
Welcome to Wall Lake!

We Are Delighted To Have You Join Our Lake Community



Greater Wall Lake Association

www.mywalllake.com
greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com
PO Box 56 Delton, MI 49046
Like us at: Greater Wall Lake Association

Greater Wall Lake Association5

Our Mission	5
Website - www.mywalllake.com	5
Origins.....	5
Our Board.....	5
What We Do.....	6
Join the Greater Wall Lake Association	7
Donate to the Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund	8
Newsletters.....	10
Committees or Groups - How to Volunteer	11
July 4 Boat Parade Volunteers	11
Kayak The Wall Volunteers	11
Light Up The Wall Volunteers.....	11
Water Quality Volunteers	12
Fish Committee	12
History Group	12
Photography Group.....	13
Garage Sale Volunteers	13
Sailing on Wall Lake	13
Membership/Communications Committee	14
Fundraising Committee	14

Lake Environment15

About Wall Lake - Its Size and Depth.....	15
Why the Name?	15
History - How Wall Lake Was Formed	15
Lake Ecology - How Water Enters Wall Lake	16
Wetlands - How Our Wetlands Save Wall Lake From Disaster	17
Dam and Drain - How Water Exits Wall Lake	19
Water Quality - How We Test and Monitor Wall Lake's Water Quality	20
Shorelines - How Shoreline Design Affects Water Quality	21
Vegetation - Plants at Wall Lake	22
Wildlife - Animals at Wall Lake	23

Aquatic Invasive Species - How They Can Harm Wall Lake	24
Weed Control	29
Threats To Wall Lake - Two Threats That Can Destroy Wall Lake	29
Environmental Organizations	30
Lake Associations	30
Respectful Lake Living.....	31
Respect Wall Lake	31
Aids to Lake Preservation	31
Respect Your Neighbors.....	31
Courtesy	33
Service Directory	36
Lost and Found.....	36
Police, Fire, EMS	36
Noise Problems.....	36
Boating Problems	36
Harm To Wildlife.....	36
Littering	36
Disabled Vehicles.....	36
Dock and Raft Problems.....	37
Property Line Problems.....	37
Power Outage.....	37
Sewer System Problems.....	37
Burn Permit	38
Recycling.....	38
Dump	38
Local Government	39
Hope Township.....	39
Barry Township	40
Barry County	40
Barry County Drain Commission.....	40

Greater Wall Lake Association

A Legacy of Service to Wall Lake and its Community

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental and educational policies. We are dedicated to preserving Wall Lake as a pristine legacy for future generations.

Website - www.mywalllake.com

www.mywalllake.com is the official website of the Greater Wall Lake Association. In 2017 our Website Committee worked very hard to create the Greater Wall Lake Association website. This has become a useful resource for Wall Lake residents.

We encourage e-mail submission of Wall Lake photographs for our website, as well as suggestions for additional content. Our e-mail address is: greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com.

Origins

In 1961, the Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA) was formed to encourage the preservation of Wall Lake, foster a spirit of cooperation among lake residents, and promote the safe and enjoyable use of our valuable, common resource.

The GWLA is a nonprofit charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and dues and contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Our Board

The Greater Wall Lake Association is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of up to 12 members, who are a dedicated group of volunteers. Board members are elected by the Board at the last Board meeting of the calendar year. Terms are established per our bylaws. The directors elect the officers of the Association. The elected officers are the president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Board membership is open to any GWLA member.

The lake is divided into two sections for membership representation. Each section has half of the representatives on the Board of Directors. The North Side begins at the dam and includes the north and west shore, and ends at Old Brickyard Road. The South Side begins at the dam and includes the south shore, and ends at Old Brickyard Road.

What We Do

Environmental:

- Water quality monitoring
- Invasive species monitoring
- Wildlife monitoring
- Weed control
- Fish stocking
- Sewer system establishment
- Anti-Keyhole Ordinance

Social:

- Annual Member's meeting
- Shoreline tour
- Garage sale

Recreational:

- July 4 boat event
- Kayak The Wall
- Light Up The Wall
- Rock buoys
- Sailing

Educational:

- Website and Facebook
- New resident welcome book
- Newsletter
- E-mail group
- Annual Member's meeting

Networking:

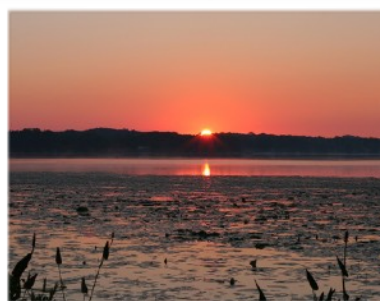
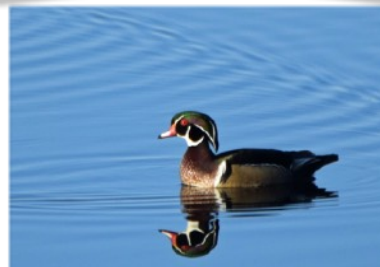
- Other lake associations
- Environmental organizations
- Educational organizations

Fundraising:

- GWLA membership dues and donations
- Barry Community Foundation Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund

Affiliations:

- Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations
- MiCorps' Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program
- Michigan Waterfront Alliance
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council



Mission Advocacy:

- Government collaboration
- Legal defense of Wall Lake
- Wall Lake Association board member continuing education. Board Members have attended many environmental and legal advocacy courses. The Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, the Michigan Lake Stewardship Association's annual conference, and the Kellogg Biological Station have been particularly excellent in terms of their course offerings. The course subject matter and the qualifications of the speakers has been outstanding.



W. K. Kellogg
Biological Station
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Join the Greater Wall Lake Association

By joining the Wall Lake Association you are helping to keep Wall Lake clean, supporting our mission, and making possible the many activities we facilitate.

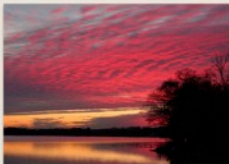
Wall Lake enjoys a very high percentage of volunteer lake association membership, and we will continue to do everything we can to warrant your support.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Greater Wall Lake Association
PO Box 56
Delton, MI 49046
www.mywalllake.com
greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com
Like us at: Greater Wall Lake Association


PRESERVATION FUND

To make a tax-deductible donation
please contact:
Barry Community Foundation
GWL Preservation Fund
231 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
269-945-0526
www.barrycf.org



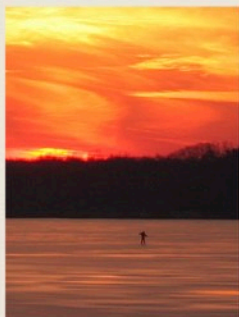
DID YOU KNOW?

- Wall Lake was formed 10,000 years ago when glaciers, 1-2 miles thick, moved through the Upper Midwest.
- Wall Lake gets most of its water from a 1,000 acre acid bog south of the wetlands.
- The southern wetlands filter the acidic bog water entering Wall Lake, making it safe for living organisms.
- If the wetlands are harmed and acidic bog water flows freely into Wall Lake, all plant and animal life in the lake will die.
- Wall Lake's renewal rate (how long it takes for the water in a lake to replace itself) is 3 years. This is a very slow renewal rate. Most lakes renew their water in less than 3 months. Wall Lake has a slow renewal rate because water enters and leaves our lake very slowly.
- Wall Lake has excellent water quality because of our wetlands.



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GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP



THANK YOU FOR JOINING

Our mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental and educational policies.

WHAT THE WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION DOES

The Association is a charitable organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and dues and contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The GWLA protects, preserves, and enhances the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental and educational policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Water quality monitoring
- Invasive species monitoring
- Wildlife monitoring
- Weed control
- Fish stocking
- Sewer system establishment
- Anti-Keyhole Ordinance

SOCIAL

- New resident welcome book
- Annual Member's meeting
- Shoreline tour
- Garage sale

RECREATIONAL

- July 4 Boat Parade
- Kayak The Wall
- Light Up The Wall
- Wall Lake Yacht Club
- Rock buoys

EDUCATIONAL

- Website and Facebook
- Newsletter
- E-mail group
- History group

NETWORKING

- Other lake associations
- Environmental organizations
- Educational organizations

FUNDRAISING

- Membership dues/donations
- Preservation Fund

AFFILIATIONS

- Mich. Lake and Stream Assoc.
- MiCorps Lake Monitoring

MISSION ADVOCACY

- Government collaboration
- Legal defense
- Board Member education

MEMBERSHIP FORM

GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Annual Dues: \$ 45.00

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Fish Fund: \$ _____

Mail To:
GWLA PO Box 56 Delton, MI 49046

How to Join GWLA:
Mail this form, or
Go to www.mywalllake.com, select "Join GWLA", select "Printable Form", and mail that form.

