

Table 1: Water Strategy Priority Recommendations and Measures of Success

Table 1 highlights 22 key priority recommendations as a subset of the 62 recommendations in the Water Strategy. These recommendations address the most critical and imminent issues facing Michigan’s water resources as well as some of Michigan’s greatest opportunities to enhance our economy and strengthen the relationship people have to water. Key recommendations were identified based on input received during the development of the Strategy.

Measures of success are included to measure progress toward achieving outcomes as a result of the implementation of all of the Water Strategy recommendations and other efforts already underway by state, federal and local governments and partners.

Protect and Restore Aquatic Ecosystems	Goal 1: Michigan’s aquatic ecosystems are healthy and functional.	
	Outcome: Aquatic ecosystems are resilient and diverse	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent introduction of new AIS and control established populations. ▪ Develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent nuisance and harmful blue green algal blooms. ▪ Achieve a 40% phosphorus reduction in the western Lake Erie basin. ▪ Promote green infrastructure, low impact development and green spaces to rebuild hydrologic integrity and address storm water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brook trout are present and thriving with no net loss of cold water habitat due to water withdrawals and habitat manipulations. ▪ Sturgeon are considered rehabilitated in 10% of streams targeted for rehabilitation in Michigan’s Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Strategy. ▪ Lake trout are naturally reproducing and supporting wild fish-based fisheries in Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan. ▪ Appropriate reduction in nuisance and harmful algal blooms. ▪ Waters of the state meet Water Quality Standards for being swimmable, fishable and drinkable. ▪ Reduction in annual volume of untreated sewage discharges. ▪ Reduce the number of designated use impairments due to wet weather discharges.

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Ensure Safe and Clean Water	Goal 2 – Michigan’s water resources are clean and safe.	
	Outcome: Surface and groundwater are managed to support sustainable human uses and ecological function.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect drinking and source water from contamination and spills. ▪ Pass a statewide sanitary code and inspection requirements. ▪ Secure long-term funding to accelerate clean-up of contaminated sites. ▪ Establish priorities and address emerging pollutants of concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 100 percent of the population has safe drinking water with no reported violations of health-based standards. ▪ No drinking water advisories, beach closures or aquatic life impairments due to harmful algal blooms. ▪ No designated use impairments due to failing on-site wastewater systems. ▪ No new designated use impairments due to emerging pollutants of concern
Create Vibrant Waterfronts	Goal 3 – Michigan communities use water as a strategic asset for community and economic development.	
	Outcome: Economic and community development plans and efforts fully leverage water assets to create great places to live, work and play.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leverage water resource assets at state, regional and local level to create sustainable economic opportunities. ▪ Support investments in commercial harbors and ports and address long-term maritime infrastructure needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All community and economic development plans integrate water resource assets.
Support Water-based Recreation	Goal 4 – Michigan’s water resources support quality natural resources, recreation and cultural opportunities.	
	Outcome: Waters of the state are world renowned for recreational pursuits such as hunting, fishing, boating and swimming.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand real-time monitoring of beaches. ▪ Prioritize investments in recreational harbors to address long-term infrastructure needs. ▪ Develop and implement a water trails system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30% increase in water-based recreation and tourism. ▪ 90% of the population has convenient access to swimmable and fishable water. ▪ By 2020, 100% of the state’s recreation harbors will have an infrastructure asset management plan to ensure a safe harbor.
Promote Water-based Economies	Goal 5 – Michigan has a strategic focus on water technology and innovation to grow sustainable water-based economies.	
	Outcome: Policies and innovative technologies are developed and adopted to grow and promote sustainable water-based economies.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accelerate water technologies to solve water problems using an entrepreneurial business-led initiative. ▪ Establish voluntary water efficiency targets for all major water dependent sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michigan is recognized as a place to invest and locate a business because of its support for sustainable water technologies, water conservation, and high quality of life. ▪ Increase in percentage of economic output per gallon of water utilized.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a water conservation and reuse strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in water sector employment and earnings at the statewide and county level.
Invest in Water Infrastructure	Goal 6 - Michigan invests in infrastructure and supports funding to maintain clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems.	
	Outcome: People support investment of both public and private funding of Michigan water resources.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a long-term Water Fund to achieve Water Strategy goals including water infrastructure management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained funding is in place to implement the Water Strategy and achieve the goals of the Strategy. Outcome-based asset management plans are implemented and progress is achieved toward true cost of service for water utilities.
Monitor Water Quality	Goal 7 - Michigan has integrated outcome-based monitoring systems that support critical water-based decisions.	
	Outcome: Monitoring systems are in place at a scale and frequency to ensure water quality and quantity are maintained to support diverse uses and values.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a pilot water resource decision framework. Support groundwater and surface water monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve a net stabilization of groundwater depth across the state. Long-term monitoring strategies are being implemented.
Build Governance Tools	Goal 8 - Michigan has the governance tools to address water challenges and provide clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems.	
	Outcome: Policies, organizational and institutional structures are in place to achieve goals and outcomes of the strategy.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an integrated system for managing water at the local level to achieve water quality and quantity outcomes. Retain full authority to continue to manage Michigan's water resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2030, achieve a 40% reduction in number of designated uses or impaired waters.
Inspire Stewardship for Clean Water	Goal 9 - Michigan citizens are stewards of clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems.	
	Outcome: Individuals and communities understand their responsibility for and make informed and responsible decisions regarding water resources.	
	Key Recommendations	Measures of Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate water literacy into state of Michigan curriculum standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of citizens with knowledge and understanding of water literacy principles. Michigan citizens support funding for water and implementation of the Water Strategy.