THE HEALTH OF HIGGINS LAKE

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A Monthly Update Highlighting One Aspect of Our Work

OCTOBER 2026

EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT
EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE
ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE

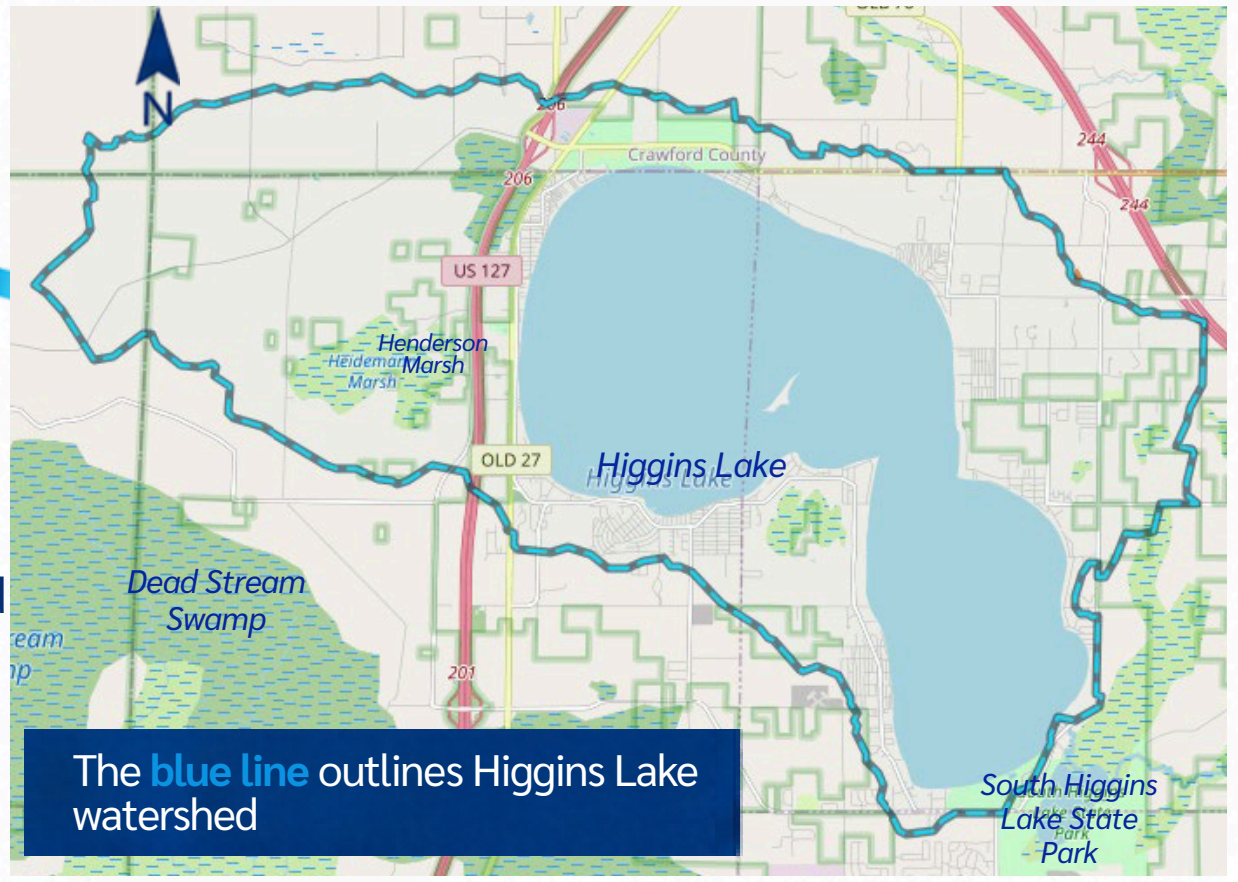
Health of Higgins Lake

HOH-Lake.org or HOHL@gerristownship.org

IT'S BIGGER THAN THE LAKE!

Understanding the Higgins Lake Watershed

Higgins Lake is more than the beautiful blue water we see. Its health is connected to a much larger area of land, forests, wetlands, and groundwater that make up the Higgins Lake watershed.



The **blue line** outlines Higgins Lake watershed

DID YOU KNOW?

A WATERSHED IS AN AREA OF LAND

where rainfall, snowmelt, and groundwater drain to a common body of water. Water from throughout the watershed ultimately makes its way toward Higgins Lake.

IT EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE SHORELINE

The Higgins Lake watershed covers nearly 29,000 acres (about 45 square miles), including the lake itself, and encompasses surrounding forests, wetlands, streams, roads, and developed properties.

HIGGINS LAKE IS PART OF THE HEADWATERS OF THE MUSKEGON RIVER SYSTEM

Water leaves Higgins Lake through the Cut River, flows into Houghton Lake, and continues through the Muskegon River system toward Lake Michigan.

WHAT HAPPENS ON LAND MATTERS

Water moves across and through the landscape and can carry soil, nutrients, and other materials. Activities miles from the shoreline can influence the water that reaches Higgins Lake.

A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

- The Higgins Lake Watershed Management Plan, prepared in 2007 by Huron Pines, outlined strategies to protect water quality, encourage responsible land use, and coordinate community efforts.
- Nearly 20 years later, new research, improved mapping, and changing conditions provide an opportunity to reassess priorities and update the plan.
- Updating the plan to meet current EGLE requirements can help make eligible watershed projects competitive for state and federal grant funding.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- HOHL is seeking community members to help update the Higgins Lake Watershed Management Plan.
- Opportunities include reviewing information, sharing local knowledge, and helping shape future watershed priorities.
- The first meeting is **Thursday, Nov. 5th at 9 am** Higgins Lake Foundation, 207 Terrace Dr, Roscommon, MI 48653
- If you are interested in this important work, please visit **HOH-Lake.org** or contact **HOHL@gerrishtownship.org.**