Thank You For Your Support!

CONTACT

GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 56, Delton, MI 49046
www.mywalllake.com
greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com
Like us at: Greater Wall Lake Association

BARRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GWLA PRESERVATION FUND

231 South Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058
Telephone 269-945-0526
Fax 269-945-0826
www.barrycf.org
info@barrycf.org

To join the Wall Lake Association simply fill out the membership form in our Membership Brochure, our website, or in our Newsletters and mail it to us.

Dues are established by the GWLA Board members at the end of the year. Dues take effect on January and are payable through December annually. The dues must be paid to be eligible to attend the GWLA Annual Member's meeting. Consult the association website for current annual dues.

Many residents annually donate an amount above the yearly dues. Some do this as a measure of extra support for our work. Others wish to donate funds that target fish stocking. We are grateful for your generous support. Direct contributions to the GWLA are used for operating expenses and programs. Dues and donations are deductible to the full extent of the law due to our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

Donate to the Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund

Wall Lake, like so many lakes in Michigan and the United States, is facing threats from human abuse and invasive species contamination. These threats will bring more challenges in the future as we work to preserve our wonderful natural resource.



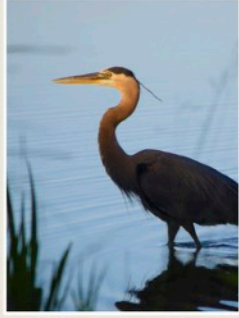
In late 2014, several Wall Lake area residents approached GLWA Board Members concerning a way to financially support the Association beyond annual dues and donations. We needed a way to receive tax-deductible donations that specifically target costs associated






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8

with the preservation of Wall Lake. In addition, some people were looking for a way to leave money and other assets to the GWLA in the their wills as part of estate and legacy planning.

In September, 2015 the Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA) Preservation Fund was established at the Barry Community Foundation (BCF). This endowment fund allows for support of Wall Lake to last for generations to come.

<p>CONTACT INFORMATION</p> <p>Greater Wall Lake Association PO Box 56 Deltion, MI 49046 www.mywalllake.com greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com Like us at: Greater Wall Lake Association</p> <p>Barry Community Foundation GWLA Preservation Fund 231 South Broadway Hastings, MI 49058 269-945-0526 www.barrycf.org</p> 	<p>REASONS FOR FUND</p> <p>Wall Lake, like all lakes in Michigan and the United States, is facing environmental and invasive species threats. These threats will bring more challenges in the future as we work to preserve a wonderful natural resource.</p> <p>In late 2014 several Wall Lake area residents approached GLWA Board Members concerning a way to financially support the Association beyond annual dues and donations. We needed a way to donate money or other assets that is specifically targeted to costs associated with the preservation of the Wall Lake. In addition, some donors were looking for a way to leave money/assets to the GWLA in the their wills as part of estate planning.</p>  <p>Copyright © 2019 Greater Wall Lake Association</p>	<p>GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION PRESERVATION FUND</p>  <p>PURPOSE OF FUND</p> <p>The fund shall be used to promote the preservation of Greater Wall Lake through the Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA). Dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed.</p>
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<p>ESTABLISHING A PRESERVATION FUND</p> <p>In September, 2015 the Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA) Preservation Fund was established at the Barry Community Foundation (BCF). This endowment fund allows for support of Wall Lake to last for generations to come. BCF receives contributions and administers finances for the fund. The GWLA Board has full oversight of how the funds are used to preserve Wall Lake. <u>All gifts to the fund are tax deductible</u> through the BCF 501(c)(3) designation.</p> <div> <div data-bbox="370 1381 591 1520"> <p>REASONS TO CONTRIBUTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General gift of support • Recognize a person or organization • Recognize a birthday • Recognize an anniversary • In Memoriam - In memory of... • Specific use for targeted project </div> <div data-bbox="623 1381 948 1541"> <p>TYPES OF CONTRIBUTIONS</p> <div> CASH CHECK CREDIT CARD STOCKS LAND ART WILL </div> <p>Contact BCF for special instructions to receive maximum tax benefits</p> </div> <div data-bbox="370 1541 591 1604"> <p>ONLINE GIVING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.barrycf.org Go to Giving Center and type Wall Lake in the search field </div> <div data-bbox="370 1604 591 1667"> <p>CHECKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payable Line: Barry Community Foundation • Memo Line: GWLA Preservation Fund </div> </div> <div data-bbox="688 1541 932 1667"> <p>Check written to:</p>  </div>		<div>   </div> <p>CONTRIBUTION FORM GWLA PRESERVATION FUND</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>e-mail: _____</p> <p>Gift amount: \$ _____</p> <p>Charge this gift to: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard</p> <p>Credit Card #: _____</p> <p>Exp. Date: _____</p> <p>ID Code (last three digits on back): _____</p> <p>Name on card: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Spendable or <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment</p> <p>Specific Use (If for a targeted project): _____</p> <p>My/our name <input type="checkbox"/> may <input type="checkbox"/> may not be listed in BCF publications.</p>
<p>CONTACT INFORMATION</p> <div> <div data-bbox="370 1709 639 1814"> <p>GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION PO Box 56, Deltion, MI 49046 www.mywalllake.com greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com Like us at: Greater Wall Lake Association</p>  </div> <div data-bbox="672 1709 948 1856"> <p>BARRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GWLA PRESERVATION FUND 231 South Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058 Telephone 269-945-0526 Fax 269-945-0826 www.barrycf.org info@barrycf.org</p>  </div> </div>		

BCF receives contributions and administers finances for the fund. The GWLA Board has full oversight of how the funds are used to preserve Wall Lake. Contributions to the GWLA Preservation Fund are dedicated to long-term preservation efforts of Wall Lake. Gifts are deductible to the fullest extent of the law due to the BFT 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

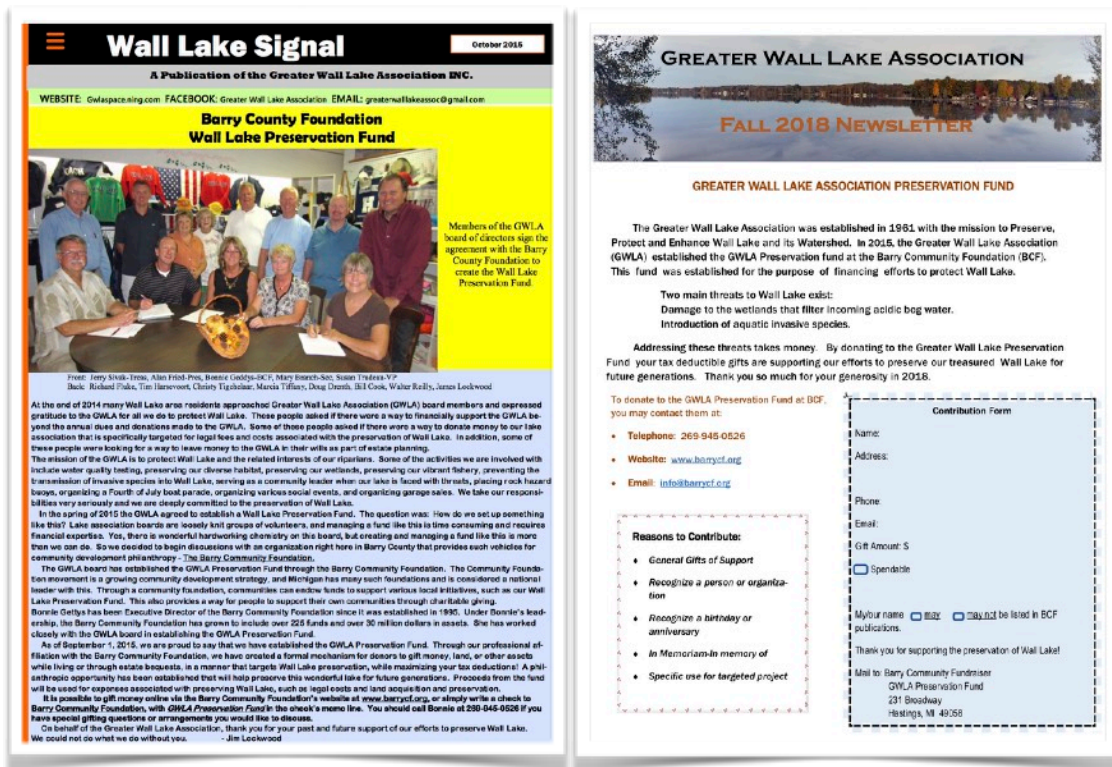
The GWLA Preservation Fund will be used for special projects that target the preservation of Wall Lake. Legal fees may be the primary use of money in this fund. In the future as the fund grows, land acquisition may be a secondary purpose of this fund. It is our long-term intent to provide future generations with a substantial financial resource.

