake?

On the benefits of natural reproduction and unstocked waters

By **TIM CWALINSKI**, Northern Lake Huron unit manager and **MARCEE WARDELL**, communications specialist, **Fisheries Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

When an angler finds out that you work for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, one of their first questions is usually “Why don’t you stock?”

It seems like a simple question, but there is a lot that goes into the decision to stock or not to stock a lake or stream.

Things like the existing fish community, habitat suitability, water temperature and quality and cost of rearing fish, and their availability have to be accounted for, among many other considerations.

Plus, stocking is only one of the tools that DNR fisheries managers have at their disposal to enhance fisheries and protect ecosystems. Fishing regulations, habitat improvement and invasive species control are also essential for maintaining healthy fisheries and waters.

So, why wasn’t your favorite fishing hole stocked?

Let’s dive into some of the reasons.

Strong natural reproduction

Most of the fish caught in Michigan are not stocked, including panfish, smallmouth and largemouth bass, northern pike and many inland trout. Bluegill, the most popular species for recreational anglers, is not stocked or raised by the DNR.

Why? There’s no need.

Bluegill and other fish in the centrarchid (sunfish) family reproduce prolifically on their own, naturally. Rather than producing and stocking more of these fish unnecessarily, their populations are managed through fishing regulations. The same goes for bass, such as smallmouth bass in Lake St. Clair.

The population there is thriving entirely through natural reproduction, despite disruption from invasive species. The Detroit River and Lake Erie, which are connected to Lake St. Clair, are considered the “walleye capital of the world,” and there is no stocking of walleye in these systems.

These fish reproducing in the wild have ebbs and flows in their populations – some years their populations are higher, some lower. This is natural and expected, based on factors in the environment, and it’s not something that fisheries managers need to offset by fish stocking.

In many cases, fish are stocked with the goal of establishing a population that can reproduce naturally, so that stocking becomes unnecessary.

A naturally reproducing population that can sustain harvest is a mark of a functioning and intact ecosystem.

An example of this is walleye in Saginaw Bay. Walleye in the bay declined in the 1940s, due to unrestrained fishing and declines in water quality and habitat.

The DNR stocked walleye to maintain the population at a relatively low level, and when the population recovered in the early 2000s (after the collapse of alewife), stocking was discontinued.

Today, the population is fully self-sustaining with natural reproduction. There is no need for stocking, and the fishery is considered to be world-class.

Survival

Naturally reproducing fish maintain better survival rates than stocked fish, for several reasons. That doesn’t mean that stocked fish can’t survive well, but it does mean that the decision to stock shouldn’t be taken lightly if it’s going to be successful in adding mature adult fish to a body of water.

The process of transport from a hatchery to a new body of water can stress fish, and the change in water conditions when they're stocked in a natural body of water can also cause stress.

The hatchery environment has no predators, so stocked fish will face new challenges to their survival as they grow to full size in their new home.

Naturally reproducing fish also have some genetic advantages over stocked fish.

Hatchery-raised fish come from a limited number of parents and so have less genetic diversity than fish spawned in the wild. Genetic diversity is valuable, as it can increase the prevalence of helpful adaptations and reduce the occurrence of less advantageous traits, as well as improve resistance to disease.

Reproductive selection is complex, and the best outcomes often occur when fish are able to choose their own mates and survival is defined by the environment, instead of artificial selection by humans.

Cost

Stocking fish is a costly endeavor.

It requires hatcheries with heavy equipment for bringing in water, collecting broodstock, collecting eggs and milt, keeping water temperature, dissolved oxygen and other conditions right for the species being raised, and maintaining power during outages.

Skilled staff are needed to operate and maintain this equipment, drive stocking trucks, collect eggs and milt, test for and treat disease, and feed the fish.

Fish food is also a significant expense when rearing fish.

Just like grocery costs have been rising, fish food costs have been going up. Feed costs have increased by more than 70% over the last 10 years. The DNR Fisheries

Division spends 31% of its annual budget on fish rearing and stocking. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, that cost totaled over \$11 million.

The DNR has only six state fish hatcheries, along with some outdoor rearing pond facilities. With this limited infrastructure for rearing fish, the hatchery system is only able to produce coldwater and coolwater species, including trout, salmon and a limited amount of walleye and muskellunge.

DNR fisheries managers have standing stocking requests for several species, including steelhead, coho salmon, walleye and muskie, that extend beyond production capacity.

