

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA**

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**Wednesday, December 19, 2018 – 7:00 PM  
Denton Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Chairman Brownlee	_____	Commissioner Merritt	_____
Commissioner Ross	_____	Commissioner Emekpe	_____
Commissioner Debuck	_____	Board Representative White	_____
Commissioner Gibson	_____	Director Akers	_____
Director Best	_____	Recording Secretary McGuire	_____

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. October 17, 2018 Minutes

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Open Discussion

- a. Lake Drawdown Plan
  - i. Eagle Creek Update
  - ii. Public Meeting – February
  - iii. Partnerships/Volunteers
  - iv. Township Sponsored Activities
  - v. Property Owner Activities
  - vi. Community Q &A
  
- b. Eurasian Milfoil – Grant Application

**NEW BUSINESS**

Open Discussion

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

***\*\* If you are unable to attend, please contact Developmental Services at 699-8913 before noon on December 19, 2018\*\****

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday-October 17, 2018 – 7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**  
**DRAFT**

The meeting was call to order at 7:00 pm in the Denton Room by Chairman Brownlee

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioner Brownlee, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Debuck, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt,  
Staff: Director Best, McGuire

Absent Excused: Commissioner Empeke, Board Representative White

Audience: 1

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded Commissioner Ross as modified. Motion Carried

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Motion Commissioner Debuck, seconded Commissioner Merritt. Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Landfill Flares – flare system at the old dump design change and how are they disposing of methane gas. No flares lit. Director Akers contacted US Ecology inquiring about the flare issue. Director Best will follow up with Director Akers.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Lake Drawdown Update – Director Best has been working with Eagle Creek supplying information and answering questions regarding Van Buren’s request for the lake drawdown. Melissa Rondou is the regulatory manager from Eagle Creek is working on our request and has prepared a plan to be submitted to MDQ, MDMR, FERK, Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the State Historical Preservation office. As soon as the information is received from Ms. Rondou, Director Best will present at the next available board meeting. Whether it is approved or not a town meeting is planned so that the residents can be informed of what they can and can’t do around their property. The tentative plan for the meeting is around February. The Township is looking at supporting volunteer programs from Huron River Water Shed, BYC, schools and other local businesses as examples. Since there is no budget for this project the Township would also rely on donations and business’ like Fishbeck and McKenna to apply for ancillary grants to offset the cost. The Supervisor is asking the commission to identify activities that can be done by the community with a minimal amount of training for example picking up trash along the shore line. A more in-depth training could concern the removal of tree stumps for example the stumps cannot be removed if they are embedded in the ground but can be cut parallel to the ground and loose branches and trees can be removed. The commission is also being asked to compile some questions and answers to be provided to the community when asked what they can or can’t do. The Township is looing at Firework Island and if there is something the Township can do i.e. turning it into a park.
- b. Eurasian Milfoil – During the past Algae Bloom, residents started to voice concerns about the milfoil around the lake. Milfoil is spread by seeds and fragments that have broken off and can spread very easily for example by boats, people swimming and animals. The seeds and fragments float to the bottom of the lake and will start growing in depths of up to 20 feet growing 1-3 inches a day and prevent other plants from growing beneath it. Belleville Lake is at a disadvantage because it is part of the Huron River water system and there is milfoil as far up as Village of Linden. Milfoil can be eradicated if everyone within system works to eradicate milfoil but is expensive and time intensive. If it is decided that the Township is going to do something about the milfoil it is not something the Township does not have jurisdiction of. The lake is the State’s responsibility and it is a natural process there so is no requirement to eradicate. However; if it is decided to do something, the MDEQ requires a detailed lake survey and a plan survey. There is a possibility to use herbicidal treatment and mechanical treatments that could reduce the milfoil. Mechanical treatment would require a fragmentation barrier but can be helpful. Herbicidal treatment requires contact time with the plant but because we are on a flowing system the contact time is reduced and high concentrations would be needed to

