

The Colors of Lake Michigan

By Lexi Passante

There are many shades of Lake Michigan, almost as if the lake were revealing its mood with each changing season. On a sunny summer day, Lake Michigan's waves dance in the sun putting on a show for those who admire it from afar. A transition into fall brings cold gusts of wind inland, as overcast days become more frequent. Lake Michigan's color is no longer a radiant teal but ambivalent of indigo and gray as the lake prepares for the cold winter ahead.

The winter season arrives, and ice sheets form giving the illusion of polar ice caps. Lake Michigan expresses a navy blue as if it were reflecting the temperature of the air, but most winter days it remains the color gray yearning for a warmer day. Preparing for another season, you may catch glimpses of the lake presenting shades of light blue as days gradually become warm and sunny – ensuring its lake inhabitants are ready for spring.

The many colors of Lake Michigan provide us a visual reminder that it is a living, vast system with waves that roll onto shore as if the lake were breathing. It is a constant reminder that we are connected to the lake as we rely on its existence – just as it relies on us to protect it in return.