The DNR is unable, given budgetary and facility limitations, to produce as many of these fish as the agency would like to stock. Warmwater species like panfish and bass, which reproduce well in the wild, aren't raised in state fish hatcheries.

Plus, Michigan has a lot of fresh water: nearly 11,000 inland lakes, 56,000 miles of rivers and streams and 3,300 miles of Great Lakes coastline.

It's not feasible financially to stock so many lakes and streams, and many of these waters are also not suitable for stocking, whether that's because of the water temperature, habitat or other environmental conditions.

Stocking fish in these waters might seem desirable to create a new fishing spot, but if the stocked fish can't survive, it isn't worth the cost.

It's also important that stocked fish produce a fishery, and not just incidental catches of stocked fish.

If conditions aren't right to sustain a fishery, stocking may not make financial sense. Just like with purchases in daily life, one needs to consider the cost-benefit ratio of stocking decisions.

In the past, it was not uncommon to transfer some adult fish from one well-established population to another body of water to create a new population and expand fishing

opportunities.

However, this management tool is now rarely used, due to the risk of spreading fish diseases and unintentionally introducing invasive species.

Habitat and water conditions

Habitat is the driving force for fish.

Each species has its own set of conditions in which it can live and thrive.

Each lake or stream has a natural carrying capacity for fish, and the naturally reproducing species that live and breed there typically fill that carrying capacity to the maximum.

Like humans, fish need oxygen to live.

They “breathe” by bringing water into their mouths and pumping it through their gills, which take in oxygen.

If there’s not enough dissolved oxygen in the water at different times of year, which can be caused by high temperatures, ice and snow cover or pollution, fish can’t survive. Different species need different amounts of dissolved oxygen.

Warmwater fish like bass and panfish prefer warmer waters, like shallow ponds and lakes, while trout and salmon require cooler water temperatures, such as in streams and rivers in the northern part of the state.

An impoundment (basin) created by a dam, for example, will have warm water.

Even if cool water species brook trout are stocked there, they’re unlikely to survive, let alone create a robust fishery.

Fish also need the proper habitat for spawning, as well as protected areas for young fry to hide from predators or rest, away from strong currents.

Fish spawn in a variety of locations, from sandy lake bottoms to clean riverbed gravel, submerged vegetation or even rocky reefs in the Great Lakes.

Each species has its own unique needs. If fish don't have access to the right kind of spawning habitat because they've been stocked in a body of water that doesn't have it, they won't have much success reproducing.

Fish community

Fisheries managers need to balance the desires of anglers with the requirements of ecosystems. In some waters, stocked fish will compete with the wild fish already present. This is an outcome that fisheries managers seek to avoid, whenever possible.

In some cases, stocking fish in a lake isn't appropriate because of the effects it will have on the existing fish or other aquatic animal or plant populations.

While it can be disappointing for anglers or lake residents, often the best management action is not to stock.

When this is the outcome, fisheries managers can explain to interested parties the underlying impacts, tradeoffs or limitations behind it.

Private property

The DNR manages Michigan's public waters, but some bodies of water in Michigan are privately owned. The private property owners are responsible for maintaining these ponds and lakes.

As long as the body of water is not permanently connected to any other and does not have public access, the owner can stock it with fish at their discretion (within the boundaries of the law), but the DNR can't.

If you're unsure whether the lake or pond that you'd like to stock is publicly or privately owned and whether a permit is required for stocking, contact your local fisheries

biologist for assistance.

Given all these reasons, it's no surprise that many of Michigan anglers' favorite fishing spots aren't stocked. If you have questions about a specific lake or stream, reach out to the local fisheries biologist, who can speak to the factors at play in stocking decisions for that body of water.

If you want to see where fish have been stocked in our state, check out the [DNR's Fish Stocking Database](#).

You can learn more about fish stocking at [Michigan.gov/DNR/Managing-Resources/Fisheries/Stocking](#).

Check out previous Showcasing the DNR stories at [Michigan.gov/DNRStories](#).



Photo by Scott Brown

Common Name: Bluegill

Scientific Name: *Lepomis macrochirus*



Michigan
Invasive Species Program

News Release

The earlier version of this release included an incorrect link to the 2026 MISGP handbook. The link has been corrected in the body of the story below. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Contact: [Kelsey Dietz](#), [517-388-8473](tel:517-388-8473) or [Joanne Foreman](#), [517-284-5814](tel:517-284-5814)

\$2.4 million in grants available for invasive species projects in Michigan

Proposals accepted through November 1

Michigan's Invasive Species Grant Program is now accepting proposals for the 2026 funding cycle, with an anticipated \$2.4 million available to applicants.