increase contact time. We would need a lake management plan that could cost between \$50,000 to \$100,000. Plan would include an aquatic plant survey to identify plants that are beneficial to the lake and what herbicides could be used to protect those plants. The cost of the plant survey could be \$10,000 to \$20,000. Once a permit is issued by the MDNR the cost would be between \$280 to \$500 per acre. Belleville Lake is about 1,270 acres so the cost could be \$350,000 on the low end to treat the lake and it would need two treatments for the first year. Treatment is recommended once a year over 5 years. Director Best has been working with consultants who do Eurasian Milfoil litigation and what impact the drawdown would have on the Milfoil and if there is any way that we can look at treating the milfoil during the drawdown. Township is looking into what can be done and work with lake property owners concerning this issue.

- c. Cadillac Asphalt – Noted at the last meeting that there is a large discharge drainage from Cadillac Asphalt and when there is a heavy rain it floods the dip on North Service Dr and drains into Willow Drain. Director Best was contacted by a Ms. Hanf from Cadillac Asphalt to discuss how the drain water is handled. She followed up with a letter explaining that in accordance with their Air Permit which is about track out and dust from the facility and they utilize street sweepers to cleanup track from their facility. They also noted that they have a NPDES Storm Water permit and plan. Cadillac Asphalt has a retention pond and a Jtube filtering system. Ms. Hanf said that the commission could have a tour and answer any questions that the commission may have concerning these issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Open Discussion:

- a. Algae Bloom – After being contacted by a resident complaining about the lake, the State of Michigan sent their biology and chemistry departments to test for Microcystins in Belleville Lake. Microcystins is a chemical that is created by blue green algae that is toxic. The Township received a phone call from the state notifying the Township of the microcystins found in the lake on a Friday afternoon. The Township then went around posting signs notifying the public of the algae bloom. Since then, the State has had routine sampling of the lake and the results show no algae blooms on the lake as of October 5<sup>th</sup>. State has not sent a notification stating that the advisory is over. Algae Bloom is not a new issue for the Lake but how the State responds to the issue has changed.
- b. Fish Advisory – PFAS and PFOS advisory is still in effect. Director Best has not seen any data stating that PFAS or PFOS has been found in the lake. The state was being precautionary by placing the lake under a fish advisory. Members of the commission inquired what they could do concerning this issue. After some discussion it was decided that taking samples on their own would be counterproductive as there are so many PFAS' to test for and the testing is expensive.
- c. Election of officers – Commissioner Brownlee as Chairman nominated and approved. Commissioner Debuck as vice-chairman nominated and approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:** Tentative alternate date for the next meeting is November 20, 2018 to discuss the lake drawdown specifically.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Commissioner Gibson, seconded by Commissioner Merritt to adjourn at 8:40 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McGuire, Recording Secretary



EasyGrantsID: 63495

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund 2018, Pre-Proposal

Title: Belleville Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control

Organization: Charter Township of Van Buren

**Grant Request Information**

Title of Project	Belleville Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control
Project Description	Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), an invasive aquatic plant, will be controlled in Belleville Lake, Wayne County's only navigable lake, through hand-pulling and chemical herbicide application. We expect to reduce the amount of EWM by 50% the first year and hope to continue to reduce the growth the following year by another 25%.
Abstract	<p>Belleville Lake’s public access locations have become choked with Eurasian Watermilfoil to the extent that it adversely affecting the recreational use of the lake. With chemical application being applied directly, we plan to eliminate this prolific invasive plant and reclaim these affected areas so that our residents and visitors can enjoy swimming, boating and fishing.</p> <p>It is our plan to map out the extensive areas of growth with GPS data, and treat the affected areas according to the level of plant density. Upon completion of the prescribed treatments, a monitoring plan will be put in place to survey and record the treated areas. We will hold informative training sessions with the public in order to enlist their help in monitoring and reporting Eurasian Watermilfoil growth and how to handle plant fragmentation. Belleville Lake lies in the heart of our community and we will work as a community to eradicate this invasive plant.</p>
Project Location Description	<p>Belleville Lake, located in Van Buren Township which lies in the south west end of Wayne County in Michigan at 42°12’43.1” N, 83°29’46.7” W.</p> <p>Belleville Lake is the only navigable lake in Wayne County, Michigan.</p>
Total Amount Requested	\$300,000.00
Matching Contributions Proposed	\$100,000.00
Proposed Grant Period	07/01/2019 - 09/30/2020
Organization	Charter Township of Van Buren
Organization Type	State or Local Government
City, State, Country	”
Primary Contact	Jennifer Zaenglein
Position/Title	
Phone and E-mail	Ext: ; jzaenglein@vanburen-mi.org

