

2026 MICORPS AIS DETECTION BLITZ



YEAR TWO

In its second year, the MiCorps Aquatic Invasive Species Detection Blitz brought even more people into the search for aquatic invasive species across Michigan. From June 29–July 12, participants of all experience levels used iNaturalist to photograph and report potential aquatic invaders they encountered on lakes, streams, wetlands and shorelines. After being expertly reviewed and identified, the 2026 Blitz resulted in **285 verified observations of 18 aquatic invasive species**.

YEAR TWO BY THE NUMBERS

BLITZ RESULTS	2025	2026
People joined	100	174
People submitted observations	41	97
Verified AIS observations	109	285
AIS species documented	15	18

74%

more participants joined

137%

more people contributed observations

161%

increase in verified AIS observations

WHAT DID WE FIND?

TOP 5 MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED	VERIFIED OBSERVATIONS
Common reed	145
Eurasian watermilfoil	39
Purple loosestrife	15
Curly-leaf pondweed	15
Zebra mussel	15

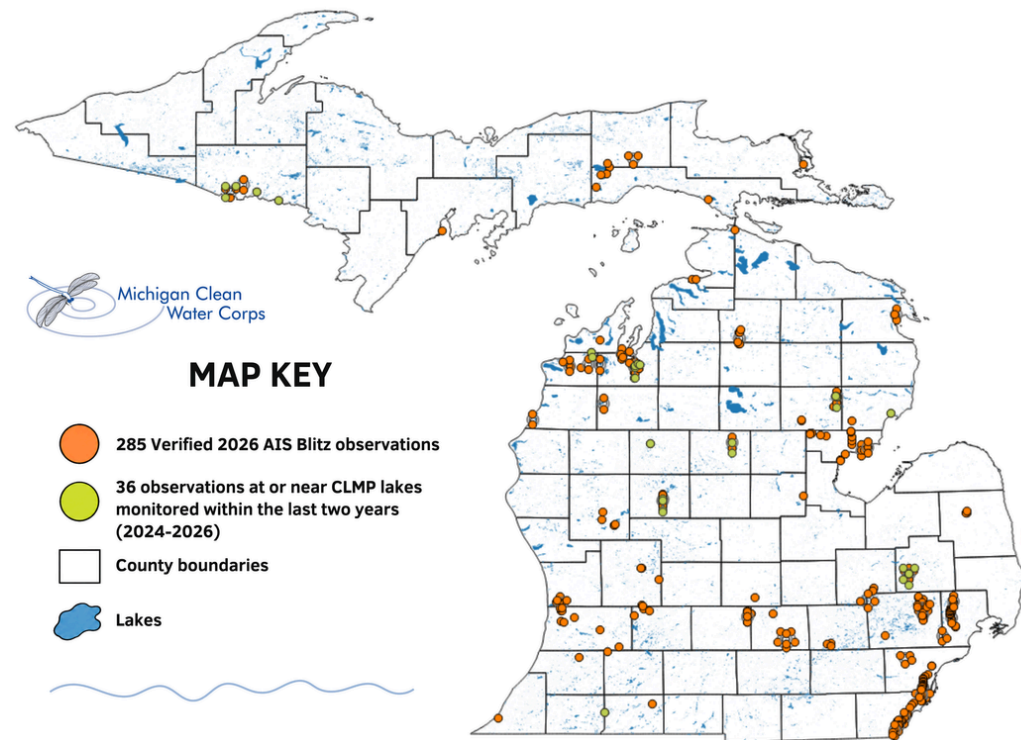


Other finds included narrow-leaved cattail, European frog-bit, Chinese mystery snail, water forget-me-not, starry stonewort, flowering rush, yellow iris, New Zealand mudsnail, mute swan, common carp, Asian clam, brittle naiad and rusty crayfish. After review and verification, the final dataset included 285 AIS observations contributed by 47 observers across Michigan.

See all verified 2026 results on iNaturalist!



THE BLITZ IS REACHING BEYOND OUR USUAL MONITORING NETWORK



285 verified AIS observations statewide

36 at or near lakes monitored through CLMP within the last two years

13 recently monitored CLMP lakes represented

87% of verified observations occurred outside that recent CLMP lake footprint

THE BLITZ CASTS A WIDER NET.

While the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch (EAPW) provides trained CLMP volunteers with a structured way to monitor their lakes for aquatic invasive plants, the AIS Detection Blitz is open to anyone, anywhere in Michigan. In 2026, only 36 of 285 verified Blitz observations were associated with lakes that had recent CLMP monitoring data. The broader distribution shows how an open community science event can expand the number of people and places contributing to aquatic invasive species detection while introducing participants to opportunities for more sustained monitoring through programs like EAPW.

WANT TO KEEP LOOKING?

MiCorps is Michigan's volunteer lake and stream monitoring program, administered by Michigan State University Extension under the direction of EGLE and in partnership with the Huron River Watershed Council and Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. Through MiCorps' Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, parameters like the Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch (EAPW) provide volunteers with training and support to monitor aquatic plants on their local lake and help detect invasive species early.

Learn more at micorps.net and see what other monitoring opportunities MiCorps offers.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for participating.

Every observation adds another piece to what we know about aquatic invasive species across Michigan.