Wolf Lake
Muskegon County
Muskegon River Watershed, last surveyed 2025

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Environment

Wolf Lake (Figures 1-3) is located approximately 5 miles northeast of the City of Muskegon, in Muskegon County. Wolf Lake is within the unincorporated community of Wolf Lake, in Egleston Township. Although it has no inlets or outlets, Wolf Lake lies within the Muskegon River watershed. Wolf Lake is approximately 231 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 39 feet (Jones and Jones 2025) and a shoreline length of 2.7 miles. The substrates in Wolf Lake consist primarily of sand and organic. The west bay of the lake was separated from the lake by the construction of Miller Street sometime in the 1930s. Under higher water conditions, water can still flow out of the lake into the now-separated west bay through a culvert under Miller Street. There is also a northern bay that sometimes becomes separated from the main lake during periods of low water.

The surrounding landscape is relatively flat. Land use is a mix of urban and forest with northern hardwoods. The Muskegon River and its bottomlands lie just ½ mile north of Wolf Lake, and the Muskegon Wastewater Treatment facility is just one mile west. While landownership around the lake is mostly private, there are several access points (Figure 1). The primary boat launch is located on the western shore of the lake on an Egleston Township-owned parcel that has approximately 1,400 feet of shoreline. Shore fishing and swimming are also popular at this location. The Wolf Lake County Park offers beach access on the southern shore of Wolf Lake, and one public road end provides public access to the eastern shore of the lake. Despite the private ownership of most of the lakeshore, shoreline armoring and alteration is moderate, with some natural shoreline remaining intact.

Since 1968, Wolf Lake has had a local watercraft ordinance in place that states: "On the waters of Wolf Lake, Township of Egleston, County of Muskegon, state of Michigan, no operator of any motorboat, during the period from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. of the following day, shall:
(a) Operate such motorboat at high speed, which means a speed at or above which a motorboat reaches a planing condition.
(b) Have in tow, or otherwise assist in the propulsion of, a person on water skis, water sled, surfboard, or other similar contrivance."

History

The first fisheries survey of Wolf Lake was conducted in 1892 by the Michigan Fish Commission (Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) files, Cadillac). Gill nets and hook and line were the methods used in the survey. Fish species documented in the survey included Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Bullhead, Bowfin. The deepest point in Wolf Lake was recorded as 42 feet, and notes from the survey report that the fish were “large and in good condition”. The report recommended stocking “Wall Eyed Pike” (Walleye).

The first recorded fish stockings of Wolf Lake took place in 1895, when Largemouth Bass were stocked (Table 1). Walleye were first stocked in 1905. Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Yellow Perch were regularly stocked in the first half of the 1900s. Lake Trout were also stocked

twice, in 1909 and 1910. Regular stockings ceased after 1945, until 1972 when a one-time stocking of Northern Pike was conducted. Walleye were again stocked in 1984 and have been stocked by MDNR on a regular basis since then, with the most recent stocking occurring in 2024 (Table 1). Crayfish were also stocked in Wolf Lake in 1944 and 1945. No further information exists about this effort, and what species of crayfish was stocked is unknown.

One early report (Cooper 1935) discusses a fish kill that occurred concurrently on three different lakes in Muskegon County, including Wolf Lake. The report mentions Bluegill, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Bullheads, and Suckers (likely referring to White Suckers) as being part of the kill on Wolf Lake. The fish kill was reportedly caused by bacterial gill disease.

Wolf Lake has long had a reputation as a good fishing lake. In a 1937 correspondence, Fisheries District Supervisor Claude Lydell states that Wolf Lake was Muskegon County's number one fishing lake. He also mentions that Wolf Lake provided good fishing for Bluegill, Yellow Perch, "bass", and "grass pike" (MDNR files, Cadillac).

Water levels are another long-standing issue on Wolf Lake. Correspondence from 1937 discusses how low water levels in Wolf Lake were separating the west bay from the main lake. The same issue was discussed in further correspondence in 1957, although by that time the west bay had been cut off from Wolf Lake by the construction of Miller Street. High water levels have also been an issue in Wolf Lake. In 1987, Egleston Township pumped water out of Wolf Lake into several nearby sandy depressions because high water levels were supposedly damaging private property. During the pumping effort, the lake was lowered by 13 inches. A permanent pump was installed in the west bay in the late 1980s and has occasionally been used to lower Wolf Lake water levels during periods of high water since then. In 2023, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) issued a permit to a group of landowners on Wolf Lake for dredging at the mouth of the north bay in case low water levels threatened to cut off the bay from the main lake.

Chemical treatments for aquatic nuisance plants have been conducted on Wolf Lake for many years, at least since the late 1990s. There are two exotic nuisance plants present in Wolf Lake- Eurasian watermilfoil and starry stonewort (Jones and Jones 2025). Chara, a native plant species, is also very abundant in Wolf Lake. At times, mats of Chara have broken free from the bottom of the lake and have become a floating navigational hazard; possibly due to wake boat activities (Johes and Jones 2025).