**Additional Contacts**

Role	Name
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NFWF

EasyGrantsID: 63495

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NFWF

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### Matching Contributions

<b>Matching Contribution Amount:</b>	\$100,000.00
<b>Type:</b>	In-kind
<b>Status:</b>	Pledged
<b>Source:</b>	Van Buren Township
<b>Source Type:</b>	Non-Federal
<b>Description:</b>	The Charter Township of Van Buren pledges to match these funds with \$100,000 of cash and in-kind services towards this project.

<b>Total Amount of Matching Contributions:</b>	\$100,000.00
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# NFWF

EasyGrantsID: 63495

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund 2018, Pre-Proposal

Title: Belleville Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control

Organization: Charter Township of Van Buren

The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

Upload Type	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
SMRF Pre-Proposal Narrative	Southeast+Michigan+Resilience+Fund+2018+Pre-Proposal+Narrative.doc	Zaenglein, Jennifer	12/11/2018
Project Site Map	Belleville Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control.pdf	Zaenglein, Jennifer	12/07/2018
Project Site Map	Belleville Lake location.pdf	Zaenglein, Jennifer	12/07/2018

The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.



NFWF

## Pre-Proposal Project Narrative

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed two (2) pages; font should be 12-point Times New Roman. Do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line application as instructed.

1. **Funding Category:** Indicate the one primary Funding Category that best describes the proposed project: 1) *Expanding Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Enhancing Public Space*; 2) *Improving Habitat Quality, Connectivity, and Accessibility*. If the project is expected to yield benefits in both categories, indicate the relevant secondary category.

This project will fall under Category #2: Improving Habitat Quality, Connectivity, and Accessibility.

2. **Context:** Briefly describe the project context in terms of current conditions, existing challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Explain how the proposed work would complement and connect to previous and ongoing efforts and strategies.

Belleville Lake is the only navigable lake in Wayne County and is heart of Van Buren Township; our residents' daily lives are affected by the conditions of the lake. If it is a beautiful day, people are boating, fishing and if the weather permits, swimming. When the conditions of the lake are poor, or are uninviting, the residents' ability to recreate is greatly diminished as much of what occurs in our area, occurs on the water.

Currently, Eurasian Watermilfoil has taken a stronghold of our boat launches, docking areas, and shallows, growing in 70% of Belleville Lake which is not only choking out native plant life, but also discouraging our residents and visitors from utilizing our waterways. Our residents are looking for a way to control and hopefully eradicate this invasive from Belleville Lake and restore our aquatic pursuits to a greater level of enjoyment.

The greatest challenge in controlling milfoil is funding the initial control efforts. We are looking to put in place a monitoring, assessment, and control plan to be carried out by staff, volunteers and industry professionals. This project is the greatest opportunity for us to improve water quality of the lake. There are many factors that affect our waterways in Michigan; most of which we cannot control as individual entities. Once a plan is put in place within our municipality, we can partner with other municipalities up stream to continue the effort to eradicate this invasive plant.

