

TODAY'S WEATHER:

www.wunderground.com/us/mi/kewadin

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www.restoreourwater.org/

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State of the Great Lakes: Water still rising, temperatures chillier than normal

BY: [Taylor DesOrmeau | tdesorme@mlive.com](mailto:tdesorme@mlive.com)

<https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2022/07/state-of-the-great-lakes-water-still-rising-temperatures-chillier-than-normal.html>

Updated: Jul. 20, 2022, 12:02 p.m. Published: Jul. 20, 2022, 12:02 p.m.

A patrol boat speeds past Miners Castle at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior near Munising, Mich., May 18, 2022(Photo: Garret Ellison | MLive)

EXCERPT: PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE ONLINE

Water levels are rising right now in most of the Great Lakes – but that’s normal for this time of year. In June, Lake Superior was up 4.7 inches for the month, Lake Michigan-Huron was up 1.9 inches, Erie was up 0.8 inches and Lake Ontario was down 1.6 inches.



Lake levels fluctuate based largely on precipitation volumes over the surfaces of the lakes themselves, according to federal scientists. Levels are also influenced by land runoff, among other factors. Lake Superior and Ontario levels are regulated through dams that allow some engineering control over water levels. For those wanting a swim, the waters are a little cooler than normal for this time of year.

Here are the average surface temperatures for each Great Lake on July 17, according to data from the [Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

July 17, 2022 temperature

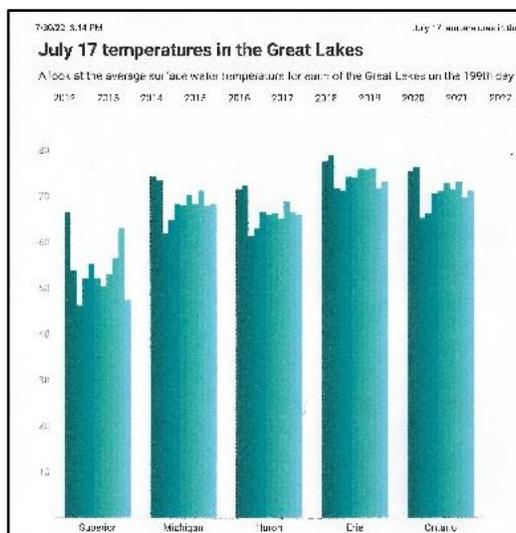
Lake Superior: 47.4 degrees
Lake Michigan: 68.4 degrees
Lake Huron: 65.9 degrees
Lake Erie: 73.2 degrees
Lake Ontario: 71.3 degrees

July 17 2012 - 2021 average temperature*

Lake Superior average: 54.9 degrees
Lake Michigan average: 68.9 degrees
Lake Huron average: 66.8 degrees
Lake Erie average: 74.8 degrees
Lake Ontario average: 71.3 degrees

*Temperature for each lake on 199th day of the year July 17 (unless it’s a Leap Year).

RELATED: [Lake Superior is still super cold right now](#)



So all five Great Lakes are at or below the average temperature for this time of year – with Superior being the lake furthest from the average.

July 17, 2021 Lake Superior was 63 degrees, nearly 16 degrees warmer. Erie heats up fastest because of its shallow nature, plus it’s further south than the other Great Lakes.

Here’s a look at the average surface temperature for each Great Lake on the 199th day of the year 2012 to 2022. Lake Superior is at left

We’re not far from the warmest time of the year for the Great Lakes. Peak temperatures are typically the first weeks of August.

INVASIVE SPECIES - SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Reported By: Jeannie Welsh



I am re-posting information about invasive Spotted Knapweed as it is spreading across sandy areas of the beach. A gardener-friend pointed out a crop of this invasive weed on my beach and nearby.

Invasive Spotted Knapweed is a plant with purple thistle-like blossoms. Not only does it crowd out native plants, but it releases toxins that poison the soil for other plants.

The plants pull out quite easily, but do not delay because they will be going to seed very soon and one plant can release 1,000 seeds. Pulled plants can be burned at high temperatures or bagged or buried deep in the ground. Mowing or herbicides can also be effective treatment.

For me it is a pair of gardening gloves and just going to it. More information:

https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002_71240_73853-379476--,00.html

Herbaceous, bushy, perennial plant growing 2-3 feet.