Fisheries surveys have not been conducted frequently on Wolf Lake over the years. After the 1892 survey, the next survey was not conducted until 1971 by the Michigan Department of Conservation. In that survey, a total of 15 fish species were caught (Table 2). Bluegill and Yellow Perch were the most abundant species caught in the survey. Gear utilized in the survey included fyke nets, gill nets, and electrofishing. No formal report was ever written for the survey. One interesting field note indicates that "reportedly many (adult Walleye) have been transplanted from the Muskegon River". The note does not indicate who would have transplanted the fish.

The only other historical fisheries survey of Wolf Lake was conducted by MDNR in 1987. Ten species were caught in the survey (Table 2). Gear utilized for the survey included fyke nets, trap nets, and gill nets. No formal report was written for the survey. In the field notes, MDNR Fisheries Biologist Rich O'Neal mentioned that Bluegill fishing seemed to have improved since the Walleye were stocked, although Yellow Perch fishing had declined. Although many small Bluegill were caught in the survey,

there were also some "keepers" present in the catch. The Walleye catch was good, with 20 Walleye from 15 to 18 inches caught.

Wolf Lake is occasionally fished by bass tournament anglers. There have been four registered bass tournaments on Wolf Lake in the nine years that the MDNR tournament registration system has been in place (Tom Goniea, MDNR, personal communication).

Since 1994, a total of 20 exceptional fish of eight different species caught from Wolf Lake have been entered in the MDNR Fisheries Division Master Angler program (Table 3). Black Crappie was the most numerous species entered, with seven entries, followed by Bluegill with four entries.

Current Status

The most recent comprehensive fisheries survey of Wolf Lake was conducted by MDNR during the summer of 2025. Status and Trends protocols described by Wehrly et al. (2009) were used for the survey. The netting portion of the survey was conducted from May 12-15, 2025. Gear used included one trap net (three net-nights), three large-mesh fyke nets (nine net-nights), two small-mesh fyke nets (four net-nights), and two inland gill nets (six net-nights). Seining was conducted on May 27 (four seine hauls). One ten-minute electrofishing pass with an 18-foot boomshocking boat was conducted on May 27, but boat malfunctions forced the crew off the lake. The final two ten-minute electrofishing passes were conducted on June 26. Appropriate age structures (scales and spines) were collected from game and panfish species for age and growth analysis. Weights for all fish species were calculated using the length-weight regression equations compiled by Schneider et al. (2000b). Mean length at age was used to obtain a growth index by calculating the difference from the state average length (Schneider et al. 2000a). The mean growth indices for a given gamefish species was generated by averaging the growth indices for each age class that was represented by at least five fish.

In the 2025 survey, a total of 3,713 fish, representing 27 different species were caught (Tables 4 and 5). Numerically, Bluegill (n=924) and Bluntnose Minnow (n=960) were the most numerous species. Other well-represented species included Pumpkinseed Sunfish (n=299), Sand Shiner (n=237), and Banded Killifish (n=229). Predator species included Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike. Other panfish species present in the catch included Black Crappie, Warmouth, and Yellow Perch.

Growth rates for Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and Yellow Perch exceeded the state average, while Bluegill were just below the state average. Largemouth Bass were growing substantially slower than the state average (Table 6). Not enough Northern Pike from any one age group were caught to estimate growth rate. The size structure of the Bluegill, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and Yellow Perch populations were excellent, with many individuals present of the larger sizes preferred by anglers (Table 5). Although Largemouth Bass were growing slowly, larger individuals over the legal size of 14 inches were present. Larger Northern Pike that exceeded the legal size of 24 inches were also present in the catch (Table 5).

A total of 243 turtles representing 6 different species were caught in the nets during the 2025 fisheries survey. Musk Turtles were the most abundant, with 76 individuals present. Softshell (n=57) and Map (n=59) Turtles were also quite abundant. Red-Eared Slider (n=25), Snapping Turtles (n=19), and Painted Turtles (n=7) were also present in the catch.

Shoreline data were collected on Wolf Lake by MDNR Fisheries personnel on August 8, 2024, according to protocols outlined in Wehrly et al. (2009). Data collected included the number of docks, submerged trees, and houses observed per kilometer of shoreline, as well as how much of the shoreline is armored or hardened with seawalls or rip rap to prevent erosion. Wolf Lake averaged 25.3 docks, 0 submerged trees and 27.9 houses per kilometer of shoreline (Table 7). Shoreline armoring was nonexistent on Wolf Lake. A temperature/dissolved oxygen profile was also collected from Wolf Lake on August 8, 2025. The profile was taken in the deepest part of the lake. Oxygen levels suitable for fish were found to a depth of 21 feet (Table 8).