This project is part of a larger scale effort by Van Buren Township to improve access, usage and benefits of Belleville Lake for our residents. In the last year, the Township has improved pavilion picnic areas, playground equipment and parking areas in our parks on the lake in order to increase use and exposure of this resource. This effort to eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil is outlined in the Lower Huron River Watershed Management Plan as a long-term action item to improve access to the resource.

3. **Outcomes:** Discuss how project activities will generate direct, measurable benefits to Southeast Michigan as indicated in the "geographic focus" section of the request for proposals (RFP).

Belleville Lake is part of the Huron River Watershed where more than 2.3 million people paddle and swim in the river and its watershed lakes each year. It's the only lake in Wayne County and, if freed of milfoil, could become a recreation destination for residents. As the blue infrastructure increases in value, so does the economic benefit of improving access to this resource. Controlling the milfoil in our

lake will create a greater interest in our area for recreational activities. This project will commence a monitoring program which will continue annually.

4. **Activities:** Describe project activities using quantifiable metrics and explain how they are expected to lead to the outcomes indicated above. Describe how the activities relate to established plans and priority needs in the specific project location(s).

Eurasian water-milfoil is known to cover approximately 70% of Belleville Lake. The first step of our control plan will be to map the areas of growth with GPS and measure plant locations and the amount of plant growth density. Sparse growth will be controlled by divers pulling “root and shoot” with support staff on the surface gathering plant fragmentation. Dense growth will be controlled with aquatic herbicide application. Depending upon the circumstances, either Triclopyr or ProcellaCOR will be used by a licensed applicator. These activities will likely take place by September while the plants are flourishing and the lake is experiencing low flow.

As the project proceeds, we will monitor the plant coverage with GPS and will utilize community partners, trained volunteers, and paid professionals to track the success of the control methods as well as new plant growth.

5. **Partnerships, Inclusion and Community Engagement:** Describe the existing or developing partnerships that will contribute to the implementation and success of the project. Explain how the project will meaningfully engage and benefit people, particularly historically underrepresented and underserved communities, including how community input has been incorporated into project design.

