



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A Monthly Update Highlighting One Committee's Progress

MARCH 2026
PART II

**EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT
EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE
ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE**

HOH-lake.org or HOHL@gerrishtownship.org

AT A GLANCE

Science
Subcommittee

Aquatic Invasive Species,
Part 2

- The Higgins Lake Foundation uses a **DASH boat (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting)** to remove invasive weeds like Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and starry stonewort (SSW). Divers hand-pull the plants and suction them up to prevent spreading.
- The DNR inspects and treats its three boat accesses annually.
- EWM appears to be held in check through ongoing harvesting efforts.

CURRENT CONTROL EFFORTS

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), Starry Stonewort (SSM) & Curly Leaf Pondweed Control

- The Higgins Lake Foundation conducts ongoing invasive species removal at multiple locations around Higgins Lake.
- Lakefront property owners may request harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in front of their property by contacting **989-275-9183** or info@higginslake-foundation.org.
- Annual reports submitted to EGLE indicate EWM is currently being managed effectively.
- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) inspects its three public boat launches annually and performs targeted treatments when needed, including use of a DASH unit at priority access areas.
- Starry stonewort (SSW) is managed through mechanical harvesting; because there is no approved chemical treatment, physical removal remains the primary control method.
- Recently identified curly-leaf pondweed can be treated chemically; however, hand removal is considered the most practical approach for Higgins Lake, with targeted efforts planned for 2026.

WHAT ABOUT MUSSELS AND OTHER ANIMALS?



- There is currently no known practical treatment to control or eradicate zebra mussels, quagga mussels, Asian clams, or banded mystery snails in Higgins Lake — making prevention of additional invasive species especially critical.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Learn what YOU can do to help protect Higgins Lake from new invasive species

- Michigan law, early detection, and more...

The next Steering Committee meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 PM at the hall.

Plan to attend and participate! For more information, go to the website or on Facebook at Gerrish Township Health of Higgins Lake.