



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 statewide ramifications, and/or by direct involvement with natural resources management, or environment focused state agencies or departments.

NOAA Indicates Near Ideal Conditions for Potentially Hazardous Algal Blooms

Harmful algal blooms have (again) forced public health officials this summer to issue swimming bans that have affected a constantly increasing number of lakes ranging in location from the Pacific Northwest to New Jersey. The need to be capable of recognizing the signs of a potentially dangerous algal bloom that may be occurring in late summer within your favorite inland lake or pond is illustrated by the recent closure of New Jersey's largest lake, Lake Hopatcong, to swimming and fishing "for weeks, if not longer", and an early August report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that announced the presence of one of the worst harmful algal blooms (covering 600 square miles) to have occurred in recent years within western Lake Erie. NOAA scientists indicate that the intense rains we experienced this past spring have combined with abundant growth nutrient concentrations and the warm water temperatures of late summer to create near ideal conditions for the formation of harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes region.

Fueled by heavy rains that drive nutrient laden raw sewage and/or fertilizer into waterways, record setting high temperatures, and bright sunny days, and observed in freshwater lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and marine coastal areas, blue-green algae, commonly referred to as cyanobacteria, are "primitive" photosynthetic organisms that may produce powerful cyanotoxins that are capable of having a severe impact on human health - exposure to unsafe concentrations are known to cause liver and kidney damage. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Water Resource Division (WRD) defines harmful algal blooms as: "An algal bloom in recreational waters is harmful if microcystin levels are at or above the 20 ug/l World Health Organization non-drinking water guideline, or other algal toxins that are at or above appropriate guidelines that have been reviewed by EGLE-WRD. An (algal) bloom should be considered *potentially* harmful when "the chlorophyll *a* level is greater than 30 μ g/L and visible surface accumulations/scum are present, or cells are visible throughout the water column".





The <u>Center for Disease Control and Prevention</u> indicates that "cyanobacteria blooms can look like foam, scum, or mats, particularly when the wind blows them toward a shoreline. The blooms can be blue, bright green, brown, or red. Blooms sometimes look like paint floating on the water's surface. As cyanobacteria in a bloom die, the water may smell bad, similar to rotting plants."

In the Upper Midwest, in addition to the nutrient rich waters of western Lake Erie, harmful algal blooms are most likely to occur in shallow, nutrient rich inland lakes or ponds in areas that are sheltered from wind and waves, and are most likely to occur in late summer as surface water temperatures often climb to above 75° F.

For more information regarding harmful algal blooms, please refer to the following resources:

MI EGLE WRD

NOAA National Ocean Service

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Center for Disease Control and Prevention





Michigan DNR Grant Program Offers \$1.825 Million for Fisheries Habitat Work, Dam Removal and More

Project pre-proposals are due by August 30th

An estimated \$1.825 million is expected to be available through a new Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant opportunity that combines three previously separate programs and will provide targeted funding for a variety of activities including fish habitat conservation, dam removal and repair, resource assessment studies and access to recreation.

Joe Nohner, a resource analyst with the DNR Fisheries Division, said the department decided to unite those programs to make it easier for applicants to apply for and receive funding, for efficiency and consistency in grant management, to better incorporate stakeholder feedback and, ultimately, to improve outcomes for natural resources and human safety.

"The new Fisheries Habitat Grant will ensure funded projects are better designed, make it easier for applicants to leverage state funds to acquire additional project funding, and allow us to consider a single application relative to the funding sources for which it is eligible," Nohner said.

Grant details

The three original DNR grant opportunities – Aquatic Habitat, Dam Management and the Habitat Improvement Account – that merged under the new program will no longer exist separately. The <u>Fisheries Habitat Grant</u> takes the "themes" that correspond to the funding sources and goals of those three prior grant options – aquatic habitat conservation, dam management, and aquatic habitat and recreation in the Au Sable, Manistee and Muskegon watersheds – and offers even more features to strengthen the collective program:

- The ability to potentially apply for and receive funding under all three themes (if eligible) with a single application.
- The potential to seek a commitment for funding from a future year's grant cycle, which allows recipients to leverage state funding in applications for federal, private or other sources.
- The creation of the Fisheries Priority Habitat Projects list which identifies projects that will receive preference during application review. Applications for projects on this list still must be competitive in other aspects, including cost, appropriate methods and design, applicant expertise, etc.
- Required discussion of all projects with a DNR fisheries biologist before an applicant submits a pre-proposal.

