

## Why Monitor?

Long term monitoring of parameters provides data needed to recognize the status and trends of a lake or stream's water quality and habitat quality.

## Join Us

There are numerous ways to get involved with the MiCorps program, so please contact us to discuss your particular situation and interests.

As a participating organization, you can take advantage of all of the benefits that MiCorps has to offer. You will have access to the wide array of MiCorps resources and monitoring expertise; your program will be recognized as a state leader; and your program's monitoring data can be entered into our data exchange platform and accessed by the monitoring community and the general public. The data will also be used by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) as a screening tool to identify sites requiring a more detailed assessment and as supplemental data for EGLE water resources management programs.

## Program Contacts

The Great Lakes Commission was selected by EGLE to assist in developing and administering MiCorps. The Commission is partnered with the Huron River Watershed Council, the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, and Michigan State University to administer the MiCorps program, under the direction of EGLE. For more information about MiCorps, please visit our website, or contact **Paul Steen** with the Huron River Watershed Council or **Laura Kaminski** with the Great Lakes Commission.

### Paul Steen

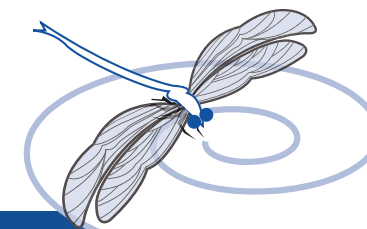
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# MiCorps



## Michigan Clean Water Corps



[micorps.net](http://micorps.net)

Cover photo: Glen Lake, MI by Sean McKendall



## About MiCorps

The Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) is a network of volunteer monitoring programs in Michigan. It was created through Executive Order #2003-15 to assist the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs.

*“Together, we’ll create the nation’s most comprehensive and meaningful clean water monitoring system, building a water legacy for generations to come.”*

-- Former Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

## Our Mission

Our mission is to network and expand volunteer water quality monitoring organizations statewide for the purpose of collecting, sharing and using reliable data; educate and inform the public about water quality issues; and foster water resources stewardship to facilitate the preservation and protection of Michigan’s water resources.

## Our Core Programs

**Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program** – MiCorps provides technical assistance to local units of government and nonprofit entities for water quality monitoring in Wadeable streams and rivers through the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. The monitoring typically consists of an evaluation of benthic invertebrate communities and stream habitat. Starting in 2015, the program also began supporting road/stream crossing inventories

and piloted a stream flow monitoring program in 2016. MiCorps staff provides training, support, and assistance with developing quality assurance project plans, helping participants to reach a professional level of monitoring. In addition, the resultant data will be used by EGLE and others as a screening tool to identify sites requiring more detailed assessment and as supplemental data for EGLE water resources management programs.

**The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program** – The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), the second oldest volunteer lakes monitoring program in the country, has been an important component of Michigan’s inland lakes monitoring program for over 40 years. The primary purpose of the CLMP is to help citizen volunteers monitor the water quality of their lakes and document changes in lake quality over time. CLMP participants collect data on a variety of different parameters including: Secchi disk transparency; total phosphorus; chlorophyll a; dissolved oxygen; temperature; aquatic plant identification and mapping; monitoring for exotic plants; and lakeshore habitat assessment. MiCorps staff provides training and support to volunteers. The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) administers this program under MiCorps.

Photo: John Cramer



## Our Services

**Website** – Our program website, <https://micorps.net>, is the information center for volunteer monitoring programs in Michigan. This site contains information about MiCorps and its monitoring programs; a water quality data exchange platform; a directory of Michigan monitoring groups; resources for water quality monitoring; information on quality assurance; and much more.



micorps.net

**Data Exchange** – Through a web-based data exchange platform, MiCorps provides online access to volunteer monitoring data through a searchable database. Monitoring data collected by our member organizations meet quality assurance and operating procedure criteria and thus, provides a rich data set to use in interpreting and comparing results for MiCorps monitored lakes or streams.

**Directory** – This online, searchable directory provides contact and program information for volunteer monitoring organizations throughout Michigan.

**Monitoring Resources** – Through our volunteer monitoring programs, MiCorps provides sampling methods, training, workshops, technical support, and quality control guidance for volunteers to help them effectively monitor their lakes and streams. The program also provides a wealth of support information and resources for MiCorps participants and their partners.

**Listserv** – The MiCorps-News listserv is an excellent resource for volunteer monitoring in Michigan. Sign up today (<https://micorps.net/about/listserv>) to receive news and announcements geared toward volunteer monitoring program leaders, volunteers, and resource professionals on monitoring and water quality issues in Michigan.

**Conference** – MiCorps hosts an annual conference to report on volunteer monitoring activity and progress in the state. Training is provided at the conference for interested volunteer coordinators. The conference provides excellent opportunities to stay up to date on monitoring methods and to meet and interact with other volunteer monitoring organizations.

**Technical Assistance** – The MiCorps program offers training opportunities for both current and aspiring MiCorps volunteers. MiCorps staff are also available to answer your questions. Feel free to call or email us ([Ask-MiCorps@glc.org](mailto:Ask-MiCorps@glc.org)) anytime.

