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Designed and published
specifically for waterfront
property owners and
enthusiasts

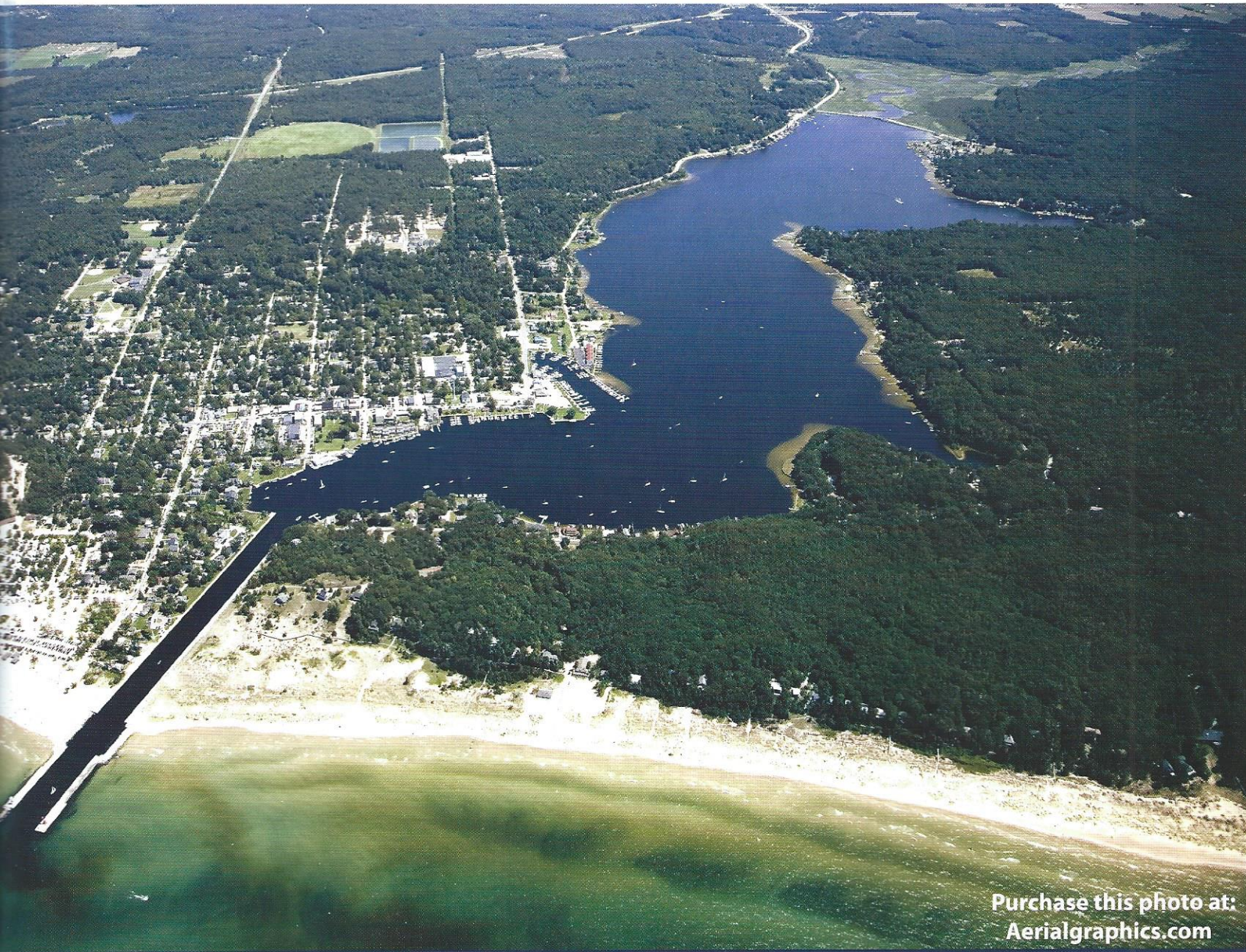


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DEVOTED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND WISE USE OF MICHIGAN'S LAKES AND STREAMS Published Quarterly



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PENTWATER *Lake*

WATERCRAFT WASH STATION CONSTRUCTED AT UPPER CROOKED LAKE

THE FIRST IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN!

With the financial assistance of the Prairieville Township Board of Trustees, the Prairieville Parks and Recreation Commission, the Delton Crooked Lake Association and private donors, a watercraft wash station--the first in southwest Michigan--has been constructed at the Upper Crooked Lake Township launch site by volunteers from the lake community.

The purpose of this wash station is to help control the further introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Upper Crooked Lake currently hosts five AIS which is more than any other lake in the area.

Property owners are currently paying over \$345,000 during each seven year AIS special assessment cycle to control these five. New invasives could increase this amount substantially and negatively impact lakefront property values by double digit percentages.

Research consistently verifies that recreational boaters are the primary carriers of AIS and that the most effective control is the power washing of contaminated watercraft prior to launching.

A study conducted by a small group of concerned lakefront residents at the Upper Crooked Lake launch site last summer found that approximately twelve percent of the watercraft (80 boats annually) launched at this site were not properly cleaned, drained and dried. And, it only takes one contaminated boat to introduce a new non-native plant or animal.

The station will be staffed during prime usage periods by trained attendants and self-wash equipment will be available during non-manned hours.

A new Township aquatic invasive species ordinance--one of the few in the State of Michigan--requires all site users to have their watercraft inspected upon entry and decontaminated, if indicated, prior to launching. Watercraft owners may refuse this service and exit.

A unique feature of this wash station is the requirement that all watercraft be power washed





prior to exiting. This is a "good neighbor" initiative designed to prevent the movement of AIS away from Upper Crooked Lake and into nearby lakes.

A variety of awareness materials will be provided to all launch site users in an attempt to educate recreational boat owners about the negative environmental, recreational and economic impacts caused by aquatic invasive species and what they can do to help control the further introduction of new invasives. *R.*

Submitted by:

John Hoek, Chairperson
Prairieville Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Telephone Number: (269) 623-2716

Approved for Release by:

Jim Stoneburner, Supervisor
Prairieville Township
10115 S. Norris Road
Delton, Michigan 49046
Telephone Number: (269) 623-2664