



Torch Lake Protection Alliance Kicks Off Historic Campaign to Protect Torch Lake

The Torch Lake Protection Alliance has launched the Keep Torch Lake Blue Campaign, the largest conservation effort for Torch Lake. The Campaign will fund a comprehensive assessment of the lake in order to understand why conditions in the lake are changing. Torch Lake's turquoise blue colors have been taking on a green-brown tint, because its lake bottom is covered with brownish algae.

Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA) has partnered with the Torch Conservation Center, Antrim County and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a three-year study of Torch Lake. Field staff from USGS are working with local volunteers and landowners to collect water samples from various locations around the lake: the deep basin, tributaries, the near shore zone. They will collect groundwater and rainwater, too. Field work will be conducted from April through November of each year: 2023-2025.

The U.S. Geological Survey has been contracted to analyze water quality data and compile a report, which will be shared with the public. In addition, USGS will use the data to create a model showing how water and nutrients flow through the Torch Lake system.

The report and the model will be useful in four ways:

- 1) They will expand the baseline data established in 2006.
- 2) They are key to understanding changes that have happened in Torch Lake, especially in the last decade.
- 3) They will suggest steps that can be taken to protect the health and beauty of Torch Lake.
- 4) They will lay the groundwork for a comprehensive, long-term monitoring program.

TLPA has raised 86% of the overall goal of \$975,000. The U.S. Geological Survey contributed a 30% match, and Antrim County has served as the fiduciary for the project.

"Torch Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, and we are determined to keep it that way for future generations," said Dave Martin, TLPA Vice President and Chairman of the Campaign. "It is also of great economic importance to the region, so we must protect it."

Donations to the Keep Torch Lake Blue Campaign can be made on the TLPA website: tlpa.co.

For information on the project, please contact Dave Martin (231) 883-6812; davewhmartin@gmail.com

Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1994 to provide a unifying voice for people who regard the preservation of Torch Lake as a top priority, enabling current and future generations to enjoy the responsible use of this geological jewel.