Analysis and Discussion

Wolf Lake continues to be an excellent fishing destination for anglers, particularly for those seeking panfish, including Black Crappie, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, and Yellow Perch. These four species accounted for approximately 59% of the fish biomass caught in the 2025 survey. Fishing for other game species including Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike is also possible, and anglers have reported good catches at times. Although no Walleye were caught in the 2025 survey, anglers and riparian landowners that we talked to during the survey had either caught them in the past or knew of folks who had caught them.

The Bluegill population of Wolf Lake provides an excellent opportunity for anglers, with good numbers of “keeper” sized Bluegill larger than 6 inches available. According to the Schneider Index, which is a scoring/ranking system for Bluegill populations (Schneider 1990), the Bluegill population ranked as “Good” in the 2025 survey (Table 9). The only subpar metric in the Schneider Index was the growth rate. Bluegill of Master Angler proportions (>10”) are present in Wolf Lake as well (Tables 3 and 5).

Walleye stocking is likely influencing the Bluegill size structure in Wolf Lake. Walleye are very effective predators on small Bluegill, cropping the population and helping growth rates (O’Neal 2017). Although no Walleye were caught in the 2025 survey, there are undoubtedly some in Wolf Lake and they are likely having positive effects on the Wolf Lake fishery. Other predators (Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike) only comprised about 17% of the fish biomass from the 2025 survey, so there is plenty of carrying capacity for predators in Wolf Lake.

Compared to other medium-sized, deep lakes in Michigan, Wolf Lake has more docks and dwellings (Table 7; Wehrly et al. 2015). However, shoreline armoring on Wolf Lake is nonexistent. During the 2025 sampling, the shoreline consisted mostly of sand beach, although the lake level was low during the survey. Wolf Lake is also severely lacking in submerged woody habitat, with none found on the entire perimeter of the lake.

Management Direction

As long as anglers and riparian landowners continue to support the Walleye stocking program on Wolf Lake, stocking should continue at 11,300 (50/acre) spring fingerlings on an every-other year rotation. If fall fingerling Walleye are available, 900 (4/acre) fall fingerlings should be stocked on an every-other year rotation. The primary goal of the Wolf Lake Walleye stocking program is to maintain predatory pressure on the Bluegill and Yellow Perch populations, to maintain positive growth rates and good size structure for those species. While Wolf Lake will likely never be a "destination" Walleye fishery, having adult Walleye in the lake for anglers to catch occasionally adds diversity to the Wolf Lake angling experience.

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, an organization dedicated to promoting natural shoreline landscaping to protect Michigan's inland lakes (http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/) can provide guidance and training on how best to manage the land/water interface for the benefit of Wolf Lake. Placing downed trees in shallow areas of the lake would provide excellent habitat for numerous popular species, including Largemouth Bass and panfish. Trees that naturally fall into the lake should be left alone as fisheries habitat.

The overall abundance of turtles and the presence of six different turtle species in Wolf Lake is noteworthy. It is highly likely that the robust turtle population of Wolf Lake is due to the lack of shoreline armoring and the presence of at least some natural shoreline with emergent vegetation. Wolf Lake is lacking in woody basking habitat for turtles, and whole trees placed in the water would provide basking habitat for the turtles in addition to providing fisheries habitat.

The submerged native aquatic plants currently found in Wolf Lake should be allowed to continue to thrive, as they provide valuable habitat for a number of desirable fish species. Wolf Lake landowners should continue to be very judicious about when and how aquatic nuisance plant treatments are conducted. Submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation is critical to maintaining healthy fish populations in inland lakes such as Wolf Lake. Aquatic nuisance plant treatments should only be conducted when invasive species like Eurasian milfoil are taking over large areas of the lake and interfering with recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, tubing, etc. If that occurs, the Eurasian milfoil beds should be carefully spot treated, with effort made to avoid treating native aquatic plants. Whole-lake treatments that indiscriminately kill aquatic plants should be avoided. Emergent vegetation along the shoreline of the lake should also be carefully protected.

The shoreline of Wolf Lake should be protected and considered critical to the continued health of the lake's aquatic community. Human development in the form of seawalls, artificial beaches, and riprap do not provide a healthy environment for aquatic life. Appropriate shoreline management is necessary to sustain healthy biological communities, including fish, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds and aquatic mammals. Other good management practices for inland lakes include maintenance of good water quality, especially for nutrients; preservation of natural shorelines, especially shore contours and vegetation; and preservation of bottom contours, vegetation, and wood structure within a lake. Guidelines for protecting fisheries habitat in inland lakes can be found in Fisheries Division Special Report 38 (O'Neal and Soulliere 2006).

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Tables and Figures

Table 1. Fish stocked in Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, 1895-2025.

