



Lake Lansing Special Assessment District Advisory Committee Newsletter

March 2021

Lake Lansing Special Assessment District Advisory Committee

c/o Meridian Charter Township 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI 48864

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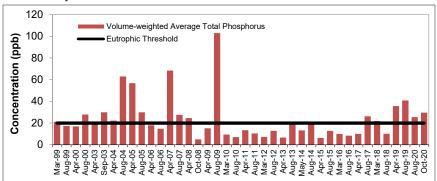
Paul Pratt
Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office

For a full copy of the annual report and the latest updates, be sure to check www. lakelansing.org and meridian.mi.us/ government/boards-and-commissions/ lake-lansing-advisory-committee

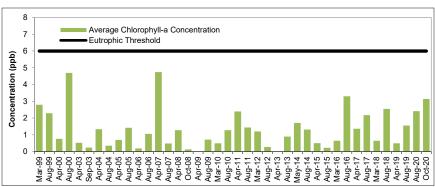
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Lake Lansing Water Quality

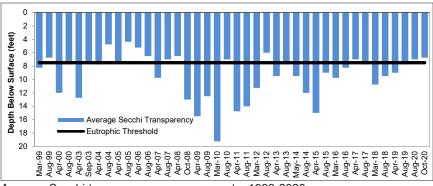
Water quality samples have been collected from Lake Lansing since 1999 and indicate the lake is borderline between mesotrophic (moderately productive) and eutrophic (nutrient-enriched and productive). During the 2020 sampling period, phosphorus levels were moderately high, with the exception of the deepest samples in late summer which were high. Chlorophyll-a (a measure of algae growth) is generally low in Lake Lansing. Secchi transparency (a measure of water clarity) often reflects fluctuations in zebra mussels which consume algae and often increase water clarity. Boating activity impacts water clarity as well.



Volume-weighted average total phosphorus concentrations, 1999-2020.



Average chlorophyll-a concentrations, 1999-2020.



Average Secchi transparency measurements, 1999-2020.

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Nemoka Drain Update

Construction on the Nemoka Drain continues. Jackson Dirt Works is taking a short break due to the cold weather conditions but is currently excavating and shaping the four detention areas that are proposed for the project-two of which are now complete. This spring they will install the remaining storm sewer at the south ends of Potter and Shaw Streets near Haslett Road. The project will wrap up in late spring to early summer with finish landscaping, tree planting, and longawaited street paving in the Nemoka Village area.



We ask for your ongoing patience and cooperation. Please avoid those areas that are active construction sites—in particular the proposed detention area between Edson and Potter Streets since Japanese Knotweed was found there and we need to confine it in that location as part of our eradication effort.

Japanese knotweed is a non-native invasive plant that was introduced from Asia as an ornamental plant. Some prominent features of Japanese knotweed include:

- Perennial, herbaceous shrub that can grow from 3-10 feet high
- Hollow stalks are persistent through winter, looks similar to bamboo
- Stems have a fine white coating that rubs off easily
- Flowers arranged in spikes near the end of the stem are small, numerous, and creamy white in color
- Flowers bloom in August and September in Michigan

Japanese knotweed is legally prohibited in Michigan.



Source: Michigan Natural Features Inventory and Michigan Invasive Species webpage.

Chara v. Starry Stonewort

Chara and starry stonewort are two aquatic plants found in Lake Lansing that look very similar to one another, but Chara is considered a beneficial native plant and starry stonewort is an invasive exotic.





Chara (above) and starry stonewort (below).

Technically, both plants are algae, but grow in mats along the lake bottom. Starry stonewort has long "stems" and is identified by the hard, white, star-shaped reproductive structures known as "bulbils." Both herbicide treatments and mechanical harvesting are used to control starry stonewort in Lake Lansing.