In the past the Greater Wall Lake Association has had tremendous success at fighting threats to Wall Lake by paying attorneys to defend the interests of Wall Lake and its riparians. But this has cost a great deal of money. A substantial Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund will further assist in the future preservation of Wall Lake.

By donating to the Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund you are supporting our efforts to preserve our treasured lake for future generations.

Newsletters

We produce informative newsletters regularly throughout the year. If you wish to contribute information to a newsletter, please email greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com. Submission of photographs is encouraged. Our newsletters aim to inform members about current issues that affect Wall Lake and its riparians.



Committees or Groups - How to Volunteer

We always need help and are always pleased to welcome volunteers.

July 4 Boat Parade Volunteers

The July 4 Boat Parade volunteers organize our July 4 boat parade. The “Dom Court” trophy is awarded to the most popular boat. Mr. Dominic Court loved Wall Lake, and led the July 4 parade for many years.



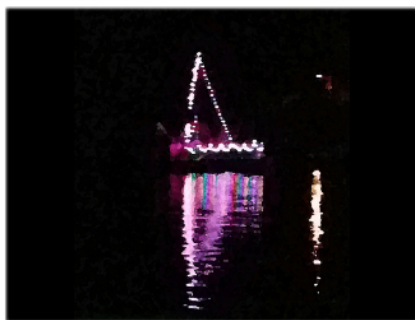
Kayak The Wall Volunteers

The Kayak The Wall volunteers organize our Kayak The Wall event. Various refreshments are available and prizes are awarded at dock stations around the lake.



Light Up The Wall Volunteers

The Light Up The Wall volunteers organize our Light Up The Wall Event. 2017 was the first year for this activity and it has been very popular. Thanks for helping to make it great!



Water Quality Volunteers

The Water Quality volunteers perform various water quality tests throughout the year and coordinate data gathering using MiCorps' Cooperative Lake Monitoring protocols and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Volunteers must receive water quality testing training at the Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations annual conference.



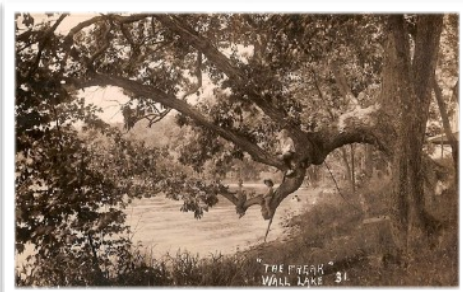
Fish Committee

The Fish Committee facilitates and assists with periodic walleye stocking. Targeted donations are accepted for costs associated with fish stocking.



History Group

The History group gathers, organizes, and disseminates Wall Lake area historical information. In 2016, Bud Leonard was named Honorary Historian of the Greater Wall Lake Association Historical Committee for his advancement of historical knowledge of our area.



Photography Group

The Photography group receives photographs submitted for display on our website. Photographs may be submitted to our e-mail address (greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com). Contact the GWLA if you are interested in participating with recreational photography.



Garage Sale Volunteers

The Garage Sale volunteers write notes for release in local papers, and place Garage Sale signs around the community.

Sailing on Wall Lake

The Wall Lake Yacht Club was formed in 1953. Its purpose is to promote sailing on Wall Lake. As with any organized activity, membership has fluctuated over the years, as has interest in organized sailing. In its heyday the Wall Lake Yacht Club had two classes of sailboats (Sunfish and Snipe), and Sunday races from Memorial Day to Labor Day were a beautiful sight.

The Wall Lake Yacht Club has buoys and they are installed per annual permit as interest in sailboat racing warrants. There is a sunfish sailboat that can be borrowed for those interested in “testing the water” at no cost. In addition to sailing, the Club has been host to many social events including a poker run, chili cook off, steak fry, ice cream socials, and midnight sails.

Wall Lake is especially well suited for sailing because of the large areas of open water that provide great opportunity to catch the best wind! Sailing is a beautiful way to connect with our lake. While racing can provide fun competition, its ultimately about having fun on the water and getting to know your neighbors, both on and off the water.

If you are interested in learning more about sailing, or becoming part of an organized sailing group, please contact the Commodore of the Wall Lake Yacht Club. The contact information for the current Commodore is on the GWLA website (www.mywalllake.com). Select “Sailing on Wall Lake” from the “About Us” drop-down menu on the homepage.



Membership/Communications Committee

The purpose of the Membership/Communications Committee is to improve e-mail communications with GWLA members, and to distribute new resident welcome literature.

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee plans fundraising efforts, communicates with the Barry Community Foundation, and facilitates communication about fundraising activities with GWLA members.

Lake Environment

Wall Lake is a Special, but Fragile Resource

About Wall Lake - Its Size and Depth

Wall Lake is a beautiful, crescent-shaped lake that lies in Hope Township, Barry County Michigan. Its size is about 540 acres and its average depth is 15-20 feet. There are some locations with a depth of approximately 40 feet. There are about 320 homes and cottages around the lake.



Why the Name?

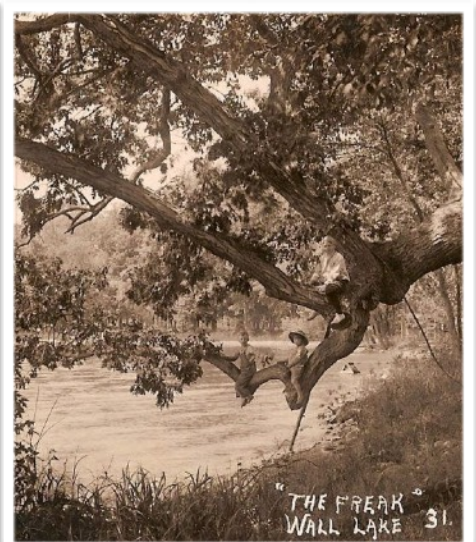
According to legend, Wall Lake gets its name from the Potawatomi Indians who had built stone walls to aid in harvesting fish. It is claimed that the Indians would drive fish through narrow openings in the wall into shallow water, thus making catching the fish easier. Two walls existed. One wall was located on the northeast shore, and a second wall near the southeast shore on the peninsula. The wall located on the northeast shore was removed in 1963.

History - How Wall Lake Was Formed

Wall Lake is about 10,000 years old. Glaciers formed and moved through the Upper Midwest from Canada about 14,000 years ago, and finally retreated about 9,000 years ago. It is hard to imagine that the ice over the upper midwest was 1 mile thick at that time.

As the glaciers moved the land was eroded, the melting glacial ice formed lakes. Michigan's natural lakes, from the Great Lakes to inland lakes like Wall Lake, formed when the glaciers advanced and then retreated back into Canada. What a magnificent gift!

Today our Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's drinking water.