Year	Species	Number	Size
1895	Largemouth Bass	6,000	
1905	Largemouth Bass	1,000	fingerlings
1905	Walleye	150,000	fry
1908	Yellow Perch	500	fingerlings
1909	Lake Trout	28,000	fry
1910	Lake Trout	16,000	fry
1910	Largemouth Bass	6,000	fry
1910	Walleye	100,000	fry
1933	Bluegill	5,250	6 mo.
1933	Largemouth Bass	1,600	1 mo.
1934	Bluegill	8,000	5 mo.
1934	Largemouth Bass	195	4 mo.
1934	Yellow Perch	7,125	8 mo.
1935	Bluegill	3,800	4 mo.
1935	Largemouth Bass	400	4 mo.
1935	Yellow Perch	3,480	7 mo.
1936	Largemouth Bass	3,060	6 mo.-yearling
1937	Bluegill	12,000	5 mo.
1937	Largemouth Bass	1,275	5 mo.
1937	Yellow Perch	11,500	7 mo.
1938	Bluegill	2,750	yearling
1938	Smallmouth Bass	1,160	4 mo.
1938	Yellow Perch	3,900	7 mo.
1939	Bluegill	8,000	4 mo.
1939	Largemouth Bass	1,000	4 mo.
1939	Yellow Perch	11,000	7 mo.
1940	Largemouth Bass	1,000	3 mo.
1940	Smallmouth Bass	4,600	1-4 mo.
1941	Bluegill	3,200	4 mo.
1941	Smallmouth Bass	4,750	1-4 mo.
1942	Bluegill	1,500	5 mo.
1942	Largemouth Bass	1,000	5 mo.
1942	Smallmouth Bass	2,000	5 mo.
1943	Smallmouth Bass	575	4 mo., adults
1945	Largemouth Bass	1,500	4 mo.
1972	Northern Pike	2,600	fingerlings

Table 1 continued. Fish stocked in Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, 1895-2025.

Year	Species	Number	Size	Strain
1984	Walleye	962	fall fingerlings	Muskegon
1985	Walleye	1,832	fall fingerlings	Muskegon
1987	Walleye	6,000	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
1989	Walleye	8,300	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
1991	Walleye	5,472	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
1992	Walleye	60,228	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
1994	Walleye	400,000	fry	Muskegon
1996	Walleye	21,465	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
1998	Walleye	20,904	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2000	Walleye	20,838	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2003	Walleye	10,371	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2004	Walleye	12,000	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2006	Walleye	12,000	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2009	Walleye	11,300	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2011	Walleye	11,300	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2013	Walleye	13,265	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2015	Walleye	12,083	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2017	Walleye	8,895	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2019	Walleye	11,438	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2022	Walleye	10,170	spring fingerlings	Muskegon
2024	Walleye	11,625	spring fingerlings	Muskegon

Table 2. Presence/absence of fish species in historical fisheries surveys of Wolf Lake, Muskegon County.

Species	1892	1971	1987	2025
Banded Killifish				x
Black Bullhead		x		
Black Crappie		x	x	x
Blackchin Shiner				x
Blacknose Shiner				x
Bluegill	x	x	x	x
Bluntnose Minnow				x
Bowfin	x	x	x	x
Brook Silverside		x		x
Brown Bullhead		x		x
Bullhead spp.	x		x	
Central Mudminnow		x		x
Channel Catfish				x
Common Carp				x
Common Shiner				x
Golden Shiner		x		
Grass Pickerel		x		x
Hybrid Sunfish				x
Iowa Darter				x
Largemouth Bass	x	x	x	x
Longnose Gar				x
Mimic Shiner				x
Northern Pike		x	x	x
Pumpkinseed		x	x	x
Rock Bass				x
Sand Shiner				x
Spotfin Shiner				x
Walleye		x	x	
Warmouth				x
White Sucker			x	
Yellow Bullhead		x		x
Yellow Perch	x	x	x	x

Table 3. Michigan DNR Master Angler awards issued for fish caught from Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, Michigan, 1994-2025.

Species	Number of Master Angler awards issued
Black Crappie	7
Bluegill	4
Bullhead	3
Pumpkinseed	2
Largemouth Bass	1
Flathead Catfish	1
Smallmouth Bass	1
Walleye	1
Total:	20

Table 4. Number, weight, and length of fish collected from Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, with trap nets, large mesh fyke nets, small mesh fyke nets, inland gill nets, seining, and electrofishing, May 12-June 26, 2025.

