



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A Monthly Update Highlighting One Committee's Progress

APRIL 2026

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

HOH-lake.org or HOHL@gerrishtownship.org

AT A GLANCE

Science Sub Committee
Aquatic Invasive Species,
Part III

- Public boat accesses are the major entry points for new invasive species
- Clean, Drain, and Dry is required by Michigan law
- Early detection is crucial-report any suspected invasive species

INVASIVE SPECIES - What You Can Do

Prevention: Our Best Defense

Many aquatic invasive plants are spread by human activities - primarily through trailered boats with aquatic plants attached. The public boat accesses are widely considered to be the major entry points for new invasive species. *This means that every boater has a critical role in protecting Higgins Lake.*

Higgins Lake Foundation (HLF) and Higgins Lake Property Owners Association (HLPOA) Have Established a Comprehensive Approach to Prevention By:

- Operating the DASH boat for invasive plant harvesting
- Supporting boat washing at the South State Park
- Inspecting parked boat trailers at accesses
- Collecting data to evaluate aquatic invasive species (AIS) entry risks
- Promoting the DNR Clean, Drain and Dry program
- Developing plans to remove curly leaf pondweed at the West Access

How YOU Can Help

Clean, Drain, and Dry - It's the Law!



Before transporting any watercraft in Michigan, you must:

- Remove drain plugs and drain all water (bilges, ballast tanks, live wells)
- Clear all plant, debris, and aquatic organisms from boats and trailers
 - Failure to comply may result in fines.

Additional Ways to Help:

- Never release aquarium or pond species into natural waters
- Clean gear (fishing equipment, waders, water toys) between uses
- Report suspected invasive species - experts can assist with identification

Early Detection is Key - Reporting unusual plants or animals helps prevent the spread of AIS

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.