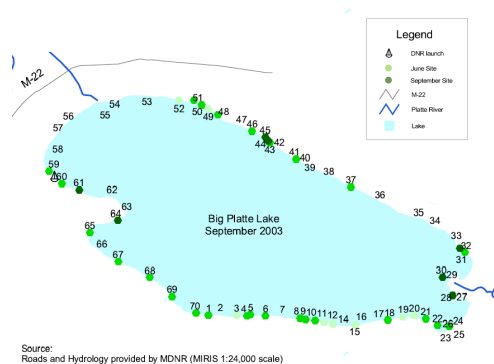


PLIA Completes Fall Cladophora Survey

This fall the PLIA volunteers walked every inch of the inhabited Platte Lake shoreline looking for Cladophora. Why? Cladophora is a green algae that is unique in that it serves as a reliable marker for nutrient overloading such as phosphorous and nitrogen. It is important to minimize the amount of these nutrients because they cause excessive algae and plant growth, which will then affect the water quality where you swim and play.



The study was a follow up to a Cladophora survey done in 2003. It is important to monitor where Cladophora is growing and how that growth pattern changes over time. The sites identified as having Cladophora in 2022 are indicated on the map. For comparison purposes, the 2003 survey map shows that over the past 21 years the areas that have Cladophora have not changed significantly.



This type of surveillance monitoring is critical to insuring the well-being of our beautiful lake. PLIA is grateful to the many volunteers who participated in this study along with the help of John Ransom from the Benzie Conservation District.

PLIA wants to educate all members that they can help contribute to keeping the nutrient levels in our lake as low as possible. We can't right the wrongs of well over a hundred years of occupancy on our beautiful lake, but we can control and limit the amount of nutrients getting into our lake moving forward. What are some common solutions? Fixing a faulty septic system and/or have

septic tanks pumped on a regular schedule. Eliminate any factors that allow runoff and erosion into the lake, particularly during storm events. Stop feeding waterfowl and create a natural buffer strip to discourage geese and other waterfowl from spending time on your lakefront. You know what they leave behind.

Finally, naturalize your shoreline to create a buffer strip so terrestrial plants can absorb nutrients before entering the lake.

