



Secord Retake Our Lake Campaign Update – June 12, 2023



As we enter June, this serves as an update to the work completed or planned regarding nuisance trees and weeds.

The Secord Lake Association (SLA), in partnership with the County and Townships, is focused on preparing Secord Lake to return to the legal lake level. There continues to be planning and work on nuisance weed / tree control, shoreline clean-up of debris, and to cut some of the tall tree trunks sticking out of the water.

The Secord Lake Association is a volunteer club. As property owners and friends of Secord, we seek to create a safe, enjoyable lake environment for generations to come. Seeing Secord refilled with nuisance trees, the loss of full use of the public areas on the lake and floating debris is not a future we desire. While we cannot beat Mother Nature, we believe we can work with her to RETAKE areas of our lake.

With 69 miles of shoreline and 1100 acres of water, the entirety of Secord Lake will need a coordinated effort. This will take a volunteer effort to RETAKE OUR LAKE.

With the lake drawn down, why treat the aquatic weeds?

The aquatic weeds continue to grow and need to be managed. Imagine an uncontrolled aquatic weed mass growing and then having 8-10 feet of water applied to the top of it when the Lake is restored. The unchecked weeds will quickly grow to fill in the 8-10 feet of water causing the Lake to “choke out” making boat traffic nearly impossible. Weed choked lakes are not conducive to fish, wildlife, or water sports.

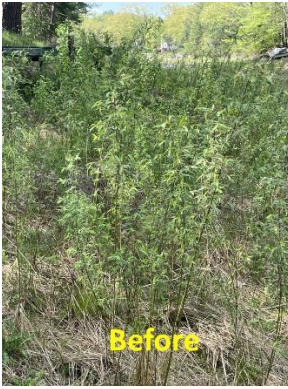
Secord Township has managed and continues to manage this weed growth with periodic treatments by PLM. Clement Township began to treat weeds in the Summer 2022. Bourret Township will begin treatments in 2023. The goal is to keep the weeds managed during the drawdown to position the Lake for the return of full water.

PLM, at the direction of the MI DNR, will focus on evasive weeds this summer to support the fishery. Property owners are encouraged to rake up and remove dead weeds to help clear the lake and help the fishery. PLM plans to treat the lake for exotic aquatic weeds in the months of June, July, and August.

As property owners our weed assessment fees are used to manage the lake, not simply the area in front of our properties. Weed assessment fees are used to treat aquatic weeds and Secord Township has / is using some of these funds to address nuisance tree management on the public sand bars and some public boating areas within the Township. You will read more about these initiatives in a moment.

We appreciate and value the three Townships working together.

Property Owners



We celebrate the wonderful work being done around Secord Lake as property owners manage their lake frontage area. It's amazing to witness the initiative property owners along our lake have shown. THANK YOU!

There is a link at the end to the overall Secord Retake Our Lake plan. Please share this with your friends and neighbors as they may seek this information. When you post a picture of your project on Facebook, use the #RetakeOurLake.

If you live on a cut or in a neighborhood that may need to develop a plan, we are happy to help. Please email us at SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com. A member of our team looks forward to discussing ideas with you.

Public Gathering Sand Bar Areas

The three public gathering sand bars are located in Secord Township. Secord Township has partnered with the Secord Lake Association to restore the sand bars. The Township has hired professional contractors to cut the nuisance trees.



Sand Bar 3 and 2 were cut by Secord Township in November 2022 using the forestry mulcher pictured in the middle.

Sand Bar 1 was cut in May 2023 using a different contractor and machine as the forestry mulcher could not access the sand bar area.

Later this summer, volunteers will assemble on the sand bars to clear the debris and cut any stubble from nuisance trees. The goal is to prepare the sand bars to make them as safe and enjoyable as possible when full lake level returns. Watch for details.

A question people may have - - - will these areas need additional attention to manage nuisance trees before the water returns. The answer is no one knows. When we met with EGLE to review our plan, they commented the things are doing to RETAKE OUR LAKE have never been done before. We are all learning as we move forward.

People have asked if these contractors will hire out their services for property owners. The answer is yes depending on the lake bottom, the size of the area needing to be addressed and access to the lake bottom for the machines.

The forestry mulcher is owned by Dan Burgess of Mid Land Maintenance, LLC. Dan can be reached at 989-429-1686.

The walk behind brush hog is owned by Scott Sczepanski of Shoreline Brush Hog Services. Scott can be reached at 313-283-3887



Park Road DNR Boat Launch Area



Thanks to Secord Lake Association fund-raising efforts focused on Secord Lake Improvements, the Association contracted with Shoreline Brush Hog Services to cut a large lakebed area.

A group of volunteers, organized by the Secord Lake Association will be picking up debris from this area later this summer. Watch for details.

Secord Township Public Boating Areas



In November 2022, Secord Township contracted Mid Land Maintenance, LLC to remove nuisance trees in large public boating areas that extended into the lake.

The 5+ acre bay located at the end of West Branch Drive is the area is used by pontoons and boats to watch nature or fish and is also accessed by many kayaks. This area would have been deemed not usable when the water returns due to the number of and size of the nuisance trees.

A stretched that runs on the East Shore of the main lake from the dam to Secord Lake Marina as also cut by Secord Township in November 2022.