The program – a joint effort of the Michigan departments of Natural Resources; Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Agriculture and Rural Development – is a statewide initiative to help prevent, detect and control invasive species in Michigan.

[Invasive species](#) are those that are not native and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to Michigan's economy, environment or human health.





Photo by Scott Brown

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.

Learn more about the importance of protecting natural shorelines by visiting

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



**SepticSmart Week features free webinar
promoting septic maintenance, public health,**

water conservation and more

September 10, 2026

Media Contact:

MI Environment Team

EGLE-Media-Office@Michigan.gov

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed September 14-18, 2026, as [SepticSmart Week](#). On September 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – in conjunction with federal, state, and local governments and private sector partners – will kick off its eleventh annual SepticSmart Week to encourage American homeowners and communities to properly maintain their [septic systems](#).

More than 1.3 million homes and businesses in Michigan depend on septic systems to treat wastewater. If not maintained, failing septic systems can contaminate groundwater and harm the environment by releasing bacteria, viruses, and household chemicals and other pollutants to local waterways.

The design and size of a septic system can vary widely due to a variety of factors. These factors include household size, soil type, site slope, lot size, proximity to surface water bodies, and local regulations. Conventional septic systems utilize gravity to transport wastewater from the home to a drainfield for treatment, while advanced systems may incorporate pumps, alternative media, and aerobic treatment units to transport and treat wastewater.

A conventional septic system includes a septic tank and a drainfield. Wastewater from household activities flows through the home's plumbing into the septic tank, which is a buried, watertight container typically made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene. Inside the tank, solids settle to the bottom forming sludge, while oils and grease float to the top as scum. The tank's design prevents these solids from entering the drainfield.

The liquid wastewater, or effluent, exits the tank into the drainfield – a shallow, covered excavation in unsaturated soil. Here, the effluent is discharged through piping onto porous surfaces, allowing it to filter through the soil. This process naturally removes harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients as the wastewater percolates into the ground, ultimately reaching the groundwater. Proper septic system maintenance protects public health, the environment, and saves the homeowner money through avoided costly repairs.

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity of the system and protects the environment and public health. Here are key steps to keep your system functioning effectively:

- Regular inspection and pumping. The EPA recommends having a professional inspect your septic system every three years and having the tank pumped as necessary, typically every three to five years.
- Efficient water use. The practice of efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure. High-efficiency toilets, faucet aerators, and showerheads can help reduce the volume of water entering the septic system. Reducing the water load can prevent the system from becoming overburdened and ensure that it remains functional.
- Proper waste disposal. The septic system can be seriously impacted by what goes down the drain. Avoid flushing anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush or dispose of these items in your drain:
 - Cooking grease or oil
 - Non-flushable or “flushable” wipe (None of them are flushable.)
 - Photographic solutions
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Condoms
 - Dental floss
 - Diapers
 - Cigarette butts
 - Coffee grounds
 - Household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, or paint thinners

- Maintain your drain field. The drain field is a crucial component of your septic system. Keep the area clear of parked cars or heavy equipment. Plant trees an appropriate distance from your drain field to prevent roots from growing into your septic system. Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from the drain field area as excess water slows down the wastewater treatment process.

Join the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in spreading the SepticSmart Week 2026 message that encourages homeowners and wastewater professionals to maintain septic systems to promote public health, water conservation, and economic wellbeing. Be part of the solution by visiting the [EGLE SepticSmart webpage](#) or the [EPA septic website](#) for an abundance of resources, videos, and information.

Michigan's Septic Replacement Loan Program

Michigan homeowners have access to loans that fund the replacement of failed septic systems. EGLE has contracted with third party, non-profit green bank lender, Michigan Saves, to design and manage the program. The Septic Replacement Loan Program (SRLP) is divided into two tiers, with both income-based financing (Tier 1) and a market-based loan (Tier 2). Systems supported by the SRLP must be evaluated, designed, and installed in accordance with EGLE's Program Minimum Standards, and must be installed by a Michigan Saves authorized contractor. Both Tier 1 and Tier 2 loans are now available to homeowners.