Elongated, bluish- or grayish-green leaves divided into lance-shaped lobes.

Pinkish-purple flowers are thistle-like and bloom July through September.

Long, stout tap-root can send shoots to start new plants.

Seeds are carried-on fine, white tufts emerging from the flower base.

Found in open fields, disturbed areas, scrub with poor soil, fields, pastures.

A threat to pastures and dry ecosystems like prairies & dunes. Skin irritant.



Enjoy this descriptive short story about the beach - Claire Miller

<https://letterpile.com/creative-writing/DescriptiveShort-Story-The-Beach>

BY: Claire Miller, an engineering graduate who is now wading through the chaos of trying to be a responsible adult.

As the sun shines happily on the cool, rippling surface of the sea, cars drive towards the nearest parking space like they would never have another chance to see this exquisite scene. Children are the first out, and they run frantically towards the sea, as if competing for a gold medal.

The parents are next out of the sleeping creatures, tangled in the deck chairs, towels and umbrellas they brought with them for this beautiful day. Mums screech for their children to be careful, clinging onto infants as they try to stumble after their older siblings. The dads huff and grumble as they are left to carry all the 'essentials' mothers had insisted on bringing.

The peace has been invaded, yet the sea couldn't be happier. And then, a hundred cries of joy drown out all other sounds—the children have penetrated the turquoise swirls of the deep blue carpet. The nourishing sea cools them. Some relax, letting the water gently lap at their bodies. Others run riot, splashing about, and giggling wildly. And some stand at shore, letting the sea-cat rub around their ankles as they marvel at its treasures—dead or alive.

Panting as though they were the dogs that have been brought here, the mothers and fathers finally catch up. They prepare themselves for a nice long sunbathing session, leaving the infants—reeking of sunscreen—to totter off and make sandcastles.

As the hours whiz by, people come and go, parents dragging their children away as they shriek for "just another five minutes," but they know it won't work a third time. They know that parents just don't understand. Very few appreciate the wonderful feeling of the powdery sand between your toes, or the blissful sensation of the cool waves crashing against your ankles, legs, waist.

And when the last person turns to leave, the sea silently whines for them to come back. It runs after them but slips and falls down, back to where it started. It tries again, and again, and again, and again... and again... and... again... and... gives up.

The blood-red sky swirls like the sea did blue. The sea kicks over every sandcastle in rage and a petty attempt at revenge before settling down in time for Lunar to show off her silver gown. And in the moonlight, he cries. And in the twilight, he mourns. And in the morning, he forgets, ready for another day with the people at the beach.

Claire Miller

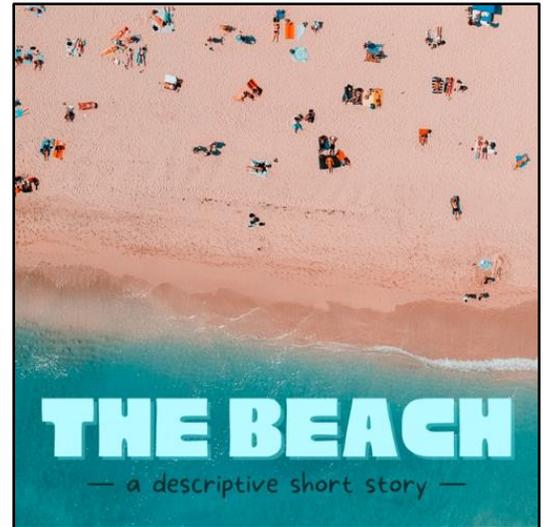


Photo by Guzmán Barquín on Unsplash; Canva

TUTORIAL UPDATE

WHAT ARE DEED RESTRICTIONS?

Shared from THEBALANCE.COM:

Deed restrictions limit what you can do with a property, or for what it can be used. Learn how to find out if there are deed restrictions on a property you want to buy.

www.thebalance.com/what-are-deed-restrictions-5216598

TNN VP Scott H. Finch (Ret: State Bar of MI) notes, "The article is solid, but does not state that the landowner is bound by the stricter of legally binding deed restrictions & local law. The article refers to removing a fence in violation. Removal also applies to building violations. A HOA or neighbor can enforce.