Species	Number	Percent by number	Weight (pounds)	Percent by weight	Length range (inches)[1]	Average length	Percent legal size[2]
Banded Killifish	229	6.2	0.7	0.1	1-2	1.9	
Black Crappie	114	3.1	55.7	8.1	5-14	9.7	96 (7")
Blackchin Shiner	134	3.6	0.5	0.1	1-2	2.3	
Blacknose Shiner	124	3.3	0.6	0.1	1-2	2.4	
Bluegill	924	24.9	218.7	31.9	1-11	5.9	74 (6")
Bluntnose Minnow	960	25.9	3.7	0.5	1-3	2.3	
Bowfin	9	0.2	38.6	5.6	18-29	21.7	
Brook Silverside	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3-3	3.5	
Brown Bullhead	49	1.3	50.2	7.3	7-15	13.0	100 (7")
Central Mudminnow	2	0.1	0.0	0.0	2-3	3.0	
Channel Catfish	1	0.0	9.9	1.4	30-30	30.5	100 (12")
Common Carp	1	0.0	4.1	0.6	20-20	20.5	
Common Shiner	10	0.3	0.0	0.0	1-2	1.9	
Grass Pickerel	3	0.1	0.4	0.1	7-10	8.5	
Hybrid Sunfish	4	0.1	1.1	0.2	2-8	6.5	75 (6")
Iowa Darter	6	0.2	0.0	0.0	1-2	2.2	
Largemouth Bass	81	2.2	64.4	9.4	3-20	11.4	11 (14")
Longnose Gar	1	0.0	6.9	1.0	40-40	40.5	
Mimic Shiner	174	4.7	0.5	0.1	1-2	2.2	
Northern Pike	14	0.4	54.7	8.0	13-31	21.8	50 (24")
Pumpkinseed	299	8.1	101.9	14.8	1-9	6.5	87 (6")
Rock Bass	1	0.0	0.1	0.0	4-4	4.5	0 (6")
Sand Shiner	237	6.4	0.9	0.1	1-2	2.2	
Spotfin Shiner	109	2.9	0.4	0.1	1-3	2.2	
Warmouth	92	2.5	12.7	1.9	2-7	5.7	27 (6")
Yellow Perch	78	2.1	27.3	4.0	2-12	8.6	71 (7")
Yellow Bullhead	56	1.5	32.4	4.7	6-12	10.0	96 (7")
Total	3,713	100	686.4	100			

[1]Note some fish were measured to 0.1 inch, others to inch group: e.g., "5"=5.0 to 5.9 inch, "12"=12.0 to 12.9 inches; etc .

[2]Percent legal size or acceptable size for angling. Legal size or acceptable size for angling is given in parentheses.

Table 5. Length frequency distribution for fish species caught from Wolf Lake, Muskegon County with trap nets, large mesh fyke nets, small mesh fyke nets, inland gillnets, seining, and electrofishing, May and June 2025.

Inch Class	Banded Killifish	Black Crappie	Black-chin Shiner	Black-nose Shiner	Bluegill	Bluntnose Minnow	Bowfin	Brook Silverside	Brown Bullhead
1	146		31	14	32	464			
2	83		103	110	74	453			
3					56	43		1	
4					45				
5		2			37				
6		3			171				
7		18			341				1
8		28			162				1
9		22			5				1
10		30							1
11		8			1				4
12		1							14
13									17
14		2							9
15									1
16									
17									
18							2		
19							1		
20							1		
21							1		
22							1		
23							1		
24									
25									
26									
27							1		
28									
29							1		
30									
40									
Total	229	114	134	124	924	960	9	1	49

Table 5, continued. Length frequency distribution for fish species caught from Wolf Lake, Muskegon County with trap nets, large mesh fyke nets, small mesh fyke nets, inland gillnets, seining, and electrofishing, May and June 2025.

Inch Class	Central Mud-minnow	Channel Catfish	Common Carp	Common Shiner	Grass Pickerel	Hybrid Sunfish	Iowa Darter	Large-mouth Bass	Long-nose Gar
1				5			2		
2	1			5		1	4		
3	1							1	
4								4	
5								2	
6								2	
7					1	2		4	
8					1	1		7	
9								13	
10					1			9	
11								18	
12								9	
13								3	
14								3	
15								1	
16								2	
17									
18								1	
19								1	
20			1					1	
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28									
29									
30		1							
40									1
Total	2	1	1	10	3	4	6	81	1

Table 5, continued. Length frequency distribution for fish species caught from Wolf Lake, Muskegon County with trap nets, large mesh fyke nets, small mesh fyke nets, inland gillnets, seining, and electrofishing, May and June 2025.

Inch Class	Mimic Shiner	Northern Pike	Pumpkin-seed	Rock Bass	Sand Shiner	Spotfin Shiner	War-mouth	Yellow Perch	Yellow Bullhead
1	102		2		70	33			
2	72		3		167	74	1		
3			5			2	4		
4			11	1			29	5	
5			17				33		
6			56				16	10	2
7			137				9	6	1
8			64					21	9
9			4					14	6
10								8	13
11								10	15
12								4	10
13		1							
14									
15									
16									
17		1							
18									
19									
20		1							
21		3							
22		1							
23									
24									
25									
26									
27		1							
28		1							
29		2							
30		1							
40									
Total	174	12	299	1	237	109	92	78	56

Table 6. Average total weighted length (inches) at age (I through X), and growth relative to the state average, for fish sampled from Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, with trap nets, inland gill nets, seining, and electrofishing, May and June 2025. Number of fish aged is given in parenthesis. A minimum of five fish per age group is statistically necessary for calculating a Mean Growth Index, which is a comparison to the State of Michigan average.