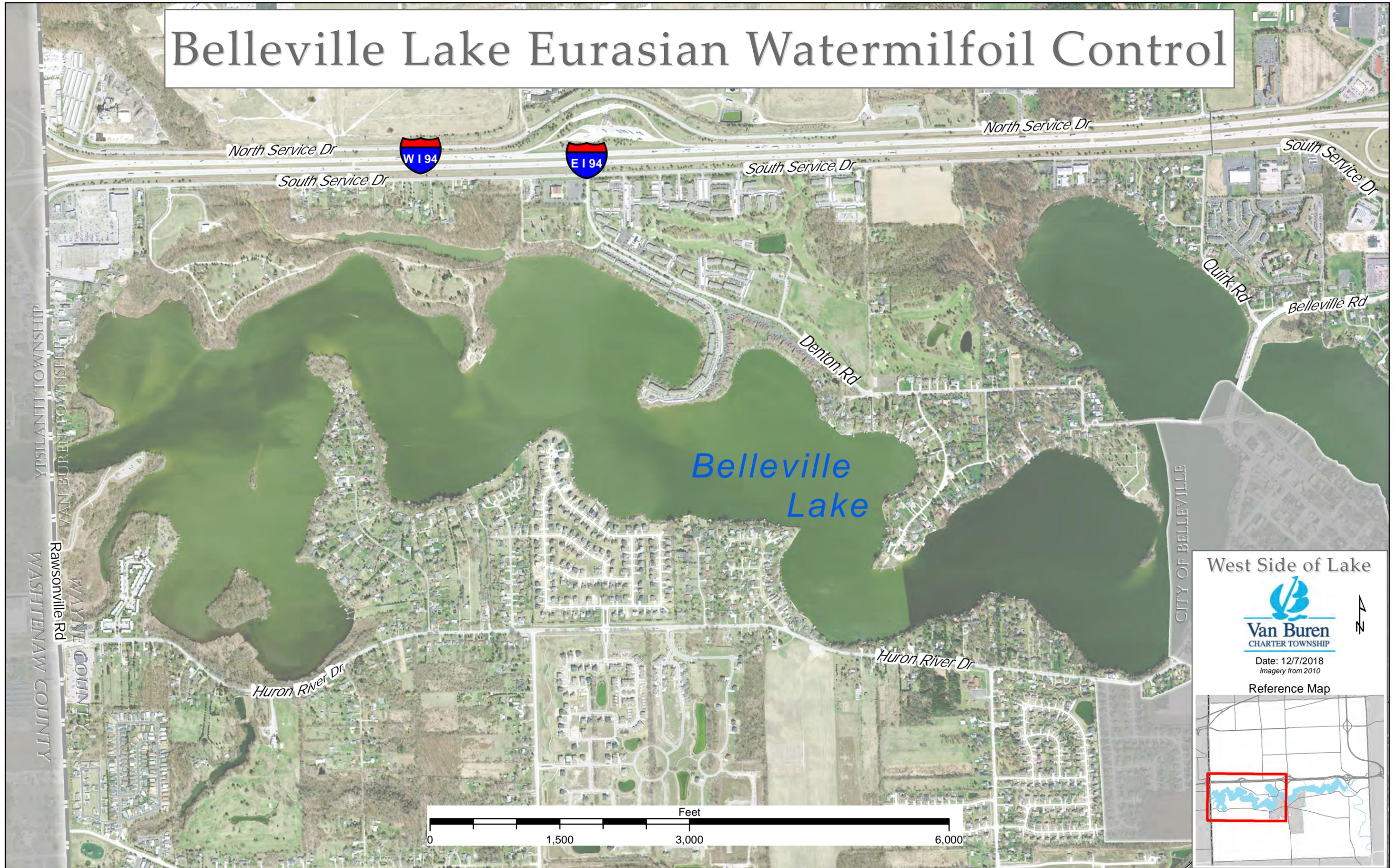
Van Buren Township is partnering with the City of Belleville, Ypsilanti Township and local community groups including the BYC (Belleville Yacht Club) and Sandy’s Marina along with individual volunteers and staff to implement and monitor this project in conjunction with support from the DNR to meet the requests from our residents to eradicate this invasive plant. We are a lake community and creating a lake environment with waters that are accessible to boaters, swimmers and fishermen alike in the absence of this prolific invasive plant, creates a greater sense of community pride and enjoyment.

Belleville Lake is enjoyed by people from all economic backgrounds including those that own watercraft to those who fish or swim along our shorelines. The per capita income of Van Buren Township is \$30,145 with 10.4% of the population falling below the poverty line. (according to the U.S. Census Bureau, July 2017 report.) When we look at improving our recreational opportunities on the lake, we look at all activities to see how we can make the experience better for the entire population. Swimming and fishing are a few activities that many of our residents enjoy with very little cost.

6. **Long-term Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring:** Describe the long-term operation and maintenance plan to ensure project outcomes/function will be sustained through time (minimum of 5-years performance post-implementation). Describe how the applicant and/or project partners will monitor and evaluate project outcomes pre-and post-implementation to determine impact.

This project is the start of a continued monitoring and assessment plan. Once the project commences, the areas of plant growth will be monitored by staff and volunteers on an on-going basis each growing season. Van Buren Township commits to training residents and volunteers how to identify invasive plants and methods of reporting. In conjunction with these informal reports, we will conduct surveys using trained staff or hired professionals to monitor the lake seasonally. This data will be gathered by GPS waypoints and positive identification. The data gathered will be evaluated internally and decisions made on control efforts depending upon survey outcomes.