Nuisance Tree Trunks and Stumps

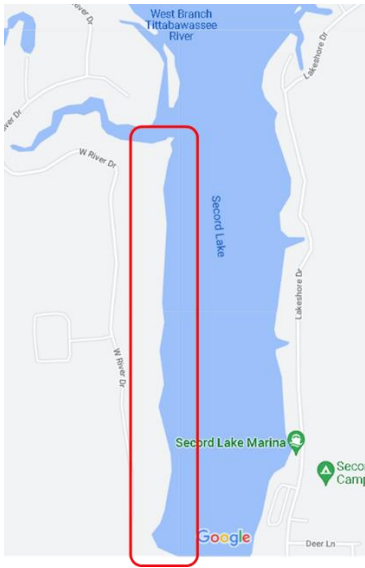
Thanks to Secord Lake Association fund-raising efforts focused on Secord Lake Improvements, the Association contracted with Oak Ridge Tree Service to address some of these tree trunks. Rick and his team have the expertise, equipment, safety training and insurance to properly tackle this project. The plan is for us to survey the lake this summer via boat to develop the plan with Oak Ridge to identify tree trunks and stumps to be addressed. Oak Ridge will then execute the plan once the ice is safe this coming winter.

There will be more to share with this initiative as the plan takes shape. Fundraising makes this possible.

West River Drive (West side of the main lake)

Members of the Secord Lake Association have walked the lakebed in the area outlined in red on the map below. We applaud the vast number of property owners that have cleaned and maintained the area in front of their properties going out 50 feet or more in many cases from shore.

The challenge we have in this area is the size of the pasture of nuisance trees that have emerged. While property owners have cleaned at least 50 feet out from their shore, the nuisance trees continue toward the middle of the lake (see photos below).



If we do not RETAKE the area where the nuisance trees are growing, when water returns these nuisance trees will be above lake level rendering this area unsafe for boaters or swimmers.

We ask property owners to take responsibility to clean and maintain the first 50 feet or so of lakebed from their shoreline. For those that have cleared more than 50 feet, you are awesome and appreciated.

Secord Township in coordination with the Secord Lake Association, will contract Mid Land Maintenance, LLC with the forestry mulcher to remove the nuisance trees. This project will focus on the nuisance trees, NOT the existing tree stumps. We hope to have this area addressed in the coming weeks.

Property owners that live in this area that need their immediate area to the shoreline addressed have the option to contact Dan Burgess at 989-429-1686 for a quote to clear the lakebed out from their shoreline while he is there. This is a separate transaction between Dan and the property owner with the property owner responsible for the charge to clear the area 50 feet out from the shoreline.

Property owners may also contact Scott Szczepanski of Shoreline Brush Hog Services at 313.283.3887 or one of the other contractors listed on the Secord Lake Association website ([HERE](#)) for this service.

Other Ideas

The Secord Lake Association is a volunteer club. We are property owners and friends of Secord. With 69 miles of shoreline and 1100 acres of water, the entirety of Secord Lake will need a coordinated effort. This will take a volunteer effort to RETAKE OUR LAKE.

If you have ideas, suggestions or want to get involved, drop us a note at SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com. A member of our Retake Our Lake team will contact you to learn more.

Retake Our Lake Campaign – What Can You Do

While the FLTF focuses their energy on restoration of the dams, each lake community is responsible to prepare the lake to accept water. The Secord Lake Association has a detailed plan outlining what property owners can do to help prepare the lakebed to receive water. This plan focuses on safety and has other components the lake association will coordinate. As the weather breaks, we will focus our efforts on Secord. You can learn more at...[CLICK HERE!](#)

Save The Dates

The Secord Lake Association began holding monthly meetings. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month. Here is the meeting schedule for this coming season:

SLA Josh Sanders Fundraiser	Fri, June 16		Secord EAGLES
SLA Meeting with Update Presentation	Sat, June 17	10 AM	Secord Township Hall
SLA Meeting with Update Presentation	Sat, July 15	10 AM	Secord Township Hall
SLA Meeting with Update Presentation	Sat, Aug 19	10 AM	Secord Township Hall
SLA Meeting with Update Presentation	Sat, Sept 16	10 AM	Secord Township Hall
SLA Golf Outing	Sat, Sept 23		Gladwin Heights Golf Course
SLA Secord Chili Cook Off 2023	Sat, Oct 7		Lost Arrow Resort
SLA Meeting with Update Presentation	Sat, Oct 21	10AM	Secord Township Hall

The Secord Lake Association has three fundraisers planned for lake improvement projects. Straight from Nashville, Josh Sanders will join us again for a concert at the Secord Eagles on Friday, June 16. The annual Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at Gladwin Heights Golf Course. The 2nd annual Secord Chili Cook Off is Saturday, October 7 at the Lost Arrow. Check the website for details.

Secord dam is on schedule to be rebuilt in late 2024 – The Secord Lake Association is focused on what is needed to prepare Secord to return. Look for more information this Spring on nuisance weed / tree control and removal. You can learn more at [Secord Lake | Secord Lake Association | Restoring Secord](#)

Become a Member - - the Secord Lake Association is made up of volunteers focused on restoring Secord to create a lake community for generations to come. Visit us at www.secordlakeassociation.org to learn more.

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