Species	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Mean Growth Index
Black Crappie	6.1	5.9	8.1	9.6	10.8	12.2	14.8				+1.0
Black Crappie	(1)	(3)	(24)	(13)	(12)	(4)	(1)				
Bluegill	3.5		3.2	5.8	7.2	7.7	8.4	9.0			-0.1
Bluegill	(1)		(8)	(16)	(21)	(10)	(7)	(3)			
Largemouth Bass	4.5	7.2	8.6	9.4	10.8	12.1	13.0	13.1	17.8	19.1	-1.6
Largemouth Bass	(7)	(5)	(8)	(8)	(13)	(15)	(9)	(2)	(2)	(1)	
Northern Pike	13.3		23.0	25.3	24.8	27.8	30.2				--
Northern Pike	(1)		(4)	(3)	(2)	(3)	(1)				
Pumpkinseed				6.2	7.5	7.3	8.1				+0.9
Pumpkinseed				(16)	(24)	(14)	(3)				
Yellow Perch	4.5		6.7	8.2	9.0		11.1	12.0	11.8	12.5	+0.7
Yellow Perch	(5)		(14)	(5)	(18)		(18)	(1)	(1)	(1)	

Table 7. Shoreline data for Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, compared with that for other medium-sized, deep depth lakes in Michigan (from Wehrly et al. 2015). Sampling was conducted by MDNR Fisheries personnel on August 8, 2025.

Shoreline Parameter	Wolf Lake	State Average
Total docks per km	25.3	12.7
Dwellings per km	27.9	16.7
Percent shoreline armoring	0.0	25.3
Submerged trees per km	0.0	14.5

Table 8. Temperature and dissolved oxygen profile for Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, on 8/8/2025.

Depth (feet)	Temperature (F)	O2 (ppm)
0	79.9	9.56
2	79.5	9.56
4	79.6	9.62
6	79.5	9.54
8	79.5	9.50
10	79.4	9.42
12	79.1	9.48
14	79.1	9.46
15	78.4	9.17
16	78.1	8.65
17	77.9	8.50
18	77.8	8.16
19	76.7	7.00
20	76.0	6.12
21	74.5	4.10
22	71.1	2.42
23	70.1	1.94
24	69.3	1.62
26	66.1	0.00
28	61.2	0.00
30	60.0	0.00
32	58.3	0.00
34	57.6	0.00
36	57.0	0.00
38	56.7	0.00

Table 9. Wolf Lake Bluegill size structure rating using the Schneider Index (Schneider 1990). Schneider Index rankings are as follows: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = acceptable, 4 = satisfactory, 5 = good, 6 = excellent, 7 = superior.

Year Surveyed	Trap and Fyke average length (in.)	%>6 in.	%>7 in.	%>8 in.	Growth Index	Schneider Index
2025	7.5	95.0	71.1	23.5	-0.1	
Score	6	6	6	6	3	5.4

Figure 1. Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, Michigan.

