
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Update for Tuesday, September 1, 2026

1 message



Photo by Scott Brown

Welcome to the Michigan Waterfront Alliance

Update for Tuesday, September 1, 2026



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

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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.



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Great Lakes Groups Call for Construction to Restart on Invasive Carp Barrier

August 26, 2026

The [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#), the [Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition](#), and other Great Lakes organizations are urgently calling for construction to resume on the [Brandon Road Inter-basin Project](#), a critical set of barriers and deterrents to stop damaging invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes via a chokepoint in the Illinois River. The [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) recently halted construction on the project without warning. No reason has been given for the stoppage, despite repeated information requests from the bipartisan [Congressional Great Lakes Task Force](#), state agencies in Illinois and Michigan, and various Great Lakes organizations.

At the same time, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources recently announced the presence of juvenile invasive carp a mere 80 miles from Lake Michigan, closer than

they have ever been found. Their finding underscores the necessity of the Brandon Road Inter-basin Project, which aims to stop the advancement of invasive carp into the Great Lakes, protecting the region's \$5.1 billion fishing industry and \$16 billion recreational boating industry.

The Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, and organizations from across the region, urgently call upon the Army Corps of Engineers to restart this crucial work for the preservation of the Great Lakes and the 30 million people who rely on them.

“The combination of juvenile invasive carp being found this far upriver and the stop work order have set off alarm bells across the Great Lakes region. We have a decade of bipartisan Congressional and state support behind this project, and construction crews are ready to go. The White House and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers need to let them get to work to protect our vital \$5.1 billion fishing and \$16 billion recreational boating industries – and the lakes we all love.” **Joel Brammeier, President and CEO, Alliance for the Great Lakes**

“Invasive carp are a clear and present danger to the Great Lakes environment and economy. These invasive fish have already wreaked havoc up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, upending the ecosystem and harming local economies. The Army Corps must restart construction on Brandon Road to address this national problem before invasive carp take hold in the Great Lakes, too.” **Laura Rubin, Director, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition**

“The Great Lakes ecosystem is already under immense stress from invasive species. Invasive carp could pose an even greater threat to the native fish populations that sustain our commercial and sports fisheries. Now that carp have been detected closer to the Great Lakes watershed than ever, there is no time to waste. The Brandon Road Interbasin Project is our best line of defense, and construction cannot afford delay.” **Sara Walling, Water and Agriculture Program Director, Clean Wisconsin**

"The Army Corps of Engineers must immediately get back to work implementing the vital Brandon Road project to reduce the risk of invasive carp entering the Great Lakes. This project is even more urgent with silver carp being found closer to Lake Michigan than ever before. The Great Lakes is a global gem. This long-planned Brandon Road project is necessary to reduce the threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem, which supplies safe clean drinking water to 42 million people, provides vital biodiversity, and supports a multibillion dollar fishing and recreational boating industry." **Howard Learner, CEO, Environmental Law & Policy Center**

"The Brandon Road project represents years of bipartisan collaboration and a critical shared investment in the future of our waterways, communities, and economy. Invasive carp could fundamentally disrupt the Great Lakes ecosystem, threatening native wildlife, water quality, and the communities and industries that depend on these waters. We cannot afford to let unexplained delays put that investment, and the Great Lakes themselves, at risk. The Army Corps should resume construction immediately and ensure this critical line of defense is completed before invasive carp get any closer." **Jen Walling, CEO, Illinois Environmental Council**

"For the Trump Administration to suddenly halt work with no explanation on a project that is vital to protecting the world's largest freshwater ecosystem is simply unconscionable. Every year invasive carp get closer to establishing a foothold in the Great Lakes and wrecking untold and permanent damage on this fragile, critical water resource. We urge the Trump administration to restart work on the Brandon Road Project with all due haste and to stop playing games with the protection of the Great Lakes." **Charlotte Jameson, Chief Policy Officer, Michigan Environmental Council**

"Finding hundreds of invasive carp just 80 miles from Lake Michigan is a serious warning that we cannot afford to ignore. With the threat moving closer and work at Brandon Road halted, there is no time to lose. The Army Corps should restart construction and keep moving forward on this critical protection for the Great

Lakes.” **Bentley Johnson, Federal Government Affairs Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters**

“The time is now to prevent the spawning invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes. Minnesota is proud to be a Great Lakes state. But we have seen the damage invasive species, from the sea lamprey to the zebra mussel, have caused to Lake Superior. The Minnesota Environmental Partnership has closely followed the spread of Asian carp as they further threaten our fisheries. We stand with our Great Lakes colleagues in calling upon the White House to ensure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lift the stop work order on the Brandon Road project to allow construction teams to immediately get back to work.” **Steve Morse, Executive Director, Minnesota Environmental Partnership**

