

November

2025

# **WIXOM LAKE**

## **BOTTOMLANDS ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

PREPARED FOR:  
WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD  
GLADWIN COUNTY, MI

## WIXOM LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Joe Sova, Chair

*Midland County Drain Commissioner*

Terry Walters, Treasurer

*Gladwin County Drain Commissioner*

Terry Hall, Secretary

*Edenville Township*

Jeanette Snyder

*Midland County Board of Commissioners*

Larry Woodard

*Riparian*

Carol Ayers

*Billings Township*

Norm Rosenbrock

*Tobacco Township*

Tami O'Donnell

*Gladwin County Board of Commissioners*

Robert Kelly

*Hope Township*



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT

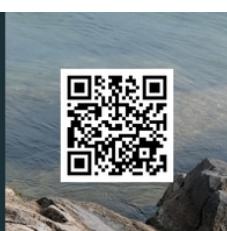
Progressive Companies

## AQUATIC HERBICIDE APPLICATOR

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

## MOWING CONTRACTOR

Wixom Lake Association



In May of 2020, the Edenville Dam failed resulting in the rapid exposure of Wixom Lake's bottomlands. The exposed, fertile bottomlands provided ideal substrate for cottonwood and willow seed germination. These woody species have taken over the bottomlands and present complications and safety concerns for the refill of Wixom Lake. The Wixom Lake Improvement Board (WLIB) with coordination from their environmental consultant, Progressive Companies, and the 4-Lakes Task Force developed a plan to address the fast growing, terrestrial plant species. The project involves the use of select herbicides and mowing to clear out the bottomlands of woody growth prior to the lake's estimated refill in 2027. If unaddressed, these woody species have the potential to cause navigational hazards on the lake once refilled.

The project is financed by the WLIB under Part 309 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, donations, and the Wixom Lake Association (WLA). Coordination of bottomland activities is under the direction of Progressive Companies, utilizing georeferenced drone photography to delineate areas of woody growth. These areas are then digitized into a deliverable map with corresponding GPS coordinates for use by the herbicide and mowing contractors.

Herbicide applications were permitted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). 2025 treatments involved ground applications using glyphosate and imazapyr for emergent vegetation, primarily invasive *Phragmites* and covered approximately 70.25 acres. The WLIB and WLA extended their 2024 contract into 2025 to continue mowing the jurisdictional bottomlands under WLIB authority. Prescribed mowing spanned 190 acres. Treatment and mowing areas addressed in 2025 are shown in the following maps broken up by the utilization type and show the extent of work done in 2025 (pages 3 and 4).

#### WIXOM LAKE 2025 BOTTOMLAND HERBICIDE TREATMENTS

Date	Description	Acreage
July 29	<i>Phragmites</i> treatments	30.00
September 10	<i>Phragmites</i> treatments	20.25
October 2	<i>Phragmites</i> treatments	20.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>70.25</b>