NOTE: "What are Deed Restrictions" Tutorial was published in the Spring 2022 Edition of TNN News – see TNN Website.

Disclaimer: This article is shared for general information only. It does not constitute legal advice. Also refer to the general disclaimer for Township Neighbors Network in the footer on this page.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS' UPDATE



Recently several home-owner associations distributed deed restrictive covenants to owners.

Waterfront deed restrictive covenants exist in area townships. Recorded covenants run with the land. It is incumbent on a buyer to discover them through title search and also make inquiries to the HOA Board. Property owners should understand how their home is subject to restrictive covenants. Refer questions to a local property attorney regarding rights and responsibilities created by covenants.

Neighborliness is a principle we can all follow.

LOCAL ZONING LAW UPDATE



Docks and Hoists = Accessory Structures

Local Zoning Ordinances define a dock as an Accessory Structure subject to setbacks. Milton and Torch Lake Townships, require 10' setback from each side property line.

For the Bay, docks stored off-season above the Federal Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) are subject to Township Zoning jurisdiction. Check with your local zoning administrator. Deed restrictive covenants may require greater setbacks. Bay waters seaward of the statutory OHWM are federal waters.

State of the Great Lakes: Water still rising, temperatures chillier than normal (cont'd)

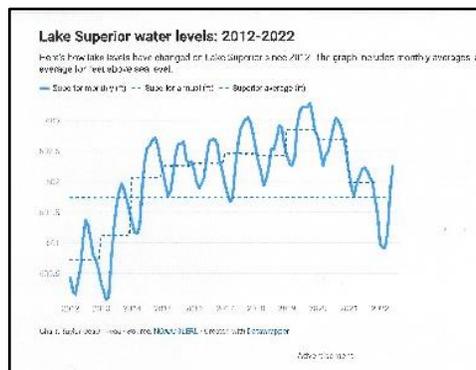
Water Temperature

Superior typically gets to 61 degrees on average, Huron typically nears 69 degrees, Michigan usually gets just shy of 71 degrees, Ontario warms to 72.5 degrees on average and Erie warms to about 75.5 degrees.

It's important to note these are average surface temperatures across the whole lake. It's typically warmer in southern parts of lakes and in bays.

What about the water levels of the Great Lakes?

Historically, annual changes in lake levels shift slowly, although [most of the Great Lakes jumped from a period of very low levels to very high levels around 2013](#). Here's the latest.



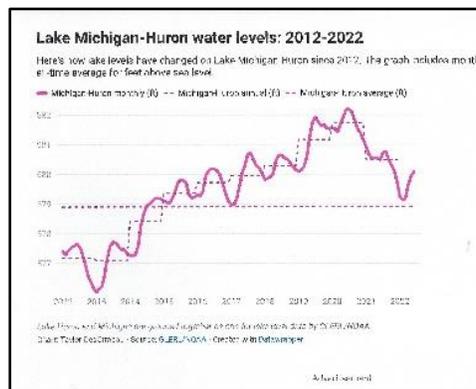
Lake Superior: Up 4.7 inches

Superior was 602.26 feet above sea level in June (latest data), which is 4.7 inches higher than May.

The lake increased 8.2 inches between April and May – so it's up more than a foot in two months.

Superior's water level isn't much different from the level in recent Junes. Only 0.7 inches higher than June 2021 and is 5.1 inches lower than June 2020.

The lake often peaks in late summer/early fall and the water level keeps decreasing until March or April. Here's a look at how Lake Superior's water levels have changed since 2012.



Lake Michigan-Huron: Up 1.9 inches

GLERL/NOAA considers Lake Michigan and Huron as one, for water levels since they're hydrologically one lake. Water flows through the Straits of Mackinac under the Mackinac Bridge; water levels are equal on both sides.

Lake Michigan-Huron was 580.08 feet above sea level in June, up 1.9 inches from May. The lake is typically at its highest point each year in July, before receding through fall and early winter.

It's the lowest the lake has been in June since 2015 – as Michigan-Huron had hovered around record high levels in recent years. Here's how levels in Michigan-Huron have changed each month since 2012.

The reader is referred to the online document to see water levels for the lower great lakes.