“The discovery of several hundred silver carp just 80 miles from Lake Michigan should be a wake-up call for all of us: this is no longer a distant or hypothetical threat—it is a clear and present danger to the Great Lakes. For years, we have worked to keep invasive carp from reaching the Great Lakes, and the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project has been a critical part of that defense. The recent decision to halt work on the project puts that protection at risk and leaves us exposed at precisely the moment we should be strengthening our defenses. We cannot afford to wait until invasive carp are at the doorstep of the Great Lakes. The time to act and to protect the Great Lakes is now.” **Marc Smith, Director, Conservation Partnerships, National Wildlife Federation**

“Invasive Carp don’t care about petty politics, and they won’t stop trying to enter the Great Lakes. We cannot allow the Brandon Road Interbasin Project to be delayed. The health of the entire Great Lakes relies on this vital project, which is why Congress continues to fund it on a bipartisan basis. We urge the Administration to continue construction immediately.” **Spencer Dirrig, Vice President of Government Affairs, Ohio Environmental Council**

“Invasive carp compete with native species and pose a threat to the entire Indiana Dunes region. Unfortunately, they outcompete native fish species for food and habitat and can alter water quality. Protecting the Indiana Dunes by completing the Brandon Road project will reduce the risk of them entering the region and is essential to preserving local recreation, tourism, and healthy ecosystems that make Indiana Dunes National Park such a unique and valuable natural resource in the Midwest.” **Harshini Ratnayaka, Manager of Government Affairs and Policy, Save the Dunes**

“Once an invasive species is introduced – the environment it breaches is never the same. We have years of evidence that non-native species forever alter the food web, outcompete native species and risk the overall safety and stability of the waterways we all rely on for our way of life. We also know from experience that it costs far more to try and clean up the repercussions of invasive species than it does to invest in proactive protections. As we see reports of invasive carp moving closer to the Great Lakes, we need to use every available tool to prevent their introduction and safeguard the ecological integrity of this increasingly important freshwater system.” **Brian Gill, Senior Director, Government Affairs & Policy, Shedd Aquarium**

"Every delay in advancing the Brandon Road Project increases the risk that invasive carp could gain access to the Great Lakes, threatening a fishery valued at billions of dollars and ecosystems that support millions of jobs and communities across the region. The science is clear, the partnerships are in place, and the need for action is immediate. We urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to resume work on this critical project without delay and maintain the momentum needed to protect the region's communities, economy, and ecosystem." **Scott Sowa, Great Lakes Program Director, The Nature Conservancy**

“The Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project is not one that can afford delay while the threat it is designed to stop keeps closing the distance to Lake Michigan. We are at a critical juncture in history, a moment when a threat to a precious natural resource is understood, the tools to stop it exist, and the only real question left is whether we will

act with the urgency the moment demands. The Great Lakes hold roughly 20 percent of the world's surface fresh water and support a multibillion-dollar fishery and recreation economy across two countries and dozens of tribal nations. Once invasive carp establish a breeding population in the Great Lakes, there is no removal plan, no clean-up phase, no do-over. Now is the time for us to recognize the challenge for what it is and rise to meet it. If this project continues to be delayed, history will show that we fully understood the danger and let human shortcomings determine the fate of the Great Lakes.” **Abbie Hawley, Director of Community and Government Relations, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council**

“The Great Lakes are a shared resource that connect our communities, economies, and ecosystems, and we have a responsibility to protect them for generations to come. At WMEAC, we’re concerned about the growing threat of invasive carp and the potential impacts their spread could have across the Great Lakes region. The Brandon Road project offers an important opportunity to strengthen protections at a critical point before these fish reach Lake Michigan. We hope to see the project move forward as part of a thoughtful, regional effort to safeguard the health and future of the Great Lakes.” **Deirdre Nieves, Director of Climate Solutions and Justice, West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC)**



The Problem is Real

The loss of natural shorelines is the biggest threat to the overall health of Michigan Lakes.