*Phragmites australis*

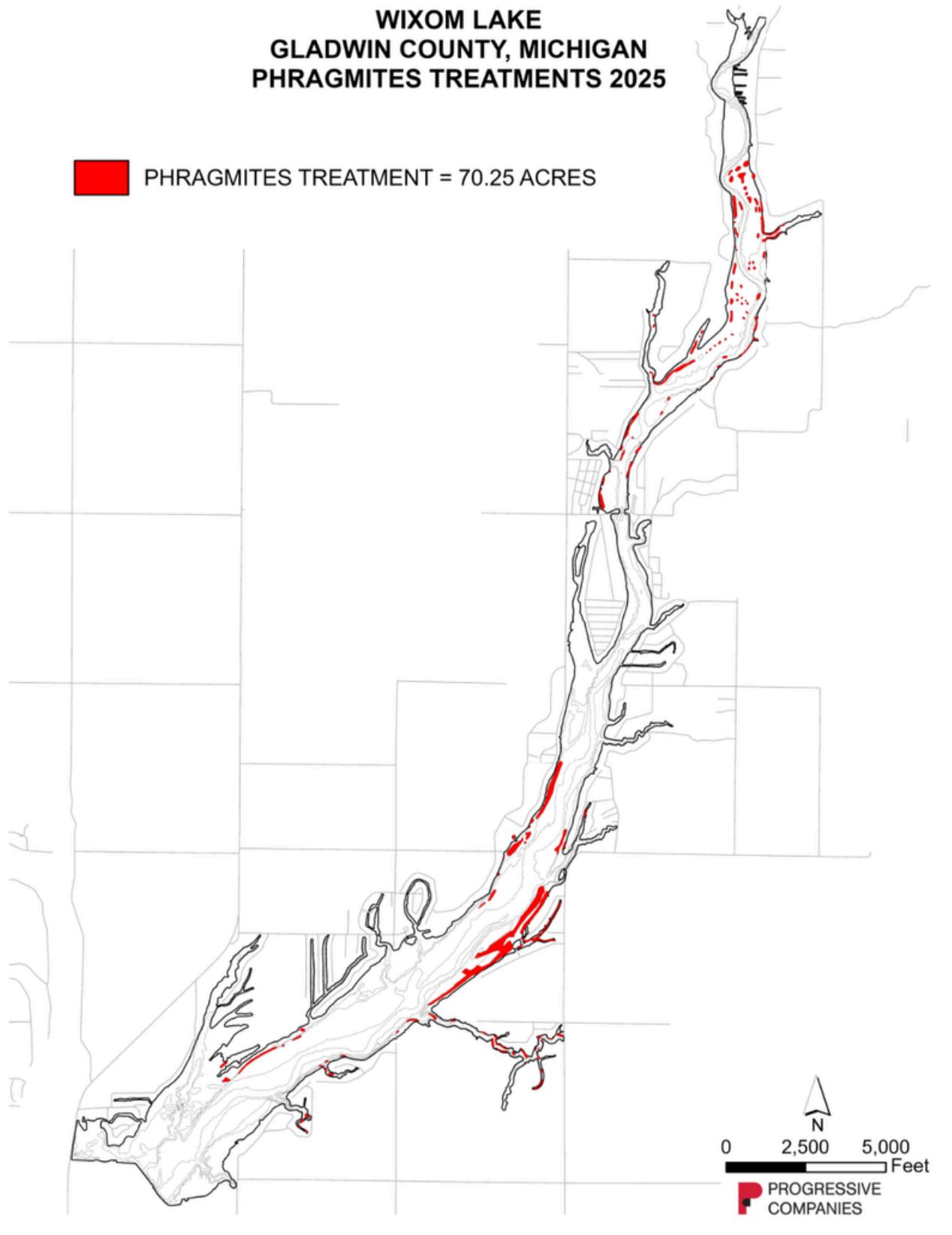


Mowing in progress.

WIXOM LAKE  
GLADWIN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
PHRAGMITES TREATMENTS 2025



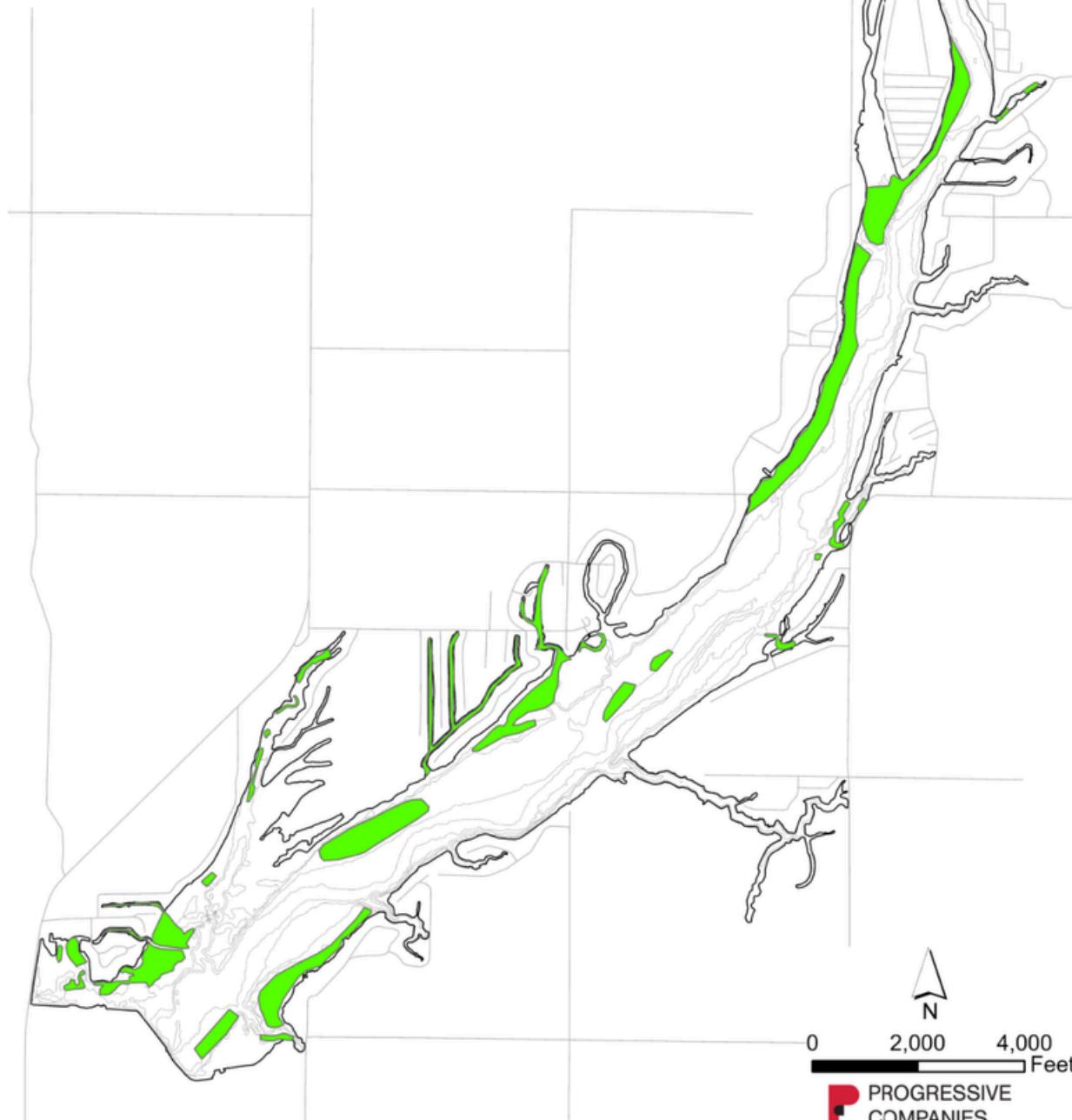
PHRAGMITES TREATMENT = 70.25 ACRES



WIXOM LAKE  
GLADWIN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
MOWING AREAS 2025



MOWING AREAS =190 ACRES





Wixom Lake looking north from Edenville dam reconstruction.



Bottomlands north of Estey Road.