

The Spring Lake Improvement Program has been ongoing since 1999. The program is administered by the Spring Lake – Lake Board under provisions of Michigan’s Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. Under provisions of the act, the lake board includes a representative from each of the governmental units bordering Spring Lake as well as a waterfront property owner and representatives from both Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. In accordance with the act, the lake board must periodically determine the scope and costs of lake improvements and hold a hearing to receive public comment on the proposed improvements. The proposed budget for the continuation of the program along with a brief overview of each element of the program is provided below.

**Spring Lake Improvement Program
Proposed Annual Budget
2021 – 2023**

Improvement	Annual Cost
Aquatic Plant Control	\$100,000
Aquatic Plant Control Coordination/Field Evaluations	\$12,000
Water Quality Monitoring	\$12,000
Information and Education	\$5,000
Watershed Management	\$5,000
Alum Treatment Evaluation	\$10,000
Administration and Contingency	<u>\$6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$150,000

The Spring Lake aquatic plant control program is proposed to focus on the control of invasive plants, such as Eurasian milfoil, with the select use of herbicides. Treatments would be conducted by a licensed, professional applicator. The amount of herbicide use in any given year would depend on the type and distribution of aquatic plants in Spring Lake and Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy permit conditions.

Plant control activities are proposed to be coordinated under the direction of the Spring Lake – Lake Board’s environmental consultant. The consultant would be responsible for preparing contract documents for the plant control work, conducting GPS-guided surveys of the lake to determine the scope of work to be performed by the plant control contractor, and conducting follow-up surveys to evaluate treatment effectiveness. The consultant would report to the lake board and maintain a written record of the timing, scope, and cost of plant control activities.

Water quality samples would be collected from the surface, mid-depth, and bottom at eight locations in the lake to measure temperature, dissolved oxygen, and total phosphorus. In addition, water transparency and chlorophyll-a would be measured in the upper strata of water. These data would be analyzed and compared to historical data collected from the lake since 1999 as part of a long-term water quality monitoring effort.

Information regarding the Spring Lake Improvement Program would be posted on the Spring Lake – Lake Board’s website (www.springlakeboard.org). The website would be updated annually to include information regarding lake board activities, aquatic plant control, water quality monitoring, and links to other pertinent information sources.

Watershed management would include development of a program to reduce pollution inputs to Spring Lake from the shorelands areas bordering the lake and from the agricultural lands in the upper portion of the watershed.

This work element would include a technical evaluation of the feasibility and cost of a lake alum treatment to reduce phosphorus levels and improve water quality in Spring Lake. An alum treatment of Spring Lake conducted in 2005 helped improve lake conditions for over a decade.

Project administration and contingency would include costs related to public hearing proceedings, postage, mailings, meetings, copies, and contingent expenses.

Project Financing

The Spring Lake Improvement Program is funded through special assessment of properties within the Spring Lake Special Assessment District. The special assessment district includes all properties bordering Spring Lake and back lots with deeded or dedicated lake access.

Developed lakefront properties are assessed one unit of benefit and developed back lots are assessed one-half unit of benefit. Undeveloped lakefront properties are assessed one-half unit of benefit and undeveloped back lots are assessed one-quarter unit of benefit. Contiguous lots in common ownership are assessed as one parcel provided only one house exists on the parcel. Businesses are assessed based on the number of boat slips. A breakdown of costs for the program based on these criteria is as follows:

Spring Lake Improvement Program Annual Cost Breakdown 2021 to 2023

<u>Parcel Type</u>	<u>Units of Benefit</u>	<u>Approximate Annual Assessment</u>
Developed Lakefront	1	\$132
Undeveloped Lakefront	½	\$66
Developed Back Lot	½	\$66
Undeveloped Back Lot	¼	\$33
Business: Back Lot (No slips)	1	\$132
Businesses: < 50 Slips	4	\$528
Businesses: 50 - 100 Slips	8	\$1,056
Businesses: 101 to 150 Slips	12	\$1,584
Businesses: > 150 Slips	16	\$2,112