(National Lakes Assessment)

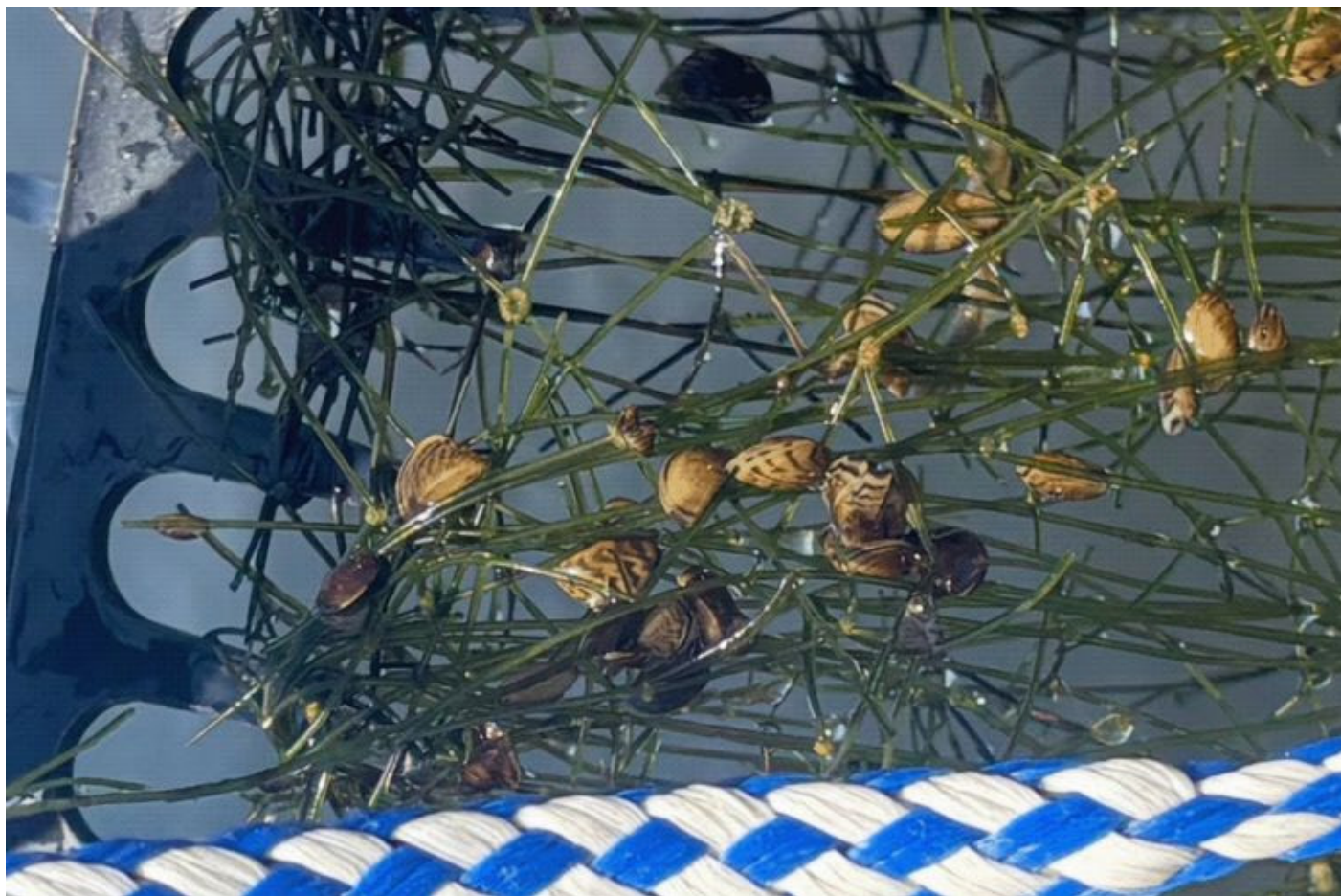
Shoreland development is impacting Michigan's lakes causing issues such as poor water quality, erosion, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat. Taking action on your property now can help reverse these effects and protect the health of your lake.

Learn more about the importance of protecting natural shorelines by visiting

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership

MiCorps

Monitoring Michigan's Water Quality



Zebra mussels attached to starry stonewort documented near Lupton, Michigan, and submitted to the 2026 MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz through iNaturalist.

**Year two of Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Species Detection
Blitz casts a wider net for community science**

August 27, 2026

The 2026 Blitz brought more participants, more observations and more verified aquatic invasive species records

The second annual [2026 Michigan Clean Water Corps \(MiCorps\) Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Detection Blitz](#) brought increased participation and substantially more verified observations in 2026. From June 29 through July 12, participants statewide used the iNaturalist platform to document known or suspected aquatic invasive species in lakes, streams, wetlands, and shorelines.

Aquatic invasive species can dramatically impair Michigan's waterways, affecting native species, habitat, recreation, and other uses. Understanding where these species are present helps resource managers evaluate impacts and target monitoring and management efforts. Community science can play an important role in that work by helping document where AIS are being observed across the state.

A total of 174 people joined the 2026 project, a 74% increase from 2025. Additionally, 97 participants submitted observations, leading to a 137% increase from the first year. After submissions were expertly reviewed and identified, the final 2026 dataset included 284 verified observations of 18 aquatic invasive species from 47 observers.

