



Alger Conservation District
101 Court St. Munising, MI 49862
906 387-2222 algercd@macd.org

Au Train Lake Habitat Improvement Project

Hello Au Train Lakeshore Landowner,

I am writing this letter to introduce you to and to continue the Au Train Lake Habitat Improvement Project, funded by the DNR Fisheries Habitat Grant program, in coordination with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Alger Conservation District (ACD), and the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council (UPRCDC). We have been awarded this grant to help improve lake habitat on Au Train Lake during the winter of 2022-23, and to continue our work in the winter of 2023-24, and the spring of 2024 through the installation of woody habitat in the lake. The addition of woody habitat will provide multiple benefits such as: food, refuge for fish at various life stages, spawning substrate, nursery/rearing habitat, and shoreline protection. This will be done on public and private lands, with permissions and permits secured for those lands, and using the "Fish Sticks" protocol, included here. Fish Sticks will include, where applicable, dropped shoreline trees and bundles of trees secured to the shore, woody structures such as logs and stumps along the shorelines, and brush bundles to be built on ice with anchors, to sink into the lake at a depth of 10-12 feet. This is what is called the "transition zone" from vegetated lake bottom to bare and is the optimal location for habitat structures. These bundles will be under at least 7-8 feet of water and will not interfere with recreation on the lake.

Many of you have already been involved in this project, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you. Others had reached out to us, but after we had planned for 2023 work. This is your opportunity to be included! Our project needs support and cooperation of private landowners such as yourself and would only commence once we receive permission and authorization, and after a site visit(s) to discuss the location and type of work to be done potentially using your property. Asking for a site visit does not immediately authorize any agreement to participate but can be a way to talk through any questions and concerns, and to lay out a possible plan for included project details.

Our program requires that we have your written permission in order to access your property and perform project activities. Even if you have previously given us permission verbal, we do need a hard copy permission form. Please affirm (or reaffirm) your consent for treatment by signing and returning the form at the bottom. You may mail, e-mail, or drop the form off at our office. Another option is to request the site visit, and we can arrange to receive your permission form personally at that time.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration to participate in this project, and your efforts to enhance the overall health and quality of Au Train Lake.

Matt Watkeys
District Manager
Alger Conservation District

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Some answers to initial questions you may have:

What is the cost? There will be no cost to participate or having this project carried out on your property and lakeshore. Volunteer hours can be counted as match if you can perform some amount of work time on the project.

When will this be done? Site visits are currently being planned over the next few months, with project implementation during the winter of 2023-24 and spring of 2024. There will be 2 scheduled outreach days, one during winter 2023-24, and another during the summer of 2024.

How do I participate? It's easy: just fill out the permission form and return to me.

How do I opt out? If you change your mind and decide not to participate, please let me know in writing. We will not include your property without your expressed permission.

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Letter of Authorization

I hereby authorize Alger Conservation District (ACD), and Upper Peninsula Resource and Development Council (UPRCD) to install woody habitat structures and activities that accompany these practices on properties located in Au Train Township for the purpose of lake habitat enhancement. I authorize access to the site for the purpose of installing woody habitat and anchoring components, as needed and as recommended by Best Management Practices referenced in the “Fish Sticks” document and per Michigan DNR recommendations.

I further authorize the DNR, ACD, and UPRC&D to utilize material from the site, as agreed upon with the landowner, and if available, to use as woody habitat additions to the lake. If no material is on site, this agreement allows for external material to be brought from an outside source or neighboring public or private property. This work will all be completed under the guidance of the permit issued by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

It is understood that ACD and UPRCD shall obtain all permits necessary for this work and will be at no expense to the property owner. This letter of authorization shall remain valid until October 2024.

The undersigned retains the right to revoke this authorization in writing at any time. Such revocation shall become valid 30 days after the DNR receives written notice.

Landowner Name(s) _____

Physical Address, contact phone number and/or email:

Tax ID Number (from your tax bill) _____

Signature _____ Date _____