Wixom Lake: Interesting Facts and Figures

A publication of the Wixom Lake Improvement Board wixomlakeboard.org

Wixom Lake was created by the construction of the Edenville Dam in 1925.

Wixom Lake was first mapped by the Michigan Department of Conservation Institute for Fisheries Research in 1951. The original mapping was conducted with weighted drop lines. This was a slow and laborious process and took several weeks to complete.

The lake bottom was re-mapped again in 2014 using Sonar and hydro-acoustic mapping software. The entire lake was mapped in three days. The more recently mapped contours are remarkably similar to the 1951 map.

Wixom Lake has a surface area of 2,162 acres.

Wixom Lake has a maximum depth of 43 feet and a mean or average depth of 13 feet.

The lake has a volume of 28,943 acre-feet which equates to 9.4 billion gallons of water.

Wixom Lake has a shoreline length of 84 miles and a shoreline development factor of 12.9. Shoreline development factor is a measure of the irregularity of the shoreline. A perfectly round lake would have a shoreline development factor of 1.0. With a shoreline development factor of 12.9, the shoreline of Wixom Lake is nearly thirteen times longer than if the lake was perfectly round.

Wixom Lake is 676 feet above sea level. Water exiting Wixom Lake flows into Sanford Lake the Tittabawassee River, the Saginaw River then on to Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron. The elevation difference between Wixom Lake and Lake Huron is about 95 feet.

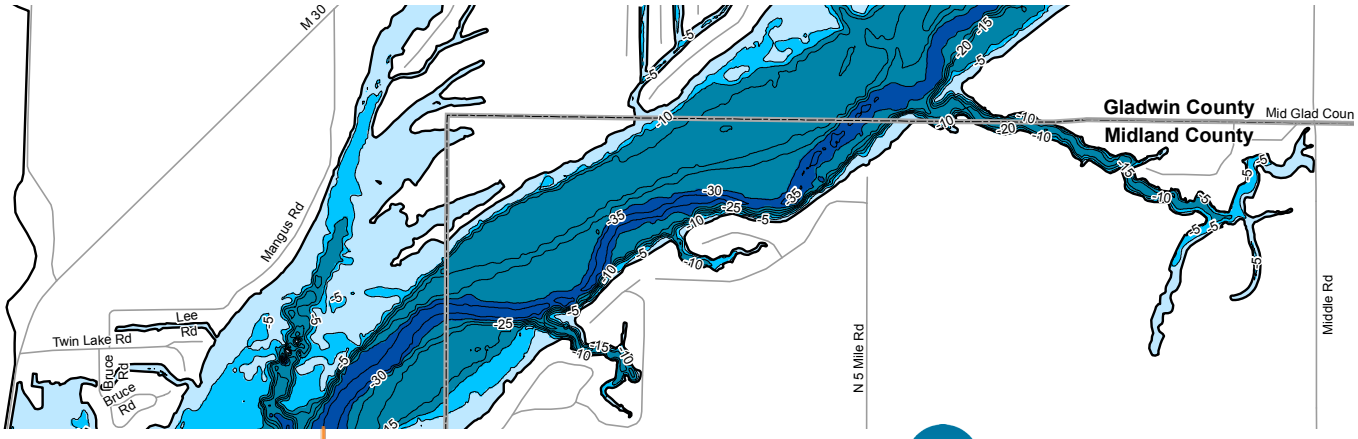
Historical water quality sampling results indicate that Wixom Lake, on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 being excellent water quality and 100 being poor, is 49 indicating moderate water quality.

Wixom Lake supports a well-balanced, diverse fishery. A recent report from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division can be viewed here: http://www.wixomlakeboard.org/news.html.

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.



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