Compared with 109 verified observations in 2025, that represents a 161% increase in verified AIS observations in the Blitz's second year. The higher total reflects the substantial increase in participation and reporting effort in 2026, rather than a comparable increase in AIS spread from one year to the next. With more people participating and submitting observations, the 2026 Blitz was able to document more AIS during the project period.

Common reed, or phragmites, was the most frequently documented species in 2026, followed by Eurasian watermilfoil. Other observations included purple loosestrife, curly-

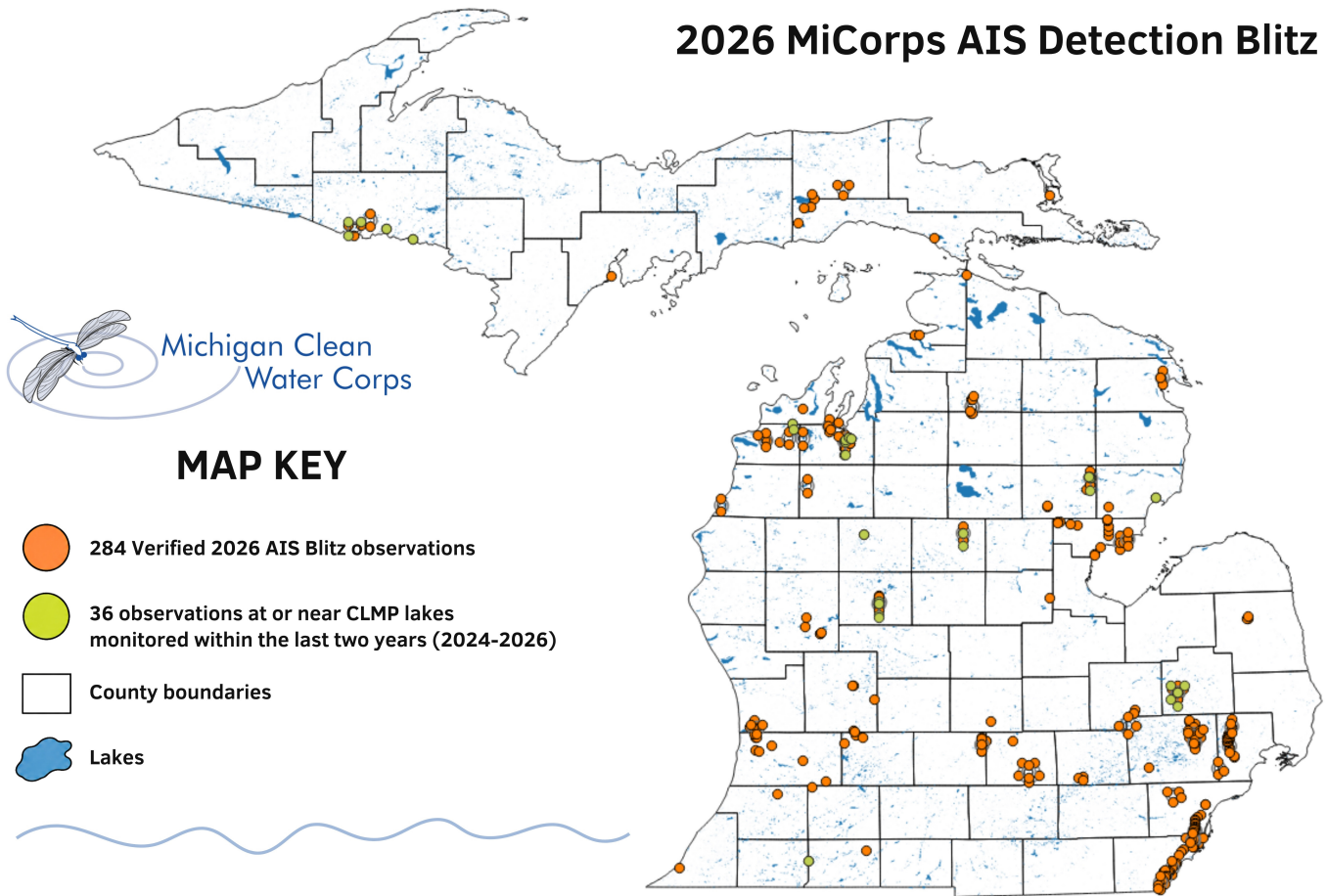
leaf pondweed, zebra mussels, narrow-leaved cattail, European frog-bit, Chinese mystery snails, water forget-me-not, starry stonewort, flowering rush, yellow iris, New Zealand mudsnails, mute swans, common carp, Asian clams, brittle naiad and rusty crayfish.