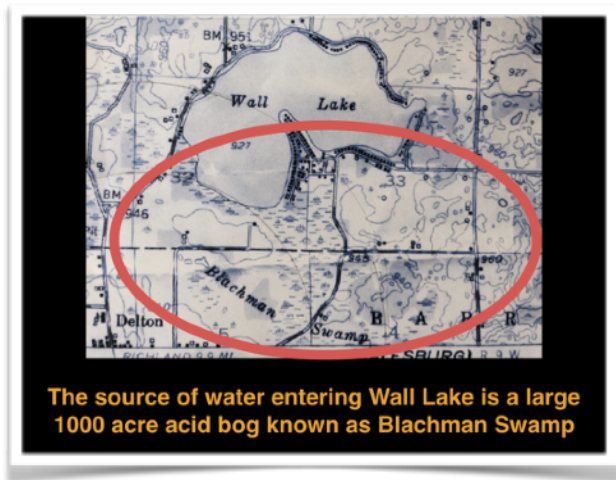




The above image shows how the glacial ice moved down from Canada in a southeasterly direction and then retreated back into Canada in a northeasterly direction

Lake Ecology - How Water Enters Wall Lake

Wall Lake gets most of its water from a 1,000 acre acid bog just south of the wetlands on the south side of the lake. This bog is known as Blachman Swamp. Wall Lake is at a slightly lower elevation than the acid bog and therefore its water flows into Wall Lake. Water drains very slowly from acid bogs, and therefore, Wall Lake receives most of its water very slowly.



Acid bogs are common features of wetland ecosystems. They are noted for their wet, spongy, and poorly draining peaty soil. Plant decomposition creates the acidic water in an acid bog. Acid bogs are considered a fascinating environmental phenomena, and they contain unique foliage and wildlife.

Precipitation, runoff, and groundwater hydrodynamics are other sources of water in Wall Lake. Wall Lake does not receive water from rivers or streams, and it does not have a significant number of springs and is not considered a spring fed lake.

Wetlands - How Our Wetlands Save Wall Lake From Disaster

Where are the wetlands on Wall Lake?

The largest area of wetlands are on the south side of Wall Lake. These wetlands are fragile and can be easily harmed to the severe detriment of Wall Lake. The hashed areas below identify wetlands around Wall Lake.

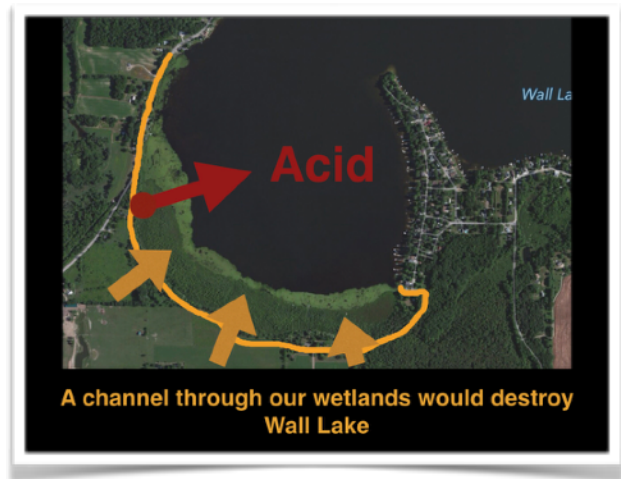
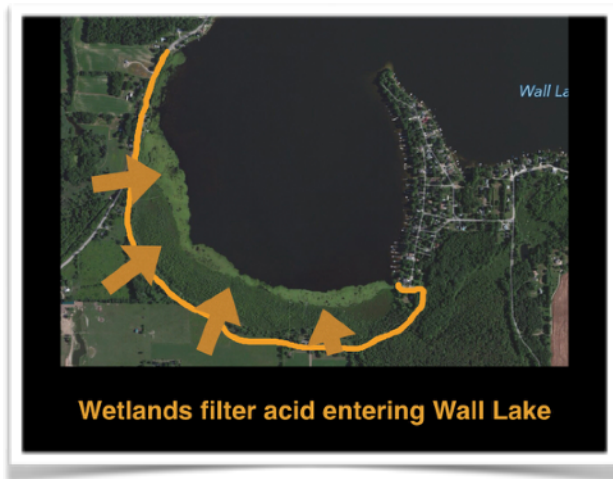


What do these wetlands do for Wall Lake?

Hydrology maps show the importance of the cleansing mechanism of these wetlands given that water flows downhill into Wall Lake from the higher ground to the south. Wall Lake gets its water from these wetlands, and these wetlands filter the water entering Wall Lake.

- These wetlands regulate nutrients flowing into Wall Lake.
- These wetlands remove pollutants from the water flowing into Wall Lake.
- Wall Lake is relatively shallow and its water renews slowly - every three years (lake retention time). Thus, the oxygenation and health of Wall Lake are directly related to the water coming through the wetlands at the southern end of the lake.

- These wetlands remove acid from Wall Lake. The water that flows into Wall Lake comes from a 1,000 acre upland bog. This type of bog is known as an “acid bog”. Damage to these wetlands would allow this acidic water to flow freely into Wall Lake and cause, in the words of a Michigan State University scientist, an “environmental disaster”, forever changing the plant and animal life in Wall Lake.

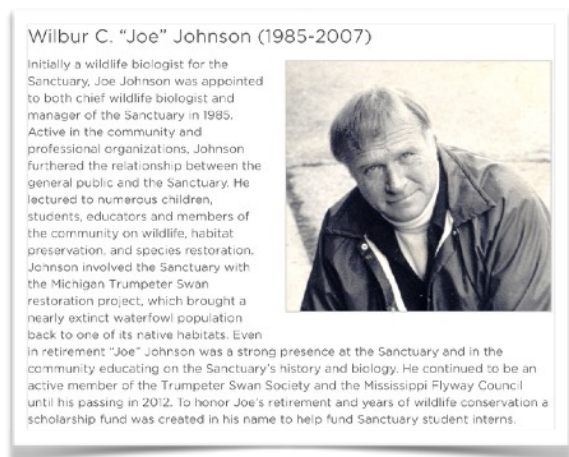


- Wall Lake serves as a migration staging area for waterfowl. The wetlands provide diverse and abundant aquatic plant beds that diving ducks eat. Plant loss will occur if the acidity of the water entering Wall Lake increases, and animal habitat will be lost.
- Wall Lake serves as an excellent habitat for fish. The wetlands filter the highly acidic water from flowing into Wall Lake. If this acidic water enters Wall Lake unfiltered, the acidity of the lake will rise and fish will lose their habitat. Also, the loss of the wetlands will decrease subsurface insect populations, a major food source for many fish.

What can happen if the Wall Lake’s wetlands are damaged?

This could have a permanent effect on Wall Lake by killing its plant and animal life. These wetlands are particularly fragile and at high risk for damage from outdoor events. If the wetlands are harmed and acidic bog water flows freely into Wall Lake, it is possible that all plant and animal life in the lake will die.

In 1982, the late Joe Johnson, MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Chief Wildlife Biologist, studied Wall Lake’s wetlands and testified in court that if a canal for a dock were dug through the wetlands it would cause an environmental disaster in Wall Lake.



Dam and Drain - How Water Exits Wall Lake

Water leaves Wall Lake through a canal drain at the east side of the lake. The water travels downstream from the canal into Shallow Lake. A water retention dam in the canal helps maintain Wall Lake's water level.



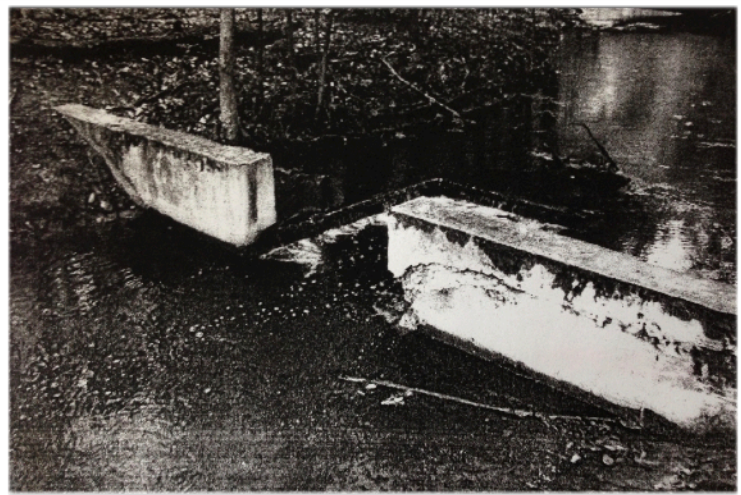
In the early 20th century through the early 1960's Wall Lake experienced periods of low water levels. Because Wall Lake has no feeder rivers or streams, and therefore no rapid source of incoming water, it was known to have "poor replenishing power." Because of these low water periods, lake viability and property values were a concern.

