



3088 Hottis Rd. Hale, MI 48739 Hale: 989.728.2200 Clare: 989.386.0600 Fax: 989.516.5900

Future Budget Recommendations for Walled Lake 2026 - 2030

Budgeting for future years is always a daunting task. There are many unknown factors like the weather, which plants are going to grow, when/where they will grow, etc. A lake is its own unique ecosystem, that I refer to as “being the boss”. Lakes change from year to year which makes accurately predicting what will need to be done in the future nearly impossible.

We use past treatment records, surveys, water quality data, and our knowledge of the lake to provide estimated treatment and budget recommendations. Often treatment recommendations are changed throughout the year to adapt to the current condition of the lake and/or to meet budgetary restraints/concerns. Changes are only made based on what is best for the lake and the property owners.

Our belief is that it is better to be proactive instead of reactive and think many things should be considered when trying to set a budget for future years.

The following are some of factors that should be taken into consideration when planning the future budget/assessment for Walled Lake:

- The lake contains (3) non-native invasive species that can spread throughout the lake very rapidly if not managed properly in a timely manner.
- The assessment should fund all required studies/treatments that need to take place each year plus additional funds to be held in reserves to be utilized later if needed.
- It is always better to overfund a project and not need to use all the funds than to need the funds and not have them available. Assessments can always be reduced or returned once an adequate reserve fund is acquired.
- Awareness that plant communities can develop herbicide resistance/tolerance to a certain herbicide(s) and we may need to evaluate utilizing other herbicide options like Procellacor or Triclopyr to achieve systemic control of the Milfoil.
- Native plant populations may become a nuisance in areas where herbicide management is not permitted, and we may need to implement vegetation harvesting again to manage them.

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After evaluating all the information from past treatment records, surveys, water quality data, and our knowledge of the lake, Savin Lake Services would recommend the budget be established for 2026 – 2030 as follows:

2026 - \$105,000.00
2027 - \$105,000.00
2028 - \$110,000.00
2029 - \$110,000.00
2030 - \$115,000.00

We feel the above budgets for each year will provide adequate funding to properly manage Walled Lake.

These budgets are based on our experience on Walled Lake and the following plan each year:

10 - 20 acres of Systemic Milfoil control of Eurasian Watermilfoil
40 - 50 acres of Combination Contact/Systemic control of Eurasian Watermilfoil
80 - 120 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed control utilizing contact herbicides
20 - 30 acres of Algae control (total over 2 treatments)
20 - 40 acres of Starry Stonewort control (total over 2 treatments)
20 - 40 acres of Nuisance Natives control utilizing contact herbicides (total over 2 treatments)
All studies, surveys, and recommendations

If you have any questions, comments, or require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Matthew Novotny
Operations Manager
Savin Lake Services Inc.

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Future Lake Management Recommendations for Walled Lake

Walled Lake currently has 3 non-native invasive plant communities that Savin Lake Services has been aggressively managing. The non-native invasive plant communities that have been detected in Walled Lake are Curly Leaf Pondweed, Starry Stonewort, and Eurasian Watermilfoil. In addition to providing non-native invasive weed control, we have also conducted algae treatments and nuisance native weed control in the near shore developed areas when/where treatment is needed.

Each year Walled Lake seems to bring its own unique set of challenges and we welcome the opportunity to meet these challenges for you each year. It has been a pleasure to see the transformation the lake has made since 2012. Which was when we first began managing the lake with herbicides. When herbicide control began the lake was severely infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. The Eurasian Watermilfoil had already outcompeted the native plants and had pretty much taken over a lot of the littoral zone of the lake containing substrates that can sustain weed growth. In 2012 we treated a total of 168 acres of Milfoil systemically, compared to now treating approximately 50 acres or less systemically each year. We have greatly reduced the Milfoil population and the lake now has a vast amount of plant diversity. When herbicide treatment first started on Walled Lake, Eurasian Watermilfoil was so dominate that it required both a Spring and Fall systemic treatments. Applications have since converted to contact herbicide applications utilizing Diquat Dibromide to manage mainly Curly Leaf Pondweed and small amounts of intermixed Milfoil.

Although Curly Leaf Pondweed is an exotic non-native invasive plant species and can pose a threat to the lake if not properly managed, Curly Leaf Pondweed is much cheaper and easier to gain control of. Only one treatment is required per season for Curly Leaf Pondweed and that treatment is usually completed in May or early June before the plant releases its turions. The contact herbicide Diquat Dibromide that is utilized to control the Curly Leaf Pondweed will also drop the Milfoil that is intermixed for 4-6 weeks, then the Milfoil begins its growth cycle again. Even though the Milfoil does return in the same season utilizing Diquat Dibromide, by the time it does the water is warmer and its growth cycle is very slow until water temperatures start to cool. Once water temperatures begin to cool in the Fall, Milfoil goes through another active growth cycle and that is when we target to treat the Milfoil Systemically. This method of treatment has proven to be the most effective and efficient management technique for Walled Lake.

Starry Stonewort was detected in Walled Lake in 2015 and has been very aggressively treated ever since. We have been very successful at containing the Starry Stonewort to the areas it was originally detected in. Treatments have been very effective for density reduction and more importantly in preventing it from spreading throughout the lake. Some years we have had to complete 2 treatments to keep it under control and isolated, but many years we were able to control it with a single

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treatment. Monitoring the lake often and treating as soon as Starry Stonewort begins to grow greatly increase the efficacy of the treatment and reduces the risk of it being spread to other areas of the lake. At this time there is no systemic treatment for Starry Stonewort, and we are using the best treatment methodology known to the industry at this time. Many lakes in Oakland County have become infested with Starry Stonewort. It is greatly impacting the ecosystems of many lakes by rapidly outcompeting native plant communities and vastly reducing plant diversity. Fortunately, we were able to detect it early and I feel if we continue to monitor the lake often and aggressively treat known areas, we can prevent it from becoming a major problem.

It is my belief that the management program we currently have implemented for Walled Lake's weed control is the most effective and efficient way to keep Walled Lake healthy, clean, and desirable for use by the Walled Lake property owners at this time.

After reviewing all the above factors and treatment records back to 2011, Savin Lake Services recommends the following for 2026 - 2030:

- Continue to complete Water Quality Studies in both the Spring and Fall of each year.
- Complete Visual Surveys periodically throughout the year to determine areas of concern and to ensure the efficacy of treatments, and most importantly to make sure the invasive species are not getting out of control or infesting new areas of the lake.
- Complete a BioBase survey in 2025, and again in 2030.
- Continue to aggressively treat the Eurasian Watermilfoil systemically.
- Treat the Curly Leaf Pondweed utilizing contact herbicides like Diquat Dibromide and Endothall in Late May/Early June.
- Continue to aggressively treat the Starry Stonewort anywhere it is found in the lake.
- Continue herbicide control of Algae and Nuisance Natives when/where it's needed in the near shore developed areas of the lake.

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