The geographic distribution of the observations also provided insight into how the Detection Blitz is extending aquatic invasive species reporting beyond locations already involved in long-term MiCorps volunteer lake monitoring through the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP).

To compare the Blitz with that existing monitoring footprint, verified 2026 observations were mapped against lakes with recent CLMP monitoring data. Of the 284 verified Blitz observations, 36 observations, or 12.7%, occurred at or near 13 lakes with recent CLMP monitoring activity. Out of the 13 lakes, 6 of them had participated in the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch within the last two years through CLMP. The remaining 87.3% occurred outside that recent CLMP lake footprint.

This comparison does not indicate whether individual Blitz participants were or were not enrolled in the CLMP. It does show that the locations represented in the Blitz extended well beyond lakes with recent CLMP monitoring data.

2026 MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz



Verified observations from the 2026 MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz were distributed across Michigan. Of the 284 verified observations, 36 occurred at or near lakes monitored through the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program within the last two years (2024–2026). Map created in QGIS.

That broader geographic reach is one of the purposes of an open community science event. Participation in the AIS Detection Blitz does not require enrollment in a MiCorps monitoring program or previous aquatic invasive species experience. Anyone in Michigan could participate using iNaturalist, creating an opportunity to gather observations from places that may not otherwise have regular volunteer monitoring.

For aquatic invasive species, increasing the number of people paying attention can strengthen early detection efforts. Many invasive species are first noticed by people who already spend time near the water. Community science provides a way to document those observations and make them available for identification, mapping, and potential follow-up.

The Detection Blitz can also introduce participants to more structured monitoring opportunities. MiCorps' early detection survey, the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch (EAPW) is a parameter of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program that provides enrolled volunteers with training and support to monitor aquatic invasive plants on a lake of their choice. Volunteers learn about the existing plant community, conduct regular surveys, and look for invasive aquatic plants that may be newly appearing.

The two efforts serve different roles. The AIS Detection Blitz provides a short-term, low-barrier opportunity for anyone to contribute observations from across Michigan. EAPW provides trained volunteers with a consistent approach to monitoring the same lake over time. Participation in an event like the Blitz can be an entry point for people interested in learning more about aquatic plants and becoming involved in longer-term early detection monitoring.

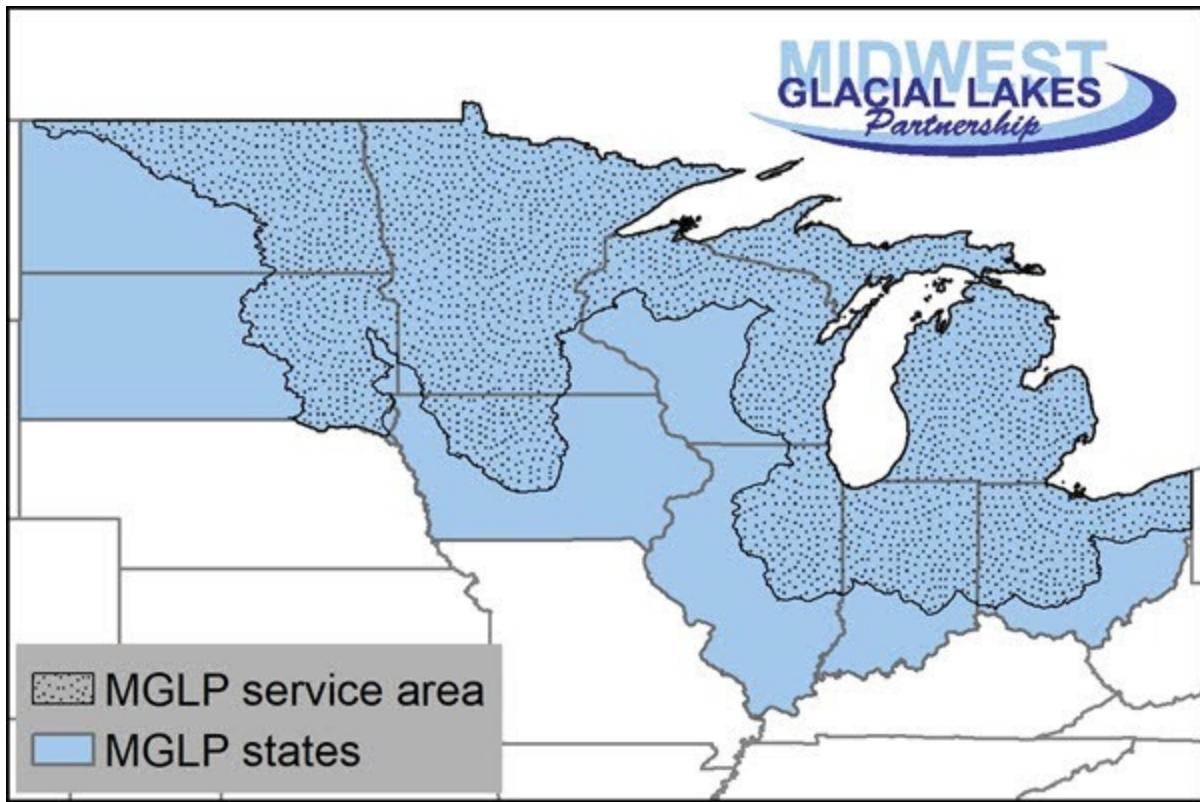
The growth of the Detection Blitz in its second year shows the potential for community science to expand the geographic reach of aquatic invasive species observation while connecting more people with Michigan's volunteer monitoring programs.