Prior to 1953 an earthen dam existed in the drain as an attempt to retain water in Wall Lake. The earthen dam was not successful at retaining water in Wall Lake, and in 1953, after

much study, a court established the Legal Lake Level of Wall Lake at 927 feet above sea level.

On June 21, 1954 the lake level was measured at 926.5 feet above sea level.

In 1955, after much analysis and planning, a concrete dam with a box weir was constructed in the drain canal. The purpose of the dam was to retain water and prevent spring runoff so that the lake has more water to offset the "dry season and evaporation."



The dam is inspected under authority of the Barry County Drain Commission every three years.

The Greater Wall Lake Association has no authority over the drain and dam, and no ability to control Wall Lake's lake level.

The Barry County Drain Commission has authority over County Drains.

Wall Lake residents have a special tax district to cover expenses relating to the drain and dam. Any inspections, repairs, revisions, and dredging to the drain and dam is subject to the Drain Commissioner's authority to tax residents accordingly.

The Greater Wall Lake Association communicates frequently with the Barry County Drain Commissioner to in an effort to ensure that the county drain, including the dam exiting our lake, is functioning as intended.

Water Quality - How We Test and Monitor Wall Lake's Water Quality

Wall Lake has excellent water quality. There are three main reasons for this:

- Wetlands filter out acid and sediment from incoming bog water.
- Wall Lake has had a sewer system since the early 1990's.
- Wall Lake residents have paid for professional weed control for many years.

The water quality at Wall Lake is tested several times a year by two organizations.

- Professional Lake Management (PLM). PLM tests our water in the spring and fall.
- Water quality testing volunteers test our water several times a year and coordinate data using MiCorps' Lake Monitoring protocols and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is a network of volunteer water quality monitoring programs in Michigan. The Greater Wall Lake Association participates with MiCorps' Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program. MiCorps' data goes into a database that allows us to track results over time and compare Wall Lake to other lakes.

Results of this testing can be found on our website under the "Water Quality Testing" link.

Water quality tests include:

- Secchi Disk Transparency
- Spring Total Phosphorus
- Summer Total Phosphorus
- Chlorophyll
- Dissolved Oxygen & Temperature
- Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch
- Aquatic Plant Mapping
- Shoreline Habitat Assessment

On our website we have PLM water quality testing data going aback to 2003, and MiCorps' water quality testing data going back to 2016.

Shorelines - How Shoreline Design Affects Water Quality

Shoreline design has a tremendous effect on water quality. Types of shorelines include:

- Seawall (metal or concrete wall).
- Rip-rap (stones).
- Natural shoreline (native vegetation).

Problems with seawalls include:

- Cost.
- Erosion of adjacent shorelines.
- Unaesthetic.
- Prevents turtles from exiting lake to lay eggs.
- Provides no habitat for wildlife (loss of intertidal zone).
- Loss of natural shoreline vegetation reduces water quality by removing the shoreline's ability to filter excess nutrients from runoff.

The benefits of natural shorelines are many:

- Provides habitat for essential fish and wildlife species.
- Prevents erosion with deeply rooted plants.
- Discourages nuisance wildlife like geese.
- Improves esthetics with attractive plants.
- Prevents rainwater runoff from carrying fertilizer, leaves, and grass clippings into the lake and causing algae blooms.

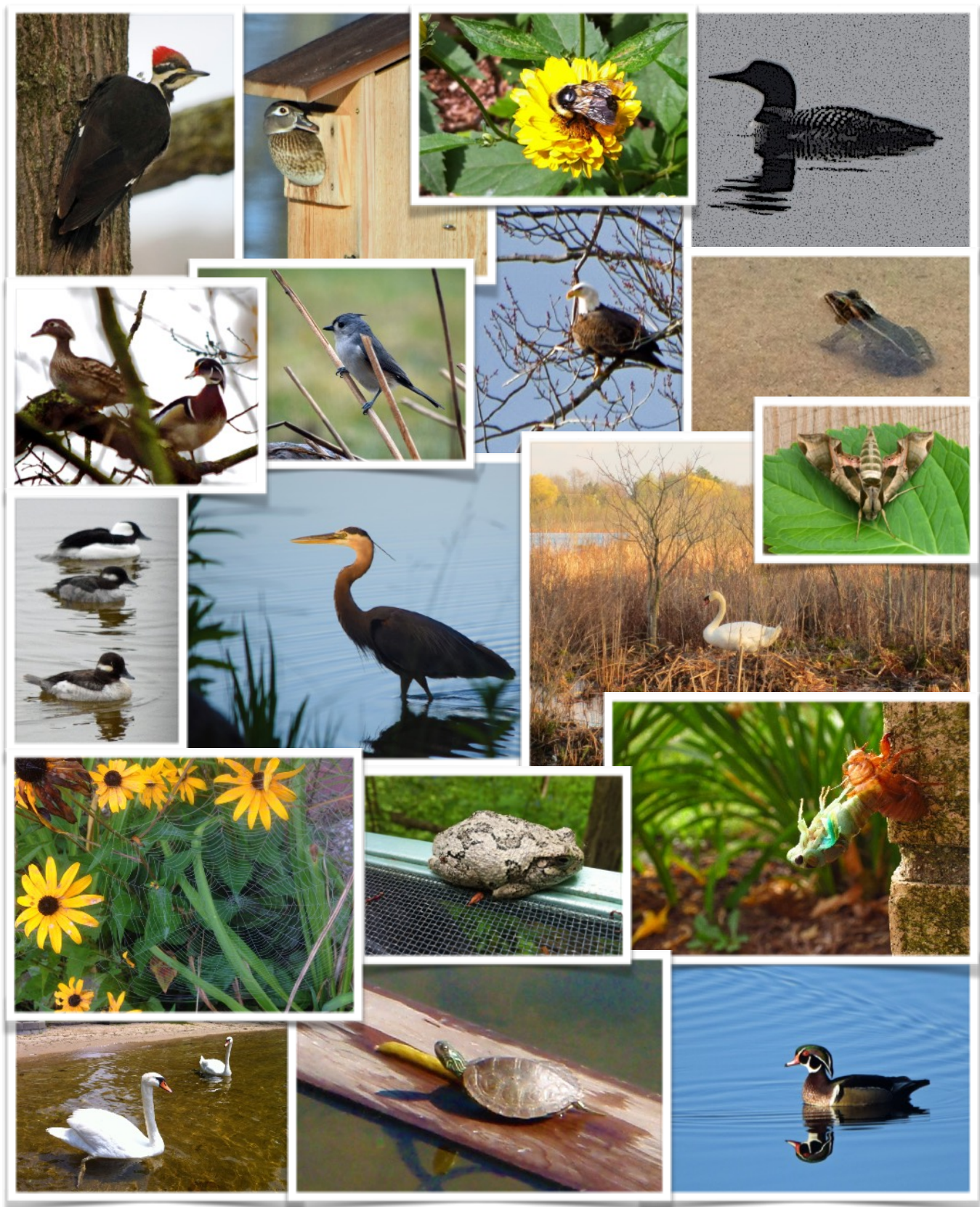
Vegetation - Plants at Wall Lake

Wall Lake enjoys a diverse assortment of vegetation.



Wildlife - Animals at Wall Lake

Wall Lake enjoys a diverse assortment of wildlife.



Aquatic Invasive Species - How They Can Harm Wall Lake

What is an aquatic invasive species?

Invasive species are non-native species that have the potential to become established and the potential to spread widely and cause ecological or economic harm or pose a risk to human health.

Why should we be concerned about invasive species?