For more information regarding DNR fisheries habitat grants, click here



Request for proposals:

2020 MGLP Lake Conservation Grant

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) is announcing its annual request for fish habitat conservation project proposals (<u>APPLY HERE</u>). We support conservation projects that work toward meeting the goals and objectives set forth in the <u>MGLP Strategic Plan</u> to benefit glacial lake fish habitats, which include addressing the chemical, physical, and biological components of the habitats that fishes found in glacial lakes use throughout their lives.

We have directed funding toward a wide range of aquatic conservation projects that benefit recreational, imperiled, and endangered fish species and their habitats. We typically fund 3-5 projects annually between \$10,000 and \$75,000, but larger projects will be considered for funding up to a maximum of the approximately \$300,000. <u>Past projects</u> have been successfully implemented because contributions and capabilities of many partners have been combined to accomplish project goals that none of the partnering entities could accomplish on their own.

Projects considered for funding must align with the goals and objectives of the MGLP. Examples include:

- Projects that implement new techniques or methods; projects that serve as demonstration projects; watershed-level 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;
- · Population or watershed assessments needed for project evaluation;
- Prioritization and planning for future habitat projects;
- · Evaluating habitat conditions or lake water levels;
- 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 protect 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.

Applications are due by 5:00 PM CST October 15, 2019. The MGLP will host a webinar on August 14 at 1 PM CST/2 PM EST to provide information and answer questions on the grant. If you'd like to attend, please register here.

Please note that we've revised our grant application. Major changes include:

- Preference for projects that align with a lake management plan or the MGLP Conservation Guidelines for the lake. MGLP Conservation Guidelines for each lake can be found on the MGLP Conservation Planner
- Revised narrative questions to better assess project benefits and methods; and
- Requirement to discuss the project with MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner prior to submission for *preliminary* feedback on project fit for the grant and areas for improvement.

If you have a lake conservation project aligned with the goals and objectives of the MGLP and need financial assistance, we encourage you to submit a proposal for project funding. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Nohner at 517-284-6236 or Todd Tisler, MGLP Steering Committee Chair, at <u>ttisler@fs.fed.us</u> or 218-335-8629. An application for funding is

included with this announcement and you can submit your application by emailing it to MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner at <u>nohnerj@michigan.gov</u>.



Michigan Conservation Stewards Program Now Enrolling Students for Programs Being Offered in Three Areas of the State this Fall

Looking for an opportunity to learn about Michigan's ecosystems from experts and volunteers involved in conservation efforts in your community? Interested in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to lead and assist in local initiatives? Consider enrolling in the **Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP)**.

CSP is designed for those interested in learning science-based ecosystem (aquatic and terrestrial) management principles and sharing this knowledge with others to help restore and sustain healthy natural areas throughout Michigan. MSU Extension works with local conservation partners to design and deliver a series of evening and Saturday lectures and field sessions, combined with online instruction.

Professional level instruction is provided by MSU Extension, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and a variety of local conservation partners. Sessions are offered in a variety of locations which highlight local natural areas on-the-ground conservation.

This fall, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension local conservation partners are offering three programs:

- <u>Washtenaw County</u>- September 4 November 13, 2019 (evening classes held on Wednesdays)
- **<u>Capital Area</u>** September 10 November 5, 2019 (evening classes held on Tuesdays)
- <u>Northern Michigan</u>- September 10 October 22, 2019 (evening classes held on Tuesdays)

Registration fee is \$250. Scholarships are available. **Deadline to register is August 20, 2019.**

Please visit the CSP program page for complete information regarding the program and to register by <u>clicking here</u>.



Join Michigan Waterfront Alliance!

- Are you tired of funding the management of aquatic invasive species on your lake that were introduced by recreational boaters using the local MI Department of Natural Resources public boating access site?
- Are you just a bit angry that recreational boaters using your lake are not being asked to contribute their fair share to combat the negative influences of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you worried about the fact that your lakefront residential property values are being negatively influenced by the steadily increasing presence of aquatic invasive species?
- Are you concerned about the fact that it is nearly impossible to find an inland lake in Michigan that does not currently host one or more potentially harmful aquatic invasive species?
- Are you aware of the fact that inland lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource, and that our state legislature has thus far appropriated almost nothing in the way of budget resources to help ensure they remain healthy and viable?

If your answer is **yes** to any of these important questions, please help ensure that your voice is heard in Lansing by joining **Michigan Waterfront Alliance** today.

Click here to Join MWA

Visit the Michigan Waterfront Alliance Web Site by Clicking Here