Learn more about MiCorps

MiCorps is Michigan's volunteer lake and stream monitoring program, administered by [Michigan State University Extension](#) under the direction of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and in partnership with the Huron River Watershed Council and Michigan Lakes and Streams Association.

Learn more about the MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program and the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch at micorps.net.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <https://extension.msu.edu/experts>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).



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





Aerial view of several lakes in Northern Michigan.

Bring World Lake Day home to Michigan

August 25, 2026

If you need an excuse for a “lake break” to enjoy Michigan waters, no less than the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly is telling you: Go for it.

Thursday, Aug. 27, is [World Lake Day](#), declared by the U.N. and dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and sustainably managing the world’s lakes. Michigan is on board. Gov. Whitmer has also issued a proclamation.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and its Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) are joining communities worldwide in the annual recognition by spotlighting the vital importance of lakes and the crucial role of education in sustaining the world’s freshwater legacy.

The OGL encourages Michiganders to connect with lakes, small or Great, today or anytime. Spend time on or near the water, reflect on or learn about the wonders of our Great Lakes State, and act to protect and steward these vital resources. You can pick up trash or join an organized cleanup, swim or wade, boat or fish, read a book or article, watch a video or webinar, or support organizations advancing research or stewardship. There are countless ways to engage:

- Paddle on [Michigan Water Trails](#), or try [birding](#) or [identifying wildlife](#) in your neighborhood. Learn to identify aquatic invasive species through [MI Paddle Stewards](#). Share photos and reflections on [EGLE's Facebook](#) page or on personal social media accounts using the hashtag #WorldLakeDay. And enjoy your time in nature safely and sustainably by following [tips for responsible recreation](#).
- Join the [Lakes for Life: Global Voices, Local Action webinar](#) from 8-9:30 a.m. Aug. 27, sharing international stories, youth-led action, and science-based solutions. Leaders, experts, educators, and community members including Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist Emily Finnell, head of the OGL, will highlight the importance of lakes in sustaining life, biodiversity, and livelihoods around the world.
- Check out other EGLE webinars like ["People and the Great Lakes: Building connections and local stewardship."](#)
- Looking for a late summer "beach read"? Browse the Library of Michigan's more than [200 titles related to the Great Lakes](#), find a [Great Lakes Reads 2026 selection](#) from the Library of Great Lakes, or maybe even peruse an annual Michigan [State of the Great Lakes report](#) from the past 40 years.
- Explore engaging educational programs through the [Michigan Sea Grant](#) or the [Center for Great Lakes Literacy](#).
- Connect with a local Michigan watershed organization, or create or join a cleanup effort on your own or with a tool like Alliance for the Great Lakes' [Adopt-a-Beach](#).
- Protect inland lakes and streams by collecting water quality and habitat data through the Michigan Clean Water Corps ([MiCorps](#)) and its Volunteer Stream

Monitoring Program, Volunteer Stream Cleanup Program, and Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