Invasive species threaten biodiversity because they compete with native species for food and habitat. Invasive species can also kill or displace native species, destroy habitat and alter food sources. In addition, they have adverse economic effects on property values. Invasive species can also be a health risk to humans by introducing disease and toxins.

How bad is the invasive species problem?

It is very bad across the country, in Michigan, in Barry County, and in many nearby Hope Township lakes. Fortunately Wall Lake, because of limited non-resident boat trailer traffic, has had relatively few problems with invasive species – thus far.

How do invasive species get in Wall Lake?

Mainly by people launching and retrieving infected boats and personal watercraft.

What invasive species do we have in Wall Lake?

Currently we have two, and at times three, invasive plant species in Wall Lake - Eurasian Milfoil, Cabomba, and Purple Loosestrife.

Eurasian Milfoil.

This is currently present in small amounts in Wall Lake. It grows below the water surface. A couple decades ago it was widespread and a terrible problem in Wall Lake. It is now well controlled through professional aquatic invasive species management.

Cabomba

Cabomba was discovered by our professional lake management company in one location in Wall Lake in the summer of 2019. This is very concerning as Cabomba is notoriously aggressive and difficult to treat. Nevertheless, a herbicide was promptly applied, and Wall Lake will be monitored for regrowth. Cabomba is a submersed, sometimes floating, but often rooted, freshwater perennial plant. Cabomba is extremely competitive, persistent, and resistant to most herbicides. It grows into thick mats that crowd out native plants. It is very difficult to treat.

Purple Loosestrife.

This has been observed in small amounts in our wetlands and along the shores of a few homeowners. The problem with this plant is that it can take over the wetlands and prevent

them from functioning normally and filtering sediment and acidity from our incoming water. It can grow from 2-7 feet tall.

What invasive species exist in nearby lakes?

Many nearby lakes have aquatic invasive plants, and some have zebra mussels.

Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort has appeared recently in Hope Township lakes. Starry Stonewort is a grass-like algae that rapidly grows in long strands up to seven feet long. It grows underwater and forms a dense mat over the entire bottom of a lake. This mat prevents fish from bedding and has devastated the fish populations of many lakes.

Phragmites

Phragmites is a perennial wetland plant that quickly spreads through marshes and wetland areas, robbing the fish, plants and wildlife of nutrients and space; blocking access to the water; spoiling shoreline views; and posing a fire hazard. It can grow to be over 15 feet tall and crowds out other plants.

Zebra Mussels

Gull Lake is an example of an area lake that has tremendous problems with Zebra Mussels. These mussels multiply in astounding numbers. One female zebra mussel can produce up to 500,000 eggs per year. All takes is for one mussel to get into a river or lake and then they multiply very rapidly. Zebra mussels cling to everything in the water. Their shells are very sharp and are the cause of many injuries. Walking on the shore, swimming, climbing dock ladders, playing on rafts - all of these activities become very dangerous due to the presence of zebra mussels. Also, they adversely affect the insect balance in the lakes and rivers they infect, and therefore harm fish populations. In addition, they cause aquatic plant life to overgrow.

Hydrilla

Another potentially devastating invasive plant species is Hydrilla. Hydrilla is being transported north towards Michigan from southern states. This plant is highly resistant to herbicides, grows 6 inches per day, and in just a couple seasons can completely cover the top of a lake in a mat several feet thick that will kill all plant and animal life in a lake. Hydrilla has been detected in lakes near the southern border of Michigan.

What can be done about invasive aquatic species in Wall Lake?

Prevention.

- Protect and preserve our existing wetland native plant community.
- Minimize launching and retrieving of non-resident boats and jet-ski's.
- Wash boats, watercraft, and trailers prior to entering Wall Lake. A new State of Michigan law is in effect as of 3-21-19 that makes it a crime to transport aquatic organisms, including plants, into a waterbody on boats, watercraft and trailers.

In addition, for many years the Greater Wall Lake Association has contracted with Professional Lake Management (PLM) for aquatic invasive species management in Wall Lake. PLM's services include:

Monitoring.

- Plants in Wall Lake are surveyed by members of The Greater Wall Lake Association and a professional lake management weed control company.

Early Detection.

- This allows for a rapid response to treat a small area before it can spread.

Rapid Response.

- Treating small areas is less expensive and more effective.

Maintenance Control.

- Frequent monitoring and treating invasive species is time consuming and requires persistence and dedication. But it pays off by keeping invasive species at a minimum.

What can you do to help?

- Support efforts to minimize launching and retrieving of non-resident boats and personal watercraft in and out of Wall Lake. The GWLA is actively working on this.
- When you do launch and retrieve your boats and personal watercraft on Wall Lake, please don't transport aquatic plants or zebra mussels into Wall Lake. This can be prevented by cleaning your boats and trailers before and after launch, and draining water from bilges and livewells at the launch site before leaving. Also, it is a good idea to dispose of unused bait in the trash rather than dumping it in the lake. In addition, do not transport fish to waterbodies other than where they were originally caught. Lastly, it is possible to disinfect livewells and bilges with a mixture of 5 gallons of water and 1/2 cup of bleach.

Remember: Launching and retrieving boats and personal watercraft is the main way invasive species are transmitted into lakes.

Michigan Invasive Species

INVASIVE SPECIES / LAWS

Boating and Fishing Laws to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species

Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994) Part 413 has been amended with changes for boaters and anglers that are in effect as of March 21, 2019. The changes are intended to strengthen protection for Michigan waterways against the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.

What boaters need to know:

Prior to the amendment, the law only required that a person not place watercraft or trailers in the waters of Michigan if an aquatic plant is attached. In addition to this requirement, the new changes require all of the following prior to transporting any watercraft over land:



- Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.
- Ensuring that the watercraft, trailer, and any conveyance used to transport the watercraft or trailer are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.

This means that after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull plugs, drain water and remove plants and debris.

This short video shows what boaters need to do.

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.

What anglers need to know:

For anglers, these amendments codify the Michigan DNR's Fisheries Order 245 regarding the release of baitfish, collection and use of baitfish and cut bait, and release of captured fish, specifically:

- A person shall not release baitfish in any waters of this state. A person who collects fish shall not use the fish as bait or cut bait except in the inland lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway of the inland lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught if the fish could freely move between the original location of capture and the location of release.



- A person, who catches fish other than baitfish in a lake, stream, Great Lake, or connecting waterway shall only release the fish in the lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway of the lake, stream, or Great Lake where the fish was caught if the fish could freely move between the original location of capture and the location of release.

Whether purchased or collected, unused baitfish should be disposed of on land or in the trash – never in the water. Any baitfish an angler collects may be used only in the waters where it was originally collected.

Anglers who are catching and releasing fish should only release the fish back into the same water or in a connecting body of water the fish could have reached on its own.

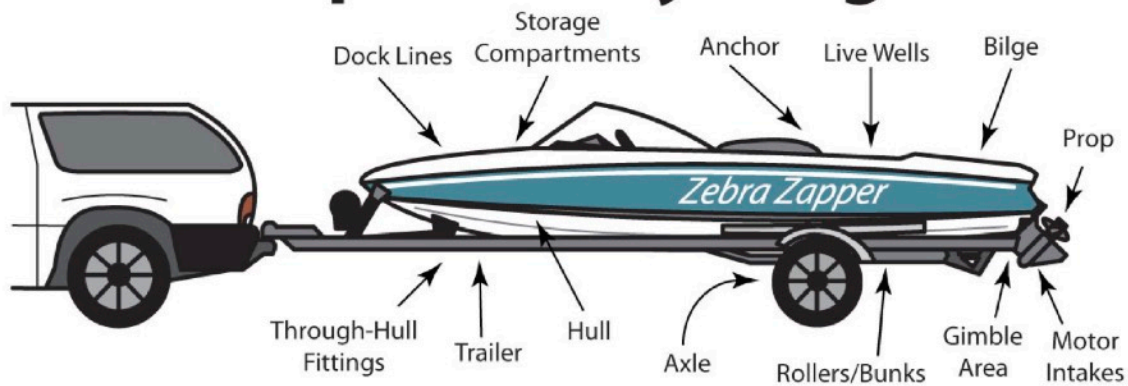
Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.

