

2022 LAKE OAKLAND LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD REPORT

Treatment of Invasive and Nuisance Weeds

May 4 Survey – May 12 Treatment
June 1 Survey – June 8 & June 16 Treatments
June 30 Survey – July 7 & July 11 Treatments
July 13 Survey – July 16 Treatment
August 9 Survey – August 16 Treatment

The late spring of 2022 promoted robust aquatic plant growth in Lake Oakland that required 3 treatments through the middle of June. Additional treatments in July and August followed. Immediately ahead of all treatment dates, Aqua-Weed Control posted markers on the lakefront areas that were to be directly treated. It is important to mention that these postings do not specifically identify what chemicals were added at each site. In order to determine which chemicals were added near to your shoreline, lake riparians can refer to treatment maps posted on the “News” page of the lake board website (www.lakeoaklandboard.org). Alternatively, lake riparians can sign-up for emails to receive communications with attached treatment/harvesting maps that will alert them to upcoming treatments, harvests, and board meetings (form can be found on the front page of the website; **60 riparians are now enrolled**). It is also important to recall that many Lakeshore Drive lakefront properties are located within 1000 feet of the Lake Oakland dams and are not allowed to be directly treated according to Michigan DNR policy, although these lakefront properties do receive some downstream effect from treated areas.

That being stated, the most problematic invasive weed in Lake Oakland continues to be milfoil, both Eurasian and a native/Eurasian hybrid species, and starry stonewort. Other treatments largely focused on algae blooms throughout the summer. A detailed Lake Oakland Plant Control Summary for 2021, prepared by ProgressiveAE is also posted on the website: https://www.lakeoaklandboard.org/files/ugd/bbfa81_d85dc33ff56f4fcbb35a230e9932477c.pdf

Harvest of Invasive and Nuisance Weeds

June 28 - July 8
August 25 - 31

Beginning in 2019, the lake board decided to delay the initial harvest until after the July 4th holiday. The historic reason for an earlier harvest had been to ensure that the lake is in good shape for the festivities surrounding that holiday. However, late season growth of nuisance weeds has become a problem, so the Lake Board has worked to reserve funds for a second late-season harvest that was initiated in 2020. Outcomes of these combined changes have resulted in much greater quantities of weeds harvested during the past three years (refer to previous year’s reports to see the data). Since the lake board pays for harvesting by the acre, it is now evident that we are receiving quite a bit more bang for the buck by harvesting later in the season. It is also important to point out that those who reside close to the Lake Oakland dams are included in both harvests.

However, the warm, late summer of 2022 produced a robust crop of celery grass and pond weed and the second harvest did not capture the vast quantity of these nuisance weeds, with many riparians seeing larger than normal quantities of floating plant material accumulate along their shorelines during the month of September, which was largely created by boat traffic after the second harvest. Consequently, we are going to schedule the second harvest after Labor Day in 2023 in order to better capture these late-season nuisance weeds. Finally, a severe windstorm on August 31 that knocked power out to nearly 400,000 residents in southeast Michigan, also capsized one of the harvesters near the Dill Road launch site. Fortunately, nobody was injured, but the submerged harvester spilled oil into Lake Oakland and many riparians subsequently observed slicks on their shorelines. While this oil was plant-based and biodegradable, it still caused concern. Nevertheless, based largely on negative riparian feedback regarding that second harvest, the Lake Board has decided to contract with another harvester for the 2023 season, Oakland Harvesters, LLC, based on their newer fleet of harvesters and more favorable reputation.

POLICE PRESENCE ON LAKE OAKLAND

Thanks to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, we had Oakland County Sheriffs on Lake Oakland throughout the July 4 holiday weekend. After consulting the Sheriff's office, the Commissioners identified the 5 busiest Oakland County lakes that did not fund police presence and Lake Oakland was included for a one-time stipend to pay for police presence.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE UPDATE

The Lake Board was unable to continue with additional seeding of beetles in 2022 that feast on this invasive weed due to a scheduling conflict that prevented receipt of shipment. We intend to continue with this biological approach aimed at keeping Purple Loosestrife in check (see previous Lake Oakland Lake Improvement Board Reports for more information). Once established, these beetles will spread out over other parts of the lake to areas that are beginning to experience purple loosestrife infestation. In the meantime, lake riparians are asked to be on the lookout for blooms in their properties and to remove them before they get too large to do so manually. **I would be glad to help you remove these invasive weeds!**

Lake Oakland Water Quality Monitoring

The lake board is contracted with ProgressiveAE to conduct annual testing of lake water quality (clarity, chlorophyll, phosphorous, oxygen, pH) and a data base is being developed for our lake. A final report on 2021 Lake Oakland water quality is available for review on the website: https://www.lakeoaklandboard.org/files/ugd/bbfa81_d85dc33ff56f4fcb35a230e9932477c.pdf and a final 2022 report should be posted in the next few weeks.