# Belleville Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control



West Side of Lake

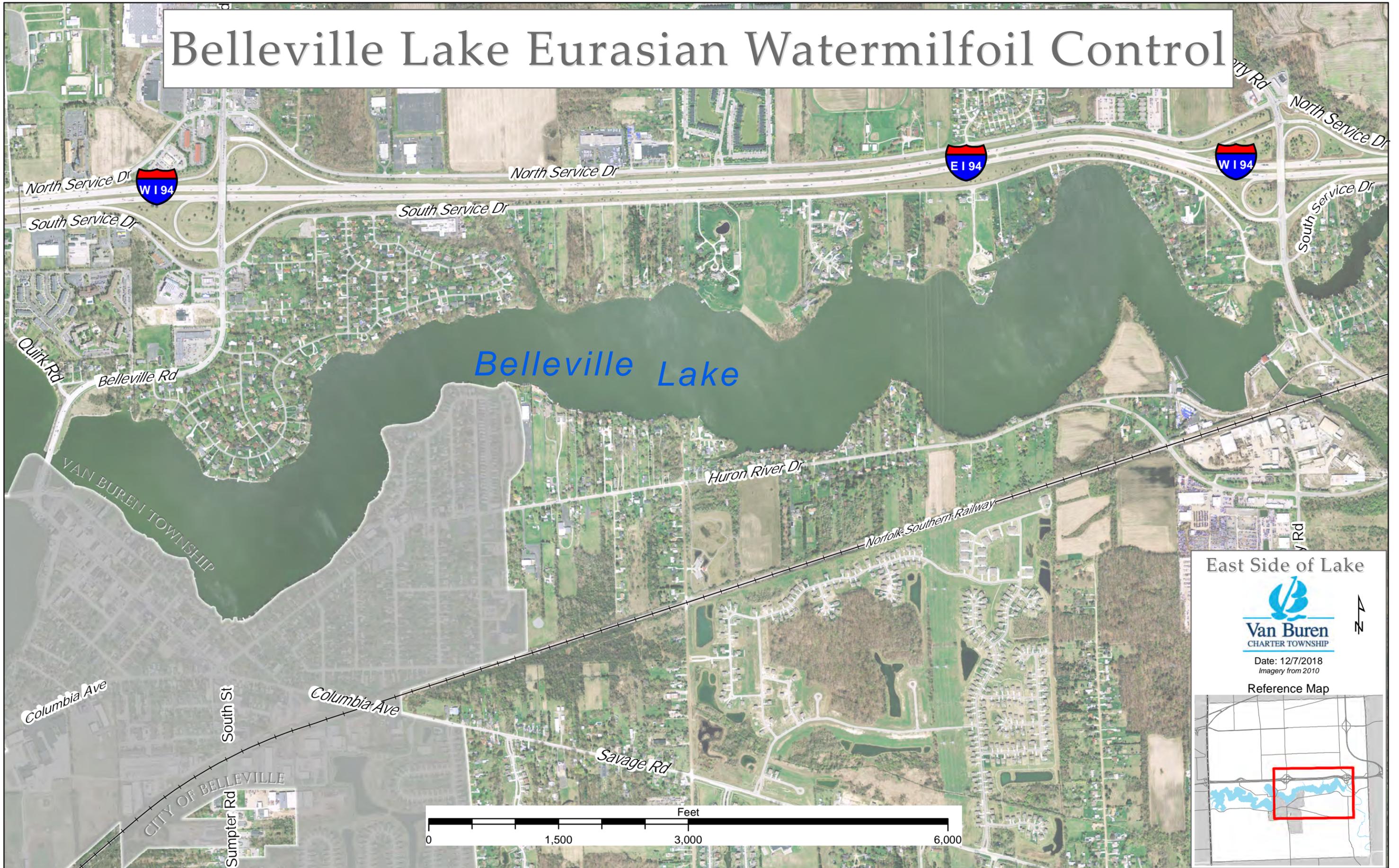


Date: 12/7/2018  
Imagery from 2010

Reference Map



# Belleville Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control



East Side of Lake



Van Buren  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Date: 12/7/2018  
Imagery from 2010

Reference Map



# Charter Township of Van Buren

Wayne County, Michigan

## Project Location