What you should do:

To comply with the law and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, boaters should:

1. CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment.
2. DRAIN live wells, bilges and all water - pull all drain plugs.
3. DRY boats and equipment.
4. DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



[Michigan.gov Home](https://www.michigan.gov)

Weed Control

In 1989, the invasive plant Eurasian Milfoil was discovered in Wall Lake. This weed multiplied rapidly and grew to such an extent that it impeded enjoyment of the lake. Swimming became unpleasant and boating became difficult due to weeds collecting on propellers.

Initially, lakefront and back lot residents agreed to a voluntary funding of weed control for the lake. The volume of weeds in the lake soon started to diminish; however, due to lack of participation of a majority of residents, it was not possible to continue funding weed control on a voluntary basis. Therefore, with the agreement of lake area residents, a Special Assessment District (SAD) was formed to fund this program through taxes. The SAD is billed through a special tax assessment and renews upon approval in 5-year cycles.

For those who lived here during the awful heavy Milfoil years, the dramatic improvement in lake quality has been greatly appreciated. It is hoped that all lake residents will continue to approve weed control as a tax assessment program. The Greater Wall Lake Association thanks everyone for their support.

Threats To Wall Lake - Two Threats That Can Destroy Wall Lake

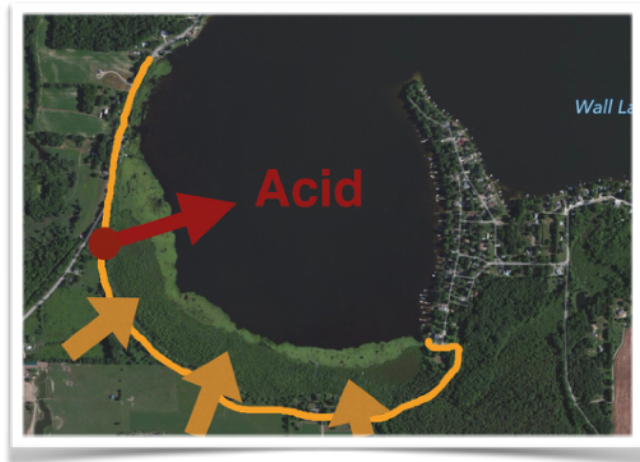
Threat #1

Invasive aquatic species transmission into Wall Lake



Threat #2

Damage to our wetlands allowing acidic bog water to flow freely into Wall Lake



Environmental Organizations

The GWLA consults the following organizations to guide our ecological work

- Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council
- Four Township Water Resources Council
- Kellogg Biological Station
- Kellogg Bird Sanctuary
- Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations
- MiCorps' Cooperative Lake Monitoring Association
- Kalamazoo River Watershed Council
- Barry Conservation District
- Michigan Waterfront Alliance
- Audubon Society

Lake Associations

The GWLA collaborates with local lake associations

- Delton Crooked Lake Association
- Long Lake Cloverdale Association
- Guernsey Lake Association
- Gun Lake Protective Association
- Pine Lake Association
- Gull Lake Quality Organization

Respectful Lake Living

How to get the most out of lake life

Respect Wall Lake

Managing lakes is difficult work. According to the faculty at The Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, managing lakes is a universally challenging problem. It is common on inland lakes for there to be a divide between those residents who view their lake as a big swimming pool that exists for their pleasure, and those who understand that a lake is part of a delicate ecosystem, of which we are a part and can greatly affect.

The lakes that survive humanities' abuses are those that have few people near them, or those that are managed well. Those lakes that are well-managed have a vibrant lake association with an inspired volunteer board and an enthusiastic membership. These lake boards typically have members that cycle through with renewed periods of inspiration, leadership, and sacrifice and make a difference for their lakes. Roles of lake associations typically include education, organization, community activities, and advocacy. Lake associations are typically funded by membership dues and donations.

Wall Lake has survived everything Mother Nature could throw at her for 10,000 years. In just 100 years, human activities - especially those that threaten her wetlands, or transport invasive species, could destroy her. Thank you in advance for doing whatever you can to preserve our treasured lake.

Aids to Lake Preservation

For maximum preservation and enjoyment of the lake:

- Do not put grass clippings or leaves into the lake.
- Do not use soaps or detergents in a manner that will allow them to enter the lake.
- Do not throw water balloons, or otherwise put litter in the lake.
- Do not hit golf balls, or otherwise put litter in the lake.
- If you fertilize your lawn, please use environmentally friendly, (phosphorous-free) fertilizer.

Respect Your Neighbors

Noise

More and more people are choosing to live here year round. This means that this is their home, and not a weekend escape from another city. They work, they have doctor's appointments in the morning, and excessive noise late at night disrupts their lives. Please remember that noise travels louder and farther over water than land. Also, lake living brings compressed living, and sounds travel between adjacent homes due to close proximity.

Dogs

Please don't allow your dogs to leave your property. This will prevent feces from appearing on neighbor's lawns, and prevent injury and litigation from dog bites. Also, barking dogs are subject to Hope Township's Noise Ordinance law.

Home Rental

Given today's litigious society, and given the high risks to the lake from aquatic invasive species, owners of rental vacation homes need to be very cautious. Rental owners may be liable for the behavior of others. Accidents, medical incidents, and environmental harm from the transmission of invasive species represent great risks to rental owners. Please make sure that your renters are aware of proper lake etiquette.

Boat Launching

Given today's litigious society, and given the high risks to the lake from invasive species, homeowners need to be very cautious. Homeowners may be liable for the behavior of others. Accidents, medical incidents, and environmental harm from the transmission of invasive species represent great risks to homeowners. Please be sure that any watercraft that has been on other lakes is properly cleaned as described below.

Be sure that boats entering Wall Lake have been cleaned as follows:

- Inspect and remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting your recreational equipment.
- Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer, live wells) before transporting it.
- Dry equipment for at least 5 days. Some invasive species can survive for many days in a dry environment.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.

Know the Law: Michigan laws prohibit placing a boat, trailer, or other boating equipment into Michigan waters with plant material attached.

New amendment for 2019: Prior to the 2019 amendment, the law only required that a person not place watercraft or trailers in the waters of Michigan if an aquatic plant is attached. In addition to this requirement, the new changes require all of the following prior to transporting any watercraft over land:

- Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.
- Ensuring that the watercraft, trailer, and any conveyance used to transport the watercraft or trailer are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.

This means that after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull plugs, drain water and remove plants and debris.

Courtesy

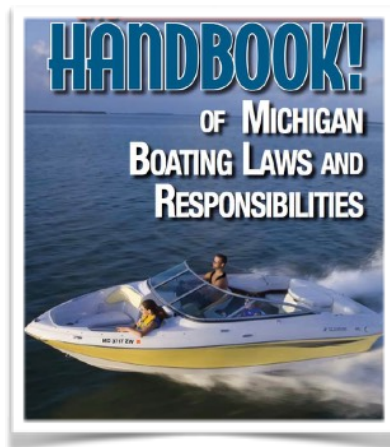
Powerboats and personal watercraft should take care that they do not interfere with swimmers, sailboats, fishing boats, paddle boards, kayaks, and canoes.

Special care should be taken when entering and exiting dock areas where swimmers may be difficult to see.

Also, be sure you are familiar with The Michigan Handbook of Boating Laws and Responsibilities. Pertinent topics include:

- Who May Operate.
- Towing Skiers.
- Unlawful and Dangerous Operations such as Reckless Operation, Improper Distance, Improper Direction, and Failure to Regulate Speed.
- Navigation Rules.
- Personal Watercraft (PWC). Note that many laws for PWC's differ than those for other vessels.
- Noise levels permitted by vessels.
- Slow, No Wake Speed Regulation with regards to operating within 100 feet of shoreline, docks and rafts, persons in water, moored vessels, and bays.

Note: "Slow, No Wake" means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and which does not create a wake.



Our website has a link to the Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities in the Boating Courtesy section.

The following information is from the above Handbook

Unlawful and Dangerous Operation

Michigan law designates these dangerous operating practices as illegal.

