



# Long Lake: Interesting Facts and Figures

A publication of the Long Lake Governmental Lake Board

## Long Lake Governmental Lake Board

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Long Lake was mapped by the Michigan Department of Conservation Institute for Fisheries Research in 1953. The original mapping was conducted through the ice with weighted drop lines. This was a laborious process that took several days to complete.

Long Lake has a surface area of 562 acres, making it the fourth largest lake in Kalamazoo County.

Long Lake has a maximum depth of 60 feet and a mean or average depth of 11.8 feet.

The lake has a volume of 6,125 acre-feet which equates to nearly 1.9 billion gallons of water.

Long Lake has a shoreline length of 7.0 miles and a shoreline development factor of 2.1. 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 2.1, the shoreline of Long Lake is 2.1 times longer than if the lake were perfectly round.

Long Lake has a legally established lake level of 856.0 feet above sea level. Water exits Long Lake and flows in a southwesterly direction into Austin Lake then into Gourdneck Creek, Portage Creek, the Portage River and on to the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. The elevation difference between Long Lake and Lake Michigan is about 275 feet.

Historical water quality sampling results indicate that Long Lake, on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 being excellent water quality and 100 being poor, is 42 indicating good to moderate water quality.

Long Lake has a healthy and diverse fishery. The latest Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Report can be found here: <http://www.longlakeimprovementboard.org/lake-facts2.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](http://www.michiganlakeinfo.com)