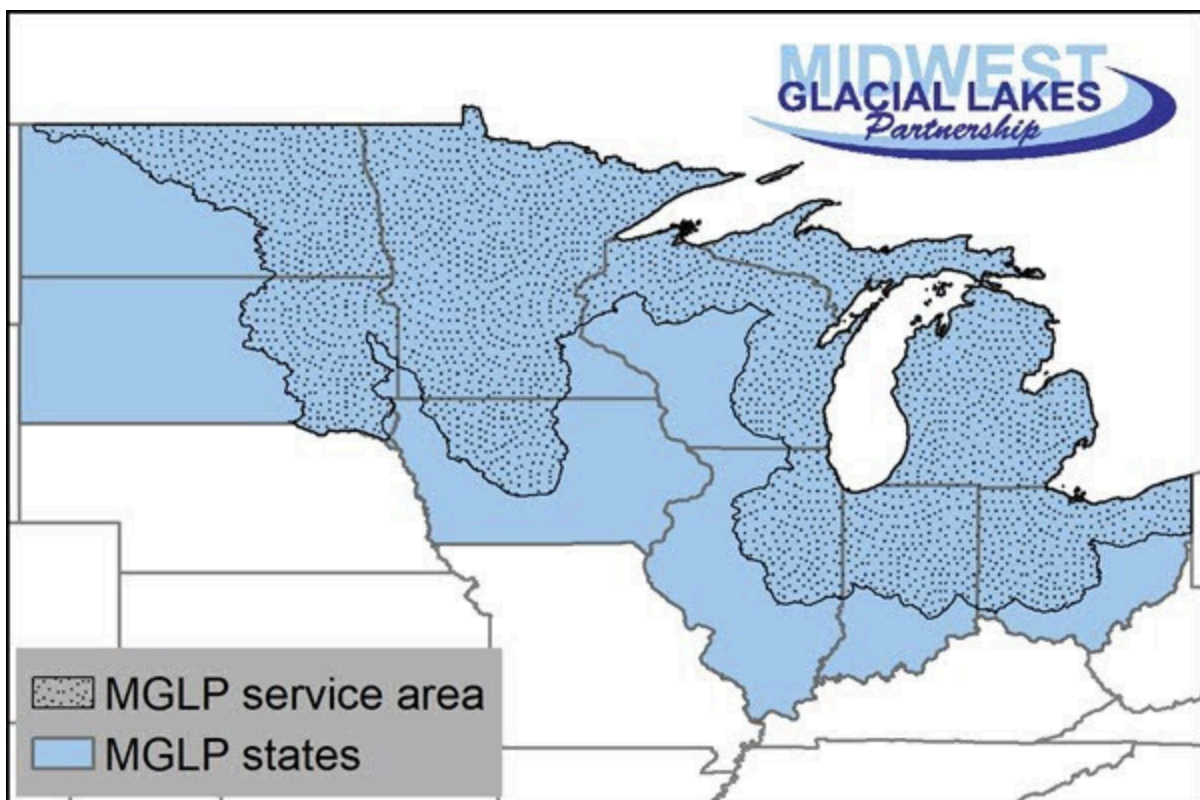
Since the program started two and a half years ago, more than 475 septic systems have been successfully permitted, installed, and funded across Michigan. That represents more than \$8 million invested in replacing failing septic systems and an estimated 60 million gallons of wastewater each year that is now being properly treated before entering the environment.

Visit the [Septic Replacement Loan Program webpage](#) or the [Michigan Saves website](#) for more information on the program.

Free Webinar for Homeowners to Kick Off SepticSmart Week

Finally, EGLE's Onsite Wastewater Management Unit is encouraging homeowners to attend the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) SepticSmart training. Dr. Sara Heger

will be presenting a free webinar on September 14 at 3 p.m. (EDT) to celebrate the start of SepticSmart Week. This [webinar](#) features information about how septic systems work and tips for proper use and maintenance.



Request for proposals: 2027 Lake Conservation Grant

We are seeking project proposals for funding from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) [2027 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 (see figure). Nine Midwestern states, numerous federal agencies, tribal governments, and private natural resource entities have been integral partners in the development and operation of the MGLP.

