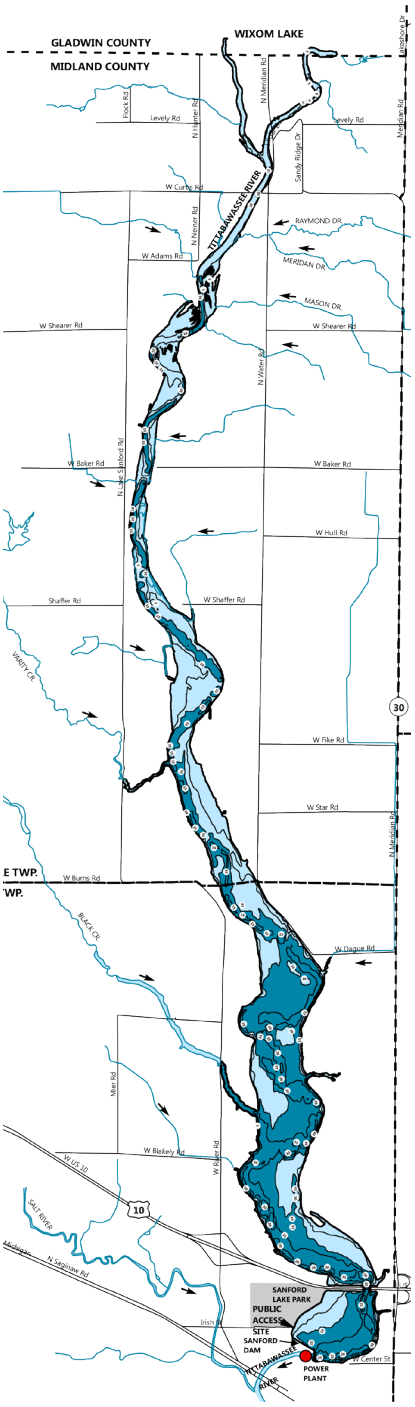
Sanford Lake: Interesting Facts and Figures

A publication of the Sanford Lake Improvement Board www.sanfordlakeboard.org



Sanford Lake has a surface area of 1,569 acres, a maximum depth of 26 feet, and a mean or average depth of 9.9 feet. Of Michigan's 10,031 lakes 5 acres or greater in area, Sanford Lake ranks in the top 1%.

Sanford Lake has a volume of 15,463 acre-feet of water, which is about 5 billion gallons.

The shoreline of Sanford Lake is 32 miles long. The shoreline development factor of 5.8 indicates that the shoreline of Sanford Lake is 5.8 times longer than if the lake were perfectly round.

Sanford Lake impounds waters from both the Tittabawassee River and Tobacco River. In addition, 15 smaller tributaries drain directly to the lake. Thus, Sanford Lake has a relatively rapid flushing rate. On average, the entire volume of water in Sanford Lake is replenished every 24 days.

Water flows from Sanford Lake into the Tittabawassee River and onto the Saginaw River and into Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. There is an approximate 50-foot elevation difference between Sanford Lake and Lake Huron. Sanford Lake has a healthy and diverse fishery. In a survey conducted by the Department of Natural Resources in 2015, twenty-six species of fish were found. The complete report can be viewed at www.sanfordlakeboard.org.

Recent water quality sampling results indicate that Sanford Lake, on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 being excellent water quality and 100 being poor, is 46, indicating moderate water quality.

To protect inland lakes from nutrient pollution, Michigan enacted a law in 2012 that prohibits the application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus unless a new lawn is being established (and phosphorus is needed to promote root growth), or if a soil test indicates a phosphorus deficiency. If you apply lawn fertilizer near the lake, be sure to use a phosphorus-free fertilizer. The middle number on the fertilizer bag (12-0-8) will be zero.

In a recent assessment of the nation's lakes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that lakes lacking natural shorelands were three times more likely to be in poor biological condition. Preserving and restoring natural shoreline areas is one of the most important things you can do to protect water quality.

To find out more about Michigan lakes and what you can do to protect them, visit www.michiganlakeinfo.com.