

WIXOM LAKE BOTTOMLAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT FIRST QUARTER 2024 UPDATE

PREPARED FOR:

WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD
GLADWIN & MIDLAND COUNTIES, MI

The bottomland management project on Wixom Lake focuses on the control and removal of nuisance woody plant growth with the select use of herbicides and mowing and/or mulching of remaining biomass. The program is administered by the Wixom Lake Improvement Board. Management efforts are coordinated with the Four Lakes Task Force and the Wixom Lake Association to avoid redundancy and ensure proper timing and sequencing of efforts. The current project is being financed mostly through funds collected from special assessments as approved during public hearings in September of 2023. Below is a summary of activities during the first quarter of 2024.

Who oversees the plant control program?

Plant control activities are coordinated under the direction of the lake board's environmental consultant, Progressive Companies. Biologists from Progressive Companies use drone and ground-based GPS-guided surveys of the lake bottom to identify problem areas, and detailed treatment and mowing maps are provided to the plant control contractors. Follow-up surveys are then conducted to evaluate treatment effectiveness and the need for additional treatments or mowing.

Who conducts the herbicide treatments?

Herbicide treatments of the Wixom Lake bottomlands are conducted by PLM Lake & Land Management.

Who determines when and where treatments and mowing will occur?

The timing and scope of treatments is based on the most appropriate management during the target plants growth cycle. The ultimate goal is to have the bottomlands management work completed immediately prior to refilling of the lake.

What plants are targeted for control?

The bottomland plant control program on Wixom Lake focuses on nuisance woody species and invasive plants, such as *Phragmites australis* (common reed) and purple loosestrife. Invasive plant species have the potential to spread quickly to adjacent wetland areas if left unchecked.

Is a permit required?

In Michigan, a permit must be acquired from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE, formerly the DEQ), before herbicides are applied to inland lakes. The permit lists the herbicides that are approved for use, dose rates, use restrictions, and indicates specific areas of the lake where treatments are allowed. In addition, a federal permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES permit is also administered through EGLE. Permit requirements are designed to protect public health and the environment.

Can I apply herbicides myself?

If you have a permit from EGLE, you can treat your own shoreline, but we don't recommend it. In most cases, it is best to have herbicides applied by a licensed professional applicator rather than attempting to apply herbicides yourself. If applied improperly, herbicides can do more harm than good.

For more information visit the Wixom Lake Improvement Board website at www.wixomlakeimprovement.info.

Project Work Journal
Wixom Lake

2024

Beginning Balance: \$190,000.00

Date	Type	Results	Qty	Dose Rate	Cost	Remaining Balance
4/11/2024	Permit	2024 EGLE and NPDES permit fees				
4/12/2024	Permit Fee	Target Species	1.00 each		\$950.00	\$189,050.00
					Invoice 6000399 Total	\$189,050.00