We support conservation projects that work toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the [MGLP Strategic Plan](#). Projects should benefit glacial lake fish habitats, which include 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 \$300,000 expected for distribution. Previous projects have been successfully implemented because the contributions and capabilities of many partners have enabled accomplishment of project goals that none of the partnering entities could complete on their own. More details on past projects can be found by searching for Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership projects on the [National Fish Habitat Partnership's Project Dashboard](#).

Projects considered for funding **must** align with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and can range in scale from single-site projects to multiple sites to entire glacial lake 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.

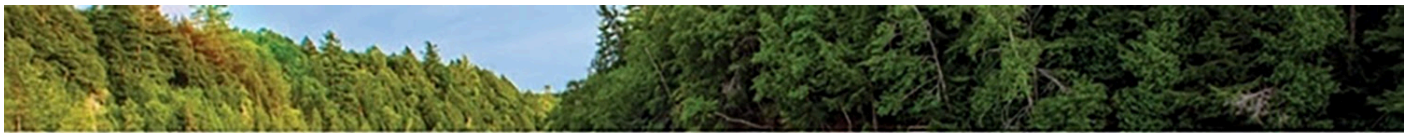
In addition to conducting independent outreach and/or education, successful applicants will be expected to work with the MGLP to coordinate media and public outreach to raise the profile of MGLP-funded projects.

The MGLP Lake Conservation Grant allocates federal funding provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in support of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Successful grant applicants identified by the MGLP will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement grant agreements in accordance with relevant federal financial and administrative rules.

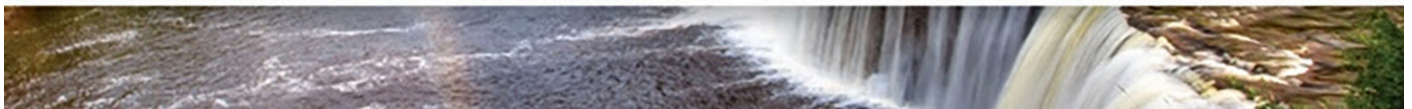
If you have a lake conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and need financial assistance, we encourage you to submit a proposal for project funding. Application materials can be requested by emailing Joe Nohner at nohnerj@michigan.gov. To learn more about this grant, tune in to the MGLP Lake Conservation Webinar discussing the Lake Conservation Grant, held on September 8th from 1-2 PM Central. Register for the webinar on the MGLP's [Lake Conservation Webinar](#) page. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Nohner by email or by calling 517-599-6825.



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).



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



Michigan
PFAS
Awareness
Week **2026**

From Ypsilanti to Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo to Traverse City, events will shine a spotlight on ‘forever chemicals’ during PFAS Awareness Week

September 08, 2026

Media Contact:

MI Environment Team

EGLE-Media-Office@Michigan.gov

517-284-9278

As part of the first-ever [PFAS Awareness Week](#) (Sept. 21 to Sept. 25), the [Michigan PFAS Action Response Team](#) (MPART) and the Citizens Advisory Workgroup members are hosting a variety of events around the state and online to highlight the state’s leadership in addressing this class of chemical contaminants and urging the public to follow the recommendations in [Governor Whitmer’s proclamation](#).

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that were first used in the 1940s for industry and manufacturing, are linked to harmful human health effects, and have been found in Michigan’s water, soil, air, fish, wildlife, and people.

In her proclamation, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Michiganders are urged to take steps to reduce their exposure to PFAS through actions such as **sampling their private well to see if it is affected by PFAS, checking the Eat Safe Fish guides, avoiding foam on surface water and reducing the use of consumer products that can contain PFAS.**

Fifteen events – including three webinars – are being held around the state as part of PFAS Awareness Week. Many of these events are being hosted by non-profit organizations such as: Huron River Watershed Council, Great Lakes PFAS Action Network, Ecology Center, Muskegon County PFAS Taskforce, and several colleges and universities. Join one near you or participate online.