Lake Oakland Fish Survey

The Michigan DNR conducted a fish survey on Lake Oakland from May 10-13, 2021. The last survey was conducted in 2001 and an update was needed to help inform the lake board about past fish stocking and the need for future fish stocking. A final report should be available for Lake Oakland in about one year, but I am providing a pdf file of the preliminary data along with

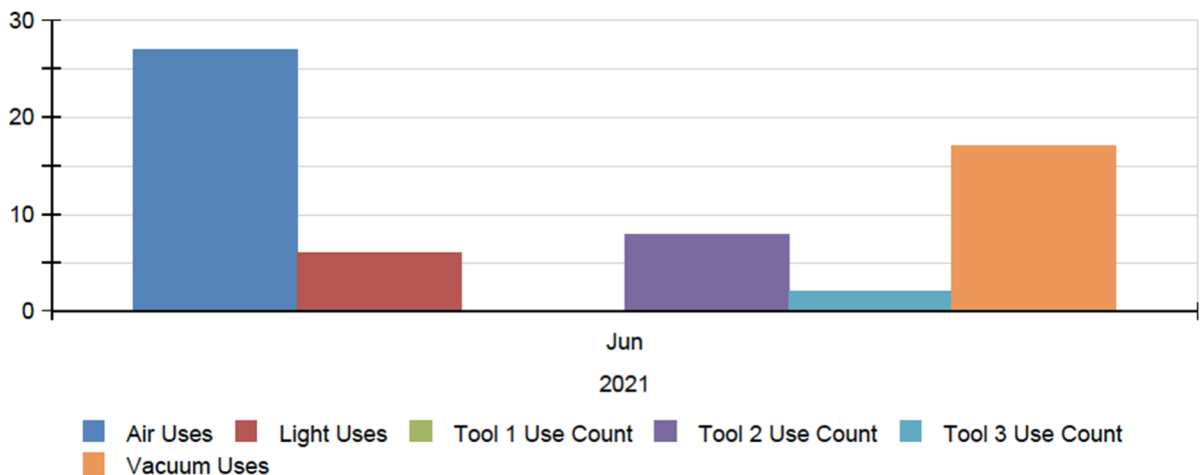
this report that was compiled from the combined survey of Lake Oakland and Woodhull Lake, which indicates a good biodiversity of predator and prey species. Interested riparians can compare these data to those in the 2005 Michigan DNR Status of the Fishery Resource report that is also posted on the Lake Board website:

<https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/dnr/Documents/Fisheries/Status/folder1/2005-1.pdf?rev=cb6f6bf7a9ba47d6bf498027b9d491e6>

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Mobile Unit at Lake Oakland

In 2021, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners purchased two AIS mobile units and have made them available for stationing at Oakland County lakes at no cost. This is a WATERLESS, solar powered resource for users of the Dill Road launch site to wash and remove invasive species from their watercraft. No hookups or other amenities are required, just space adjacent to the driving route of boats/trailers (not within the flow of traffic). Three hand tools allow for manual removal of non-native plants and animals, and solar panels power a vacuum and air blower that prevent accidental transport of organisms in water left on boats. The Lake Board requested to have one of these units placed at the Dill Road access site and our request was granted. One of these units was on-site from Thursday June 17-Thursday July 1, 2021 and received the following usage:

Location	Month Name	Air Uses	Light Uses	Tool 1 Use Count	Tool 2 Use Count	Tool 3 Use Count	Vacuum Uses
Oakland County Trailer 2	Jun	27	6	0	8	2	17



The Lake Board also requested a unit to be placed again this year and that request was granted for Thursday June 16-Thursday June 30, 2022. A usage report for 2022 will be available in a few months.

Storm Drain Cleanout & Labeling

George Nichols (Water Commissioner's Office representative on the lake board) submitted a request to the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) for catch basin cleaning in that subdivision in 2021 and continues to monitor his requests, but to date this has not yet been done. These are catch basins that drain directly into Lake Oakland and photo maps of these drains in the Lake Oakland Estates and the neighboring Lake Oakland Heights subdivision have been created and submitted long with Mr. Nichols' requests, who will continue to follow-up with RCOC until they formally schedule those cleanings.

Relatedly, the lake board has purchased a 12" x 30" stencil for use in labeling catch basin drains in response to a request from a lake riparian.



This stencil is available to all Lake Oakland riparians and the lake board recommends that white paint be used to label these drains and to first contact the homeowners where these drains are located in order to inform them of the labeling and to gain their acknowledgment of the work.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Sabina
Chair, Lake Oakland Lake Improvement Board