

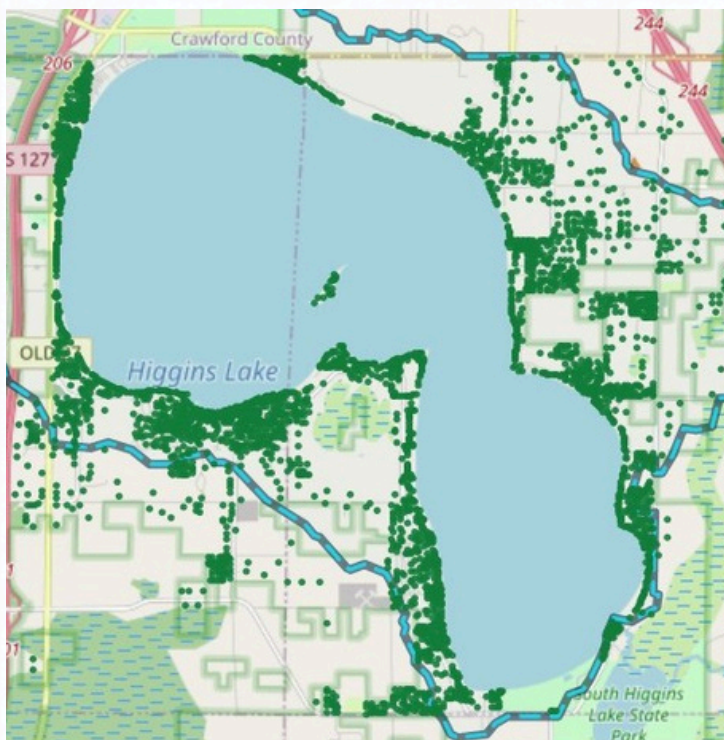


CONNECTING THE DOTS

What Do We Know About Septic Systems Around Higgins Lake?

- Thousands of improved properties surround Higgins Lake.
- Mapping them helps illustrate the density of development around the lake.
- HOHL is bringing together township assessor information, Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) records and other available data to better understand conditions throughout the watershed.

MAP 1 - PROPERTIES WITH SEPTIC INFORMATION

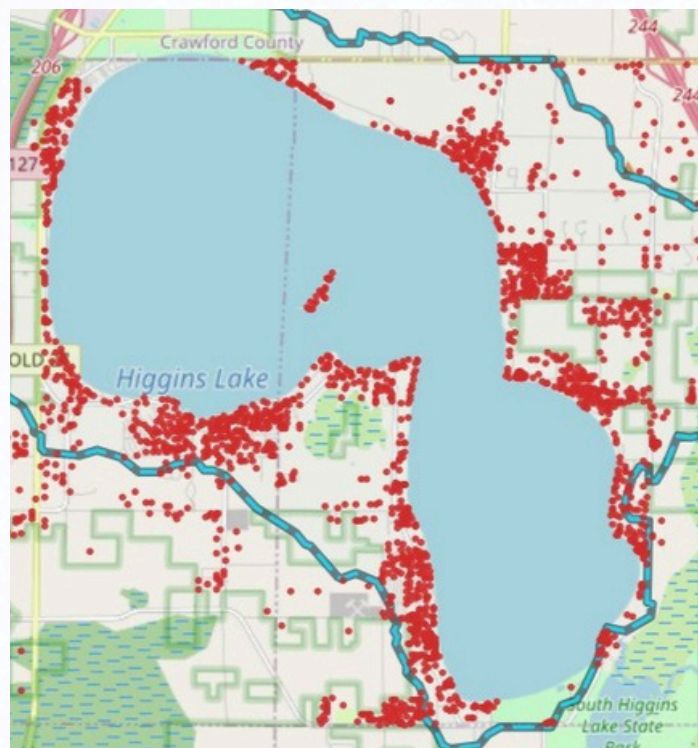


The **green** highlighted properties represent improved properties where available CMDHD records provide septic system information.

57.5%

of improved properties in Gerrish and Lyon Townships have septic information available in CMDHD records.

MAP 2 - PROPERTIES WITHOUT SEPTIC INFORMATION



The **red** highlighted properties represent improved properties where available CMDHD records **do not** provide septic-system information.

42.5%

(More than 4 out of 10) of improved properties in Gerrish and Lyon Townships have **no** septic information available in CMDHD records.



WHAT THIS MEANS

The red properties on the map show improved properties where available CMDHD records do not provide septic-system information. These properties are not known to lack septic systems — and there is no indication that anything is wrong with their systems. It simply means that important information such as age, location or other system characteristics are **not** available in the Health Department records being used by HOHL.

FROM INFORMATION GAPS TO INFORMED DECISIONS



The Gerrish Township Planning Commission is reviewing a proposed septic ordinance. Among the issues being considered is how inspections and better recordkeeping could help fill these information gaps over time.



HOHL is not beginning with a predetermined answer. Its role is to collect and organize information, identify gaps, and give residents and public officials better tools for understanding the issues facing Higgins Lake.



Septic systems are only one part of a larger picture. HOHL volunteers are also studying water quality, invasive species, road-end run off, fertilizer, fisheries, recreation and other factors that may affect the lake.

Better information leads to better questions.

Better questions lead to better decisions.

That is the Health of Higgins Lake process at work.