[Click here](#)

to find out about upcoming [PFAS Awareness Events](#)



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

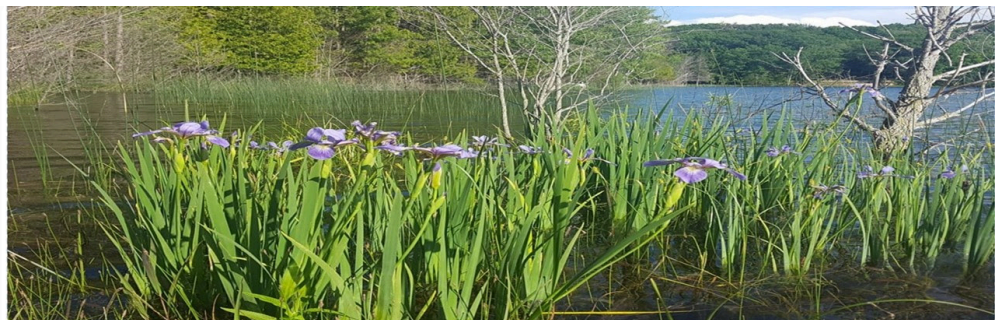
Please don't count on others to support the only organization in Michigan that is completely dedicated to voicing your legitimate concerns to our state legislators in Lansing.

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](#)



[Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership](#)

Events Listing

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

September 16, 11:00 AM: [Growing aquaculture in the Great Lakes: Aligning regional action with national trends](#). Presented by Lauren Stigers, Michigan Sea Grant. Host: Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR).

September 22, 2:00 PM: [Lake Conservation Planner 2.0: Getting the most out of the MGLP's totally revised lake planning tool.](#) Presented by Joe Nohner and Austin Bartos, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

NEW September 28, Noon: [Water connections: Data & stewardship.](#) Host: Watersheds Canada.

October 6-8: [Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference](#) (*in-person conference with an online attendance option*). \$

October 7-8: 2026 [Great Lakes Microplastics Summit.](#) Host: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

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 21, 9:00 AM: [How'd that get there? The invasive species regulation process in Michigan.](#) Presented by Susie Iott, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and Katie Grzesiak, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.

NEW October 21, 1:00 PM: [Water-wise gardening.](#) Presented by Lorraine Johnson. Host: Watersheds Canada.

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, 9:00 AM: [Where did you come from, where did you go? Standardizing boater data in the Great Lakes region.](#) Presented by Theresa Gruninger and Taaja Tucker-Silva, Great Lakes Commission. Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.

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](#).



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** streamlines 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.

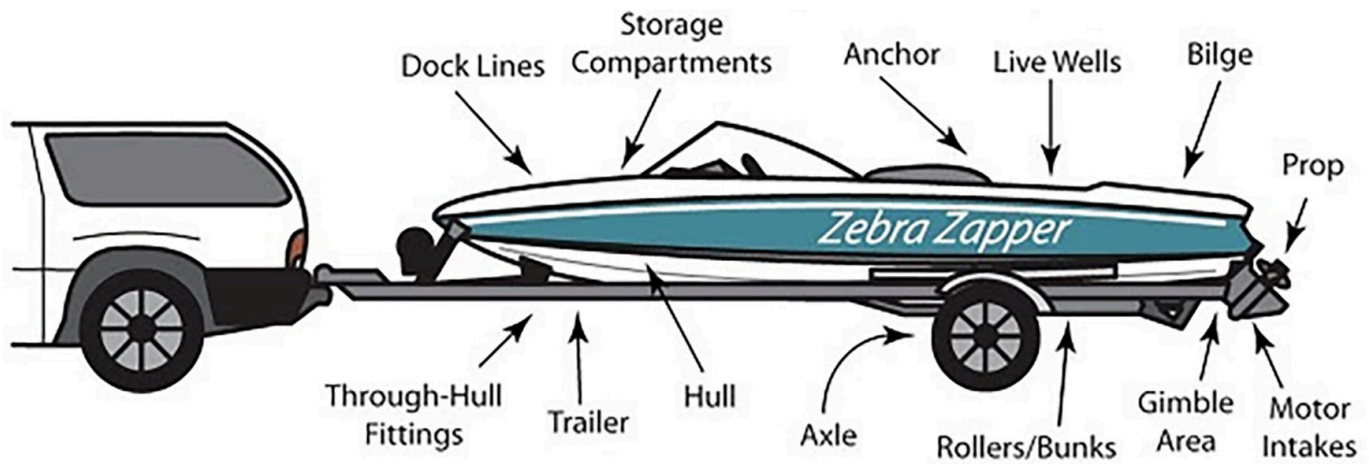
- Michigan Waterfront Alliance is one of just a few non-profit organizations that is permitted by law to influence our state's legislative process in regards to the enactment of state laws, regulations, or policies whose implementation and enforcement ultimately have a direct impact on Michigan's vast 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!!!**



Michigan Invasive Species Program



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.

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.

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

