



Lake Lansing Special Assessment District Advisory Committee Newsletter

March 2022

Lake Lansing Special Assessment District Advisory Committee

c/o Meridian Charter Township
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For the latest updates, be sure to check meridian.mi.us/government/boards-and-commissions/lake-lansing-advisory-committee

Harmful Algae Blooms

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) occur when excessive amounts of toxin-producing blue-green algae (also called cyanobacteria) grow in lakes. Cyanobacteria can release toxins into the water that, at elevated levels, cause health concerns. HABs are most common during the hot summer months in nutrient-enriched lakes and can sometimes persist into the fall.

It is important to recognize that algae occur naturally and are ecologically important. Algae form the base of the food chain and, without algae, a lake would not be able to support fish

and other aquatic organisms. Not all algae are toxic, in fact, few are.



photo credit: Curt Armbruster

The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a recreational standard of 20 parts per billion for cyanotoxins, above which recreational contact with water should be avoided. In random testing conducted to date by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the vast majority of lakes tested did not have active cyanobacteria blooms occurring (EGLE 2019). EGLE concluded that

HABs do not appear to be a widespread problem in Michigan. A fairly substantial HAB occurred last September on Lake Lansing. However, historical water quality data available for Lake Lansing indicate that nutrient levels and algal abundance are relatively low and may not be normally conducive to the occurrence of HABs.

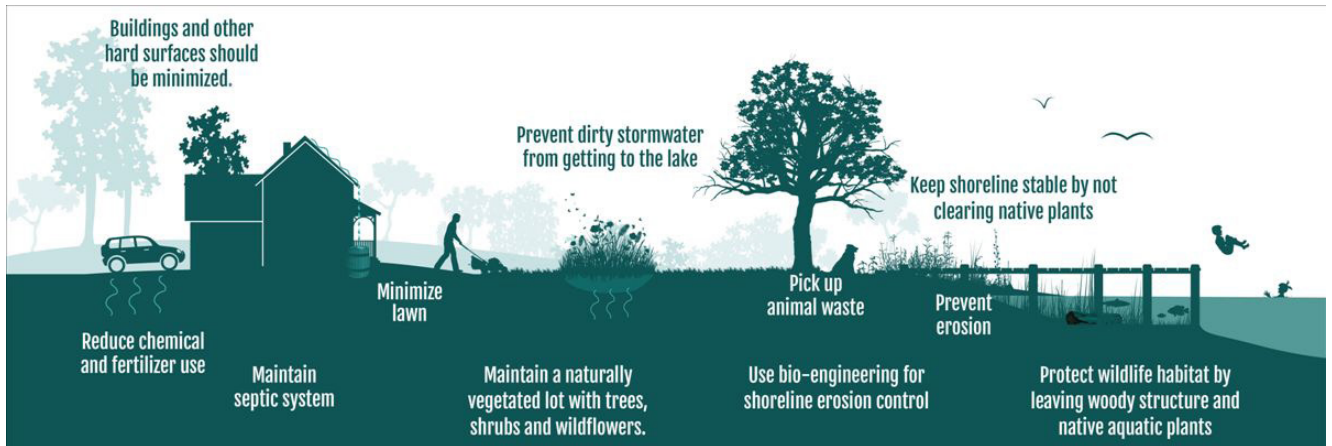
The Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and EGLE sample for HABs on a limited basis and work with local health departments to protect the public when toxins are discovered. Suspicious-looking algae can be reported to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or sending an e-mail to AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov.

Visual observation alone can not be used to predict HAB toxicity. If you observe what appears to be a HAB, it is best to physically avoid that area of the lake. As a general precaution, discourage pets from drinking algae-infested water, and if your pet wanders into algae-infested waters, a good rinse or bath in fresh water is recommended.

To find out more about harmful algal blooms, visit michigan.gov/habs.

Reference:

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. 2019. Algal Toxin Monitoring in Michigan Inland Lakes: 2016 – 2018 Results. MI/EGLE/WRD – 19/13.



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Phosphorus Fertilizer Ban

Phosphorus is the nutrient that most often stimulates excessive growth of aquatic plants, leading to a variety of problems collectively known as eutrophication. Elevated phosphorus levels can cause premature aging of many Michigan lakes.

In an attempt to address this problem, Michigan passed legislation decades ago that limited the phosphorus content of laundry detergents and more recently extended the ban to dishwasher detergents. However, phosphorus in fertilizers remained a problem. Phosphorus is a key ingredient in many commercial lawn fertilizers and has been commonly applied at rates well in excess of what is needed to maintain a healthy lawn. Excess phosphorus can run off lawns and into lakes and streams where a single pound of phosphorus can generate hundreds of pounds of aquatic vegetation.

With passage of the state phosphorus fertilizer law (PA 299 of 2010) which took effect in 2012, Michigan joined several other Great Lakes states in banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizers. The law prohibits the application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus unless a new lawn is being established (phosphorus is needed to promote root growth) or if a soil test indicates a phosphorus deficiency. The law does contain exemptions for the use of phosphorus fertilizer for certified USDA golf courses and for agricultural uses. The state may impose civil or administrative fines on violators of the law.



The Charter Township of Meridian is pursuing a shoreline restoration project near Lake Lansing Park South. This demonstration project will restore approximately 100 feet of developed shoreline to a natural state. The goal of the project is to promote using natural shoreline restoration to better protect Lake Lansing and create a healthier natural environment.

LAKE LANSING – 2022 TENTATIVE PLANT CONTROL SCHEDULE

Tentative Survey Date	Tentative Treatment Date	Harvesting	Description
Week of May 9	Week of May 23	No	Treatment focusing on milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed using systemic herbicides for milfoil, contact herbicides for curly-leaf.
Week of June 13	Week of June 27	Week of June 13 or 20	Treatment primarily focusing on milfoil. Harvesting of native plants and starry stonewort.
Week of July 18	Week of August 1	No	Treatment primarily focusing on milfoil. Possible treatment of starry stonewort where not harvested.
Week of August 22	Week of September 5	To be scheduled as necessary	Treatment unlikely unless milfoil is an issue. Preferred plant control method at this time would be harvesting.