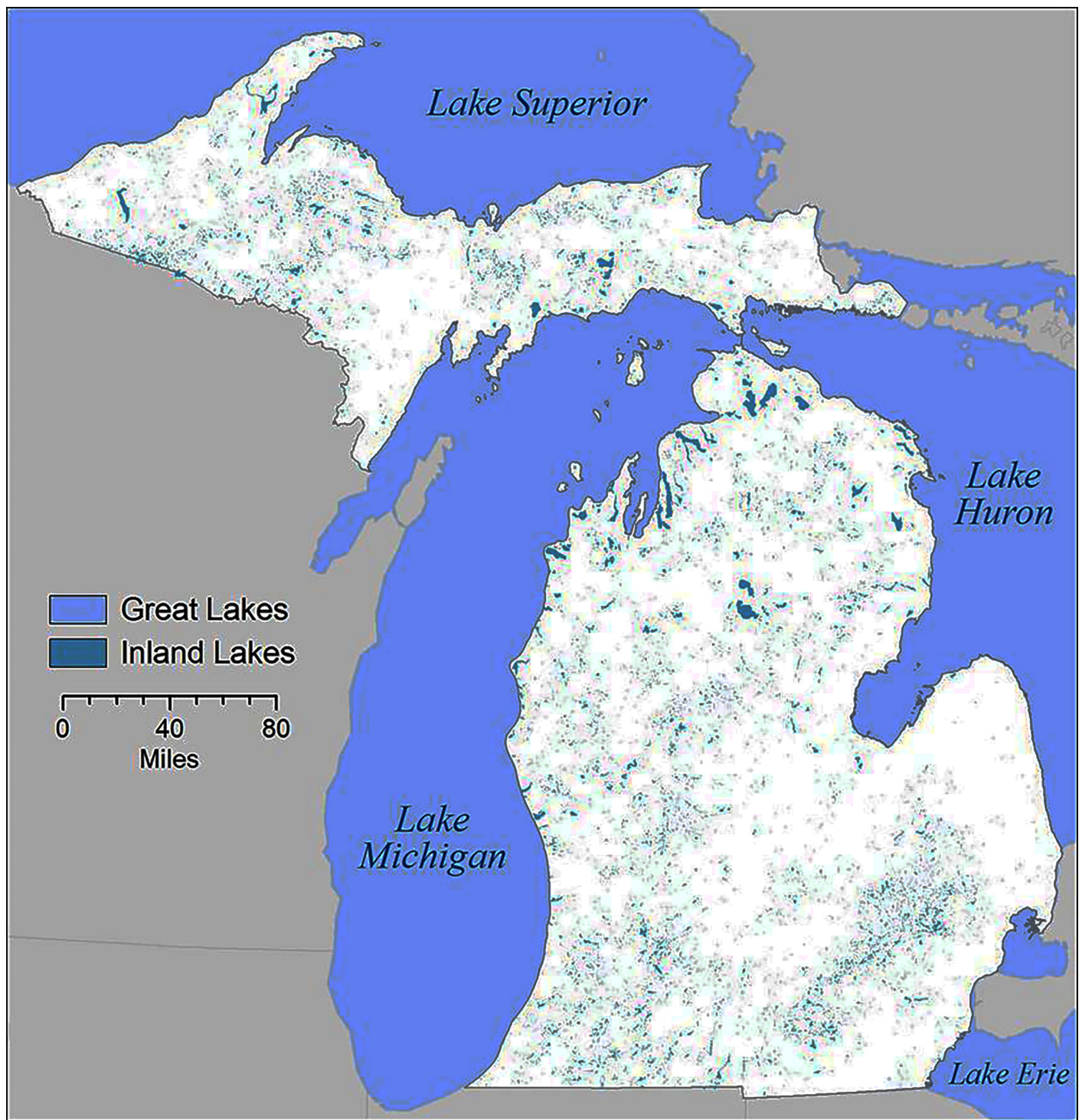
- Teachers heading back to school can explore opportunities and activities through the [From Students to Stewards Initiative](#). Michigan has programs and educational resources including the [MiSTEM Freshwater Literacy and Stewardship playbook](#) that support “3P” learning (based on places, projects, and problems) and promote stewardship of Michigan's waters, watersheds, and environment. Learn more about support for teachers, students, and parents in environmental education through [EGLE Classroom](#) and the Center for Great Lakes Literacy Resource Library.

About World Lake Day

The U.N.’s designation of an annual World Lake Day reflects growing international recognition of freshwater lakes as critical resources and defenses against the worst impacts of climate change. The observance date, Aug. 27, commemorates the first World Lake Conference in 1984, in Shiga Prefecture, Japan. Shiga – home to Japan’s largest freshwater body, Lake Biwa – has a [sister state relationship](#) with Michigan because of their shared commitments to lakes.

The celebration builds on momentum from Michigan’s annual Great Lakes and Fresh Water Week, which EGLE and partners mark in late May or early June each year to further connect residents to their local waterways and amplifying statewide stewardship efforts.

More information is available at [World Lake Day | United Nations](#). Learn more about Michigan waters on the OGL’s [Stewarding the Great Lakes](#) webpage.



Michigan Governor Whitmer Declares Tuesday, August 27th, 2026 as World Lake Day

by Scott Brown
MWA e-Newsletter Editor

Serving as a crucial source of fresh water for drinking water supplies, agriculture, and industry, playing a key role in maintaining biodiversity, contributing to climate regulation as well as providing economic and recreational opportunities, **World Lake Day** was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2024.

