

MCDONALD LAKE



300 Walnut Street
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 586-8012
schoolcraftlakelevels@gmail.com
schoolcraftlakelevels.net

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Public Hearing to Review Special Assessment Roll and Computation of Costs

Why did I receive this notice?

You received this notice because you own land within the lake level special assessment district that was established by the Schoolcraft County Circuit Court for operating and maintaining the legal lake levels of McDonald Lake.

What is a special assessment district?

A lake level special assessment district is an area of land designated to receive special assessments for particular benefits it receives from certain public projects, such as lake levels.

What will the special assessment be used for?

The special assessment will cover costs related to administration, operation, and maintenance of the lake levels. These costs include:

- Operation and maintenance
- Lake level control structure inspections
- Development of the special assessment district boundaries and lake level order updates
- Preparation of the special assessment roll and levying assessments
- Easement acquisition
- Website and public communications
- Notices and landowner mailings
- Financing Costs
- Contingency

How is the assessment determined?

The assessment methodology assigns factors to each parcel based on its access type, lake frontage, and type of use (residential vs. public boat launch vs. public vacant).

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What is my assessment amount?

Your estimated assessment amount is listed on the enclosed notice and will be available at the public hearing. Estimated assessments are also available at **schoolcraftlakelevels.net**.

Do I have to attend the public hearing?

You are not required to attend the public hearing; however, you must protest in person or by writing in order to reserve your right to appeal the proposed special assessment. All written objections must be received by **June 4, 2026**.

Why was there a public hearing last year regarding the special assessment?

An initial public hearing regarding the special assessment was held in September of 2025. However, the special assessment roll and computation of costs were not finalized at that time, and no special assessments were included on the 2025 Winter tax roll. Since that time, Schoolcraft County has reviewed the tentative assessments and prepared an updated special assessment roll and computation of costs that will be considered at the upcoming public hearing.

When will I receive a bill for the special assessment?

Lake level assessments appear on the Winter tax bill and are only levied when costs are incurred related to the lake levels. The current assessment will be spread over eight years, and it is anticipated that the first installment will appear as a line item on the 2026 Winter tax bill.

Can I prepay my assessment?

You will have the option to prepay your assessment in full to avoid interest. Information regarding the final interest rate, total assessment amounts, how to prepay, and the deadline for prepayments will be mailed to property owners and posted on **schoolcraftlakelevels.net** when it becomes available.

How can I get more information?

Visit the Schoolcraft County Lake Levels website or contact us at the information below:

- **Website:** schoolcraftlakelevels.net
- **Voicemail:** (906) 586-8012
- **Email:** schoolcraftlakelevels@gmail.com