Reckless Operation of a vessel or reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard, or similar device is defined as operation which disregards the safety or rights of others or endangers the person or property of others. Some examples are:

- Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is restricted
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with your vessel
- Causing damage from the wake of your vessel

Failure To Regulate Speed is operating a vessel at speeds that may cause danger to life or property of any other person or at speeds that will not permit you to bring your vessel to a safe stop. It is illegal to operate a vessel:

- In excess of 55 mph unless you are at least one mile offshore on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair
- At greater than “slow, no wake speed” when a person is in the bow of a vessel without proper seating
- Faster than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions (weather, vessel traffic, etc.)

Improper Distance is not maintaining a proper distance while operating a vessel or towing a person. To maintain a proper distance when you are operating at greater than “slow, no wake speed” (except in channels that are not posted), the vessel or persons being towed must not be within 100 feet of (or 150 feet for PWC's):

- A shoreline (if operating in water less than three feet deep)
- Any moored or anchored vessel
- A dock or raft
- Any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water

“Slow, No Wake Speed” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and which does not create a wake.

Improper Distance for PWCs means that, if operating at greater than “slow, no wake speed,” PWCs also must:

- Stay at least 200 feet from any Great Lakes shoreline.
- Not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel other than another PWC.

Improper Direction is defined as the failure to operate in a counterclockwise direction except in areas marked by well-defined channels or rivers.

Boating in Restricted Areas is defined as operating within a restricted area clearly marked by buoys, beacons, diver-down flags, etc.

Riding on the Bow, Gunwales, or Transom is allowing passengers to ride on a motorboat in places where there may be a chance of falling overboard. While operating greater than “slow, no wake speed,” persons on a motorboat may not sit, stand, or walk on any portion of a motorboat not designed for that purpose. This includes riding on the gunwale.

Insufficient equipment is operating a vessel that is not carrying, storing, maintaining, and using marine safety equipment on board the vessel as required by the Department of Natural Resources.

Service Directory

Whom to call when you are having trouble, helpful resources, etc.

Lost and Found

E-mail the GWLA at greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com. We will post information on the GWLA Facebook page or Website.

Police, Fire, EMS

Call 911

Noise Problems

Call Barry County Central Dispatch 1-269-948-4800

The Barry County Sheriff will investigate videos or photographs of boating problems.

Hope Township has a Noise Ordinance. The ordinance states that it is a violation of the law to make noise that disrupts neighbors between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM.

A copy (PDF) of the ordinance is on our website in the Noise Problems section.

Boating Problems

Call Barry County Central Dispatch 1-269-948-4800

The State Department of Natural Resources publishes the Michigan handbook of Boating Laws.

A copy (PDF) of the handbook is on our website in the Boating Problems section.

Harm To Wildlife

Call Barry County Central Dispatch 1-269-948-4800

Call Michigan Department of Natural Resources Report All Poaching (RAP) 1-800-292-7800

Littering

Call Barry County Central Dispatch 1-269-948-4800

Besides the obvious examples of littering, it is illegal to hit golf balls, throw water balloons, or place other debris in the lake.

Disabled Vehicles

Call Hope Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer at 1-269-377-1710.

Hope Township has a Disabled Vehicle Ordinance. This ordinance states that it is a violation of the law to store disabled vehicles, trailers, and “junk” outdoors.

The Hope Township Ordinance Enforcement officer works part-time and prioritizes written complaints over telephone complaints. A complaint form may be printed from the Hope Township website, filled out anonymously, and mailed to Hope Township at:

Hope Township
5463 South M-43 Highway
Hastings, MI 49058
Attn: Ordinance Enforcement Officer
www.hopetwp.com

A copy (PDF) of the ordinance is on our website in the Disabled Vehicles section.

Dock and Raft Problems

Call Barry County Central Dispatch 1-269-948-4800

Do not call the Greater Wall Lake Association. We have no authority over these matters.

Property Line Problems

Call surveyors.

Do not call the Greater Wall Lake Association. We have no authority over these matters.

Power Outage

Call Consumers Energy 1-800-477-5050

The Consumers Energy website has an excellent map of power outage locations and expected power restoration times.

A link to the Consumers Energy outage map is on our website in the Power Outage section.

Sewer System Problems

Call Barry County Sewer and Water Authority 1-269-623-3401. 24/7 service is available.

Decades ago Wall Lake, like so many rural lakes, used septic systems for waste treatment. Because of this, the water clarity and quality suffered.

In the 1990's, in an effort to improve water quality, the GWLA worked tirelessly with residents and neighboring lake associations to bring a sewer system to Wall Lake. This was a monumental accomplishment and today we enjoy a much cleaner lake because of this achievement.

Burn Permit

Call Barry County Central Dispatch 1-269-205-3208

www.barry911.org/burn-permits.html

All fires in Barry County require a burn permit, with the exception of campfires. You will receive a recorded message that will advise whether or not open burning is permitted that day. If the message advises that open burning is permitted, leave your name, phone number and address of where you will be burning. You then may go ahead and burn the following items only; limbs, brush, stumps, evergreen needles, leaves, and/or grass. If the message advises that open burning is NOT permitted that day you will need to call back when weather conditions have changed to obtain a permit.

Recycling

Hope Township Hall
5463 South M-43 Highway
Hasting, MI 49058
1-269-948-2464
www.hopetwp.com

Note: The township hall is not located in Hastings, despite the mailing address. It is 5 miles northeast of Wall Lake towards Hasting on M-43.

Note: We have a link to recycling at Hope Township on our website in the Recycling section. Acceptable and unacceptable items are listed on the hope Township Recycling Program web page. Metal, glass, and some plastics are accepted.

Dump

Hastings Sanitary Transfer Station
2994 Osborne Rd
Delton, MI 49046
Tel: (269) 671-4406

Note: The dump is called a Transfer Station, and is not located in Hastings, despite the name. It is south of Wall Lake in Delton.

Note: We have a link to information about the dump in Delton on our website in the Dump section.

Note: This facility also accepts recyclables, along with various refuse items.

Local Government

*To Protect the Health, Safety, and Welfare of our Community,
Including its Natural Resources*

Hope Township

Contact Information:

Hope Township
5463 South M-43 Highway
Hastings, MI 49058
1-269-948-2464
www.hopetwp.com

Board Supervisor: Mark Feldpausch e-mail: hopetwpsu@mei.net
Board Clerk: Deborah Jackson e-mail: hopetwpcl@mei.net
Board Treasurer: Arlene Tonkin e-mail: hopetwptr@mei.net
Board Trustee: David Messelink e-mail: dmonline@mei.net
Board Trustee: Matt Peake e-mail: peakemat@gmail.com

The impact of local government on lakes and other natural resources:

Lakes face a perilous existence, and lake residents, who have sacrificed greatly to enjoy lake-living, face ever-increasing challenges to their way of life. Lakes are constantly aging. Today, because of aquatic invasive species, lakes suffer from greater risks than in the past. We believe that it is local government's legal, moral, and fiscal responsibility to protect lakes and other natural resources.

Riparian attorney, Clifford H. Bloom, states, "Lake residents and lake associations underestimate the impact that the local unit of government can have on a lake community, both positive or negative. Local municipal ordinances (or lack thereof) can have a huge impact on lakes and lake associations."

Hope Township Land Use Plan states:

"A defining characteristic of Hope Township will be its woodlands, open lands, drainage network, healthy wetlands and lakes, natural character, and wildlife habitat." "Hope Township will strike a balance between the area's cherished rural character and a variety of small-scale employment opportunities."

Hope Township Zoning Ordinance states:

"The general health, safety, and welfare of the township will be protected."

Barry Township

Contact Information:

Barry Township
155 East Orchard Street
Delton, MI 49046
1-269-623-5171
www.barrytownshipmi.com

Barry County

Contact Information:

Barry County
220 West State Street
Hastings, MI 49058
Telephone - see Barry County Website for various department numbers
www.barrycounty.com

Barry County Drain Commission

Contact Information:

Barry County Drain Commission
220 West state Street
Hastings, MI 49058

Drain Commissioner: Jim Dull e-mail: jdull@barrycounty.org
Jim Dull telephone: 1-269-945-1385