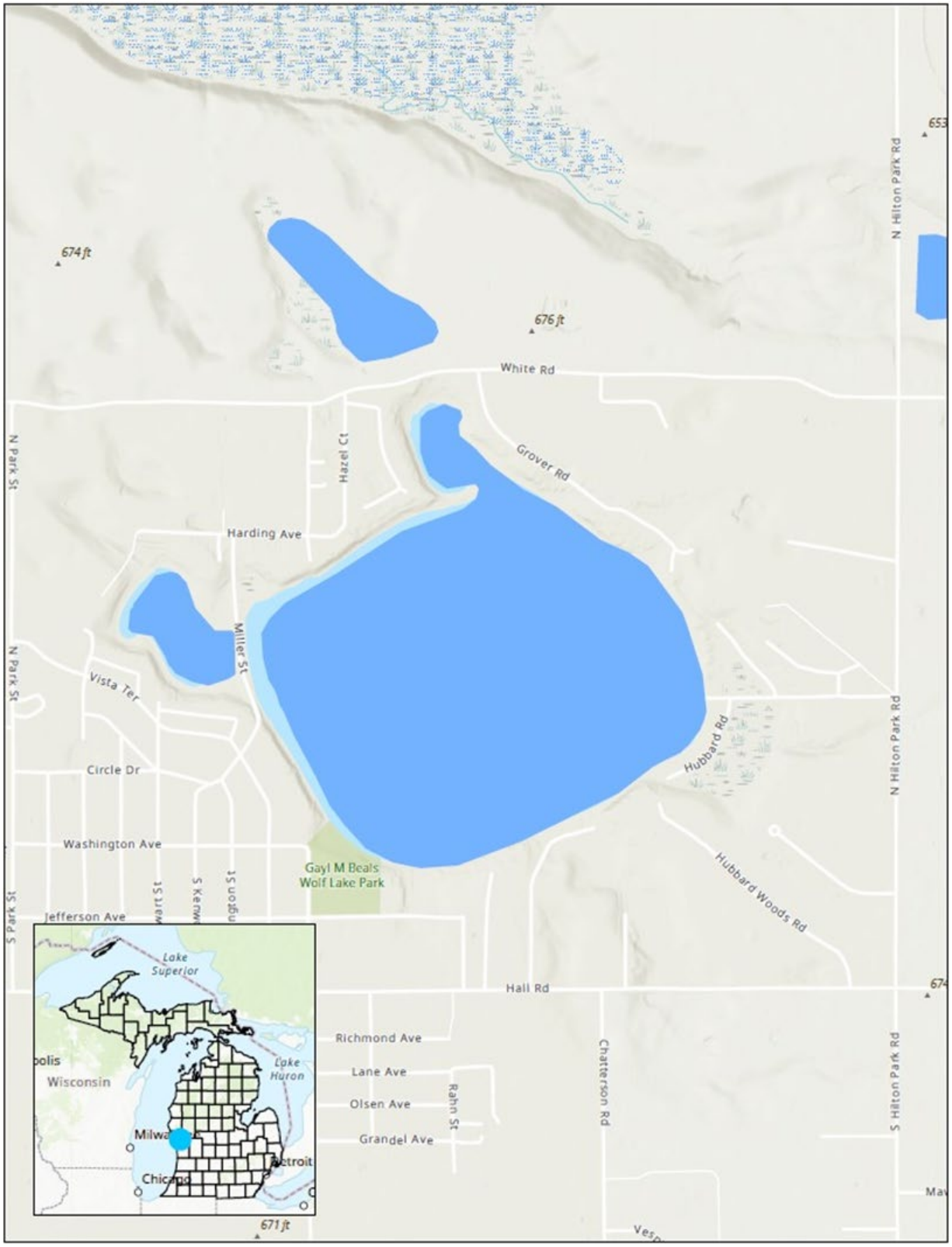


Figure 2. Lakeshed map for Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, MI.