Recognizing the fact that inland lakes are also one of Michigan's most important natural resources, Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently declared Tuesday, August 27th as **World Lake Day**.

Her proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, Michigan is home to more than 11,000 inland lakes, tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, 6.5 million acres of wetlands, 3,200 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 230,000 acres of coastal dunes, and vast groundwater resources; and,

WHEREAS, fresh water is our state's most significant natural resource for drinking and for supporting industries and activities, including recreation, tourism, fishing, manufacturing, transportation, and agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are globally significant, containing more than 20% of the world's fresh surface water, providing drinking water for over 40 million people, and comprising vital freshwater ecosystems; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Basin provides habitat for more than 3,500 species of plants and animals, including many threatened and endangered species; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes face challenges, including invasive species, toxic and nutrient pollution, habitat and biodiversity loss, and climate change; and,

WHEREAS, water quality and quantity are significantly degrading across the world's lakes, requiring urgent and sustainable action; and,

WHEREAS, the global decline in biodiversity requires preserving, restoring, and safeguarding ecosystems that provide essential functions and services, including

services related to water, health, livelihoods, and well-being; and,

WHEREAS, investing in youth education is crucial for the continued health of lake ecosystems for generations to come, and in supporting the voices of those who shape a sustainable future for lakes worldwide; and,

WHEREAS, lakes are fundamental ecosystems due to the interconnectedness of lakes, energy, food, health, well-being, and human development; and,

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly resolved that August 27, the date of the first World Lake Conference in 1984, be annually observed as World Lake Day; and,

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world and require integrated, intersectoral, collaborative, and coordinated approaches, at all levels, in their management and protection for current and future generations; and,

WHEREAS, we encourage all Michiganders to learn more about freshwater lakes, their value and essential role in supporting human livelihood, biodiversity, and ecosystems resilience and to be stewards protecting, conserving, and restoring Michigan's freshwater lake ecosystems;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim August 27, 2026, as World Lake Day in Michigan.



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

September 2, 9:00 AM: [New game, new game plan: Building teams to tackle watch list invasive plants](#). Presented by Katie Grzesiak and Drew Rayner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.

September 8, 2:00 PM: [MGLP Lake Conservation Grant](#). Presented by Joe Nohner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Host: Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership.

NEW September 8, 2:00 PM: [Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program: General program and priority area information](#). Host: Michigan Invasive Species Program.

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.

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.

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.

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](#)



MSU Extension
Lakes, Streams & Watersheds



MCorps Events Experts News Programs Resources



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

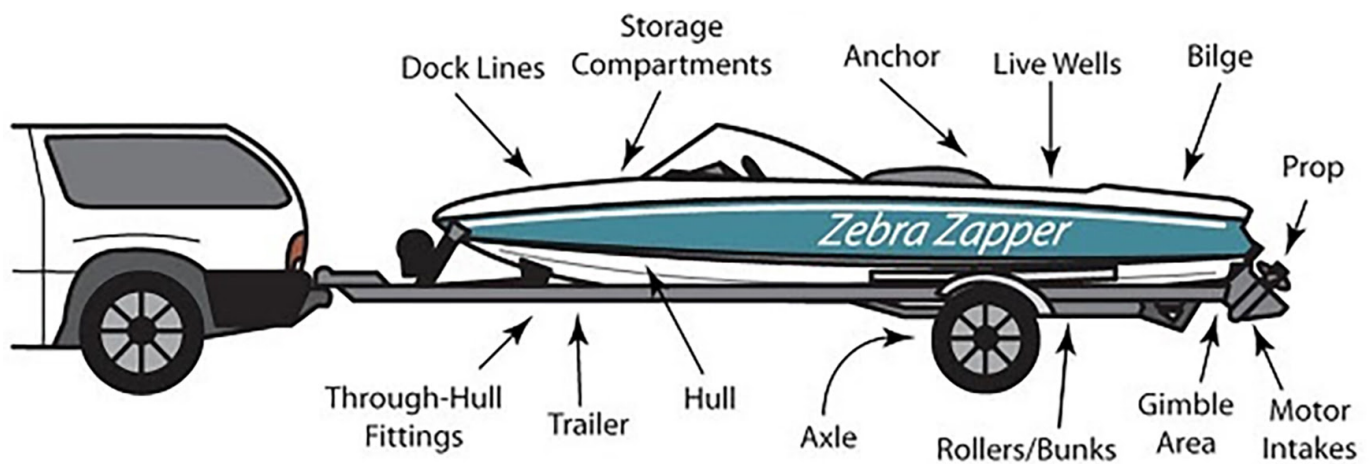
Our Mission:

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.

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