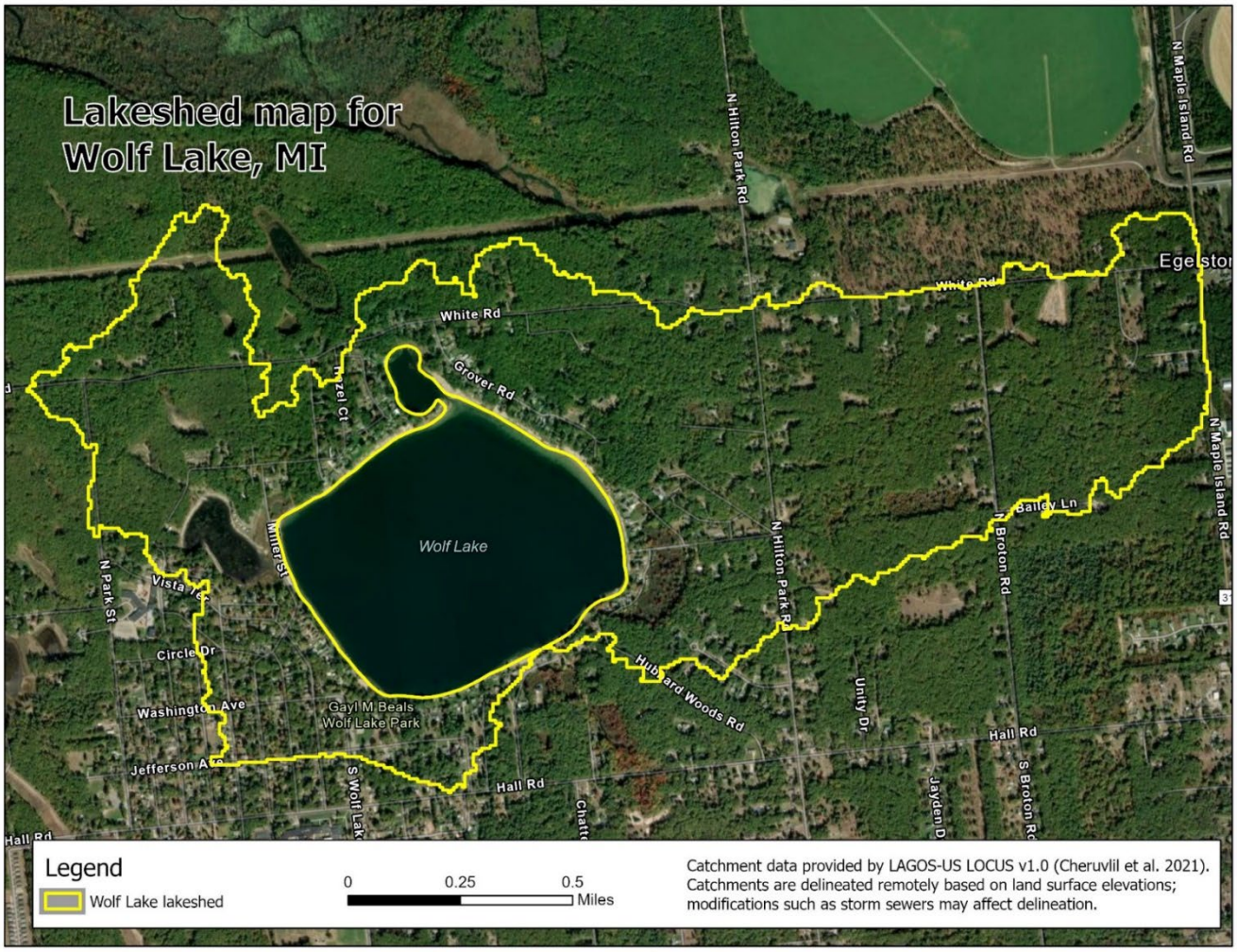
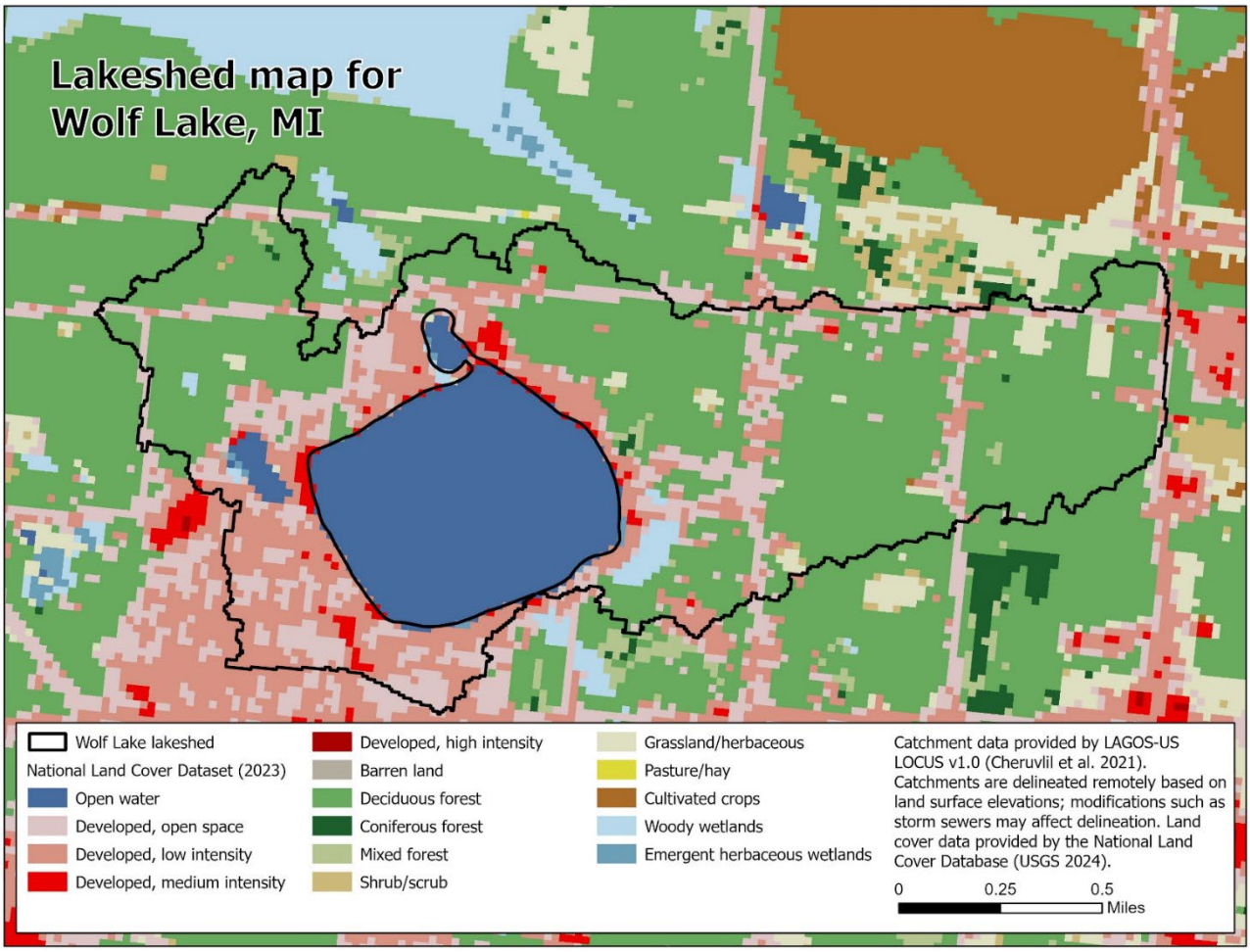


Figure 3. Lakeshed landcover map for Wolf Lake, Muskegon County, Michigan.



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