

NAMAKAGON LAKE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

BAYFIELD COUNTY, WI MAY 2018

AQUATIC PLANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bayfield County

Business Partners

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Namakagon Lake Association

Town of Namakagon

United States Forest Service

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

INTRODUCTION

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Lake Namakagon, Garden Lake, and Jackson Lake presents a strategy for managing aquatic plants by protecting native plant populations, controlling the growth of hybrid Eurasian northern watermilfoil (HWM), and preventing establishment of additional invasive species. The plan includes data about the plant community, watershed, and water quality of the lakes. Based on this data and public input, goals and strategies for the management of aquatic plants in the lakes are presented. The plan will guide the Namakagon Lake Association (NLA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in aquatic plant management for the lakes over the next five years (from 2018 through 2022).

HYBRID EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL DISCOVERY AND RESPONSE

In June 2016, a hybrid of Eurasian and northern watermilfoil (HWM) was discovered at the Lakewoods Resort Marina area. Following DNA confirmation in July, hand removal efforts were completed several times throughout the summer and early fall by WDNR, Bayfield County, volunteers from the Namakagon Lake Association, and employees from Lakewoods Resort. Follow-up monitoring found a few scattered plants in the bay southwest of Paines Island and an HWM plant in the bay near the river outlet. A total of about 10-12 garbage bags of HWM were removed from the Lakewoods Marina area in 2016.

The Namakagon Lake Association completed an herbicide treatment to control HWM in the Lakewoods Marina area in April 2017. Dye monitoring verified there was little or no drift outside of the bay where the herbicide treatment occurred. Plant monitoring results indicated that most of the HWM was removed and the native plant community did not experience negative impacts.

NLA volunteers and Department of Natural Resources staff returned to the herbicide treatment area more than 10 times during the summer of 2017. During these visits volunteers and staff pulled an estimated less than 100 HWM plants – perhaps a total of one garbage bag. By late summer 2017, there were just a few clumps of HWM plants that had returned.

PLAN GOALS

GOAL 1. *PROTECT* THE NATURAL FUNCTIONS THAT DIVERSE NATIVE PLANTS PROVIDE BOTH IN THE WATER AND ON THE SHORE.

GOAL 2. *PREVENT* THE INTRODUCTION OF AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

GOAL 3. *EDUCATE* LAKE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE AQUATIC AND SHORELAND PLANTS, THE THREATS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES, AND THE PLAN MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

GOAL 4. *ID, CONTROL, AND CONTAIN* AQUATIC AND SHORELAND INVASIVE SPECIES.

GOAL 5. *COORDINATE AND COMMUNICATE* WITH OUR PARTNERS.

PLAN STRATEGIES

Control efforts consider protection of native plant and animal species in Lake Namakagon.

Prevention efforts inform lake residents and visitors about how they can prevent invasive species establishment and spread.

Volunteer and professional monitoring will look for Hybrid watermilfoil and other invasive species.

Containment efforts vary depending upon where and in what density hybrid watermilfoil grows.

The Namakagon Lake Association will maintain the Aquatic Plant Advisory Committee to implement the plan strategies and ensure that plan goals and objectives are met. Support and coordination from volunteers, businesses, community groups, and other stakeholders will be critical for success.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The lakes are central to the community. We need more people to help support important lake protection work. Please consider volunteering and participating in community events to help celebrate and protect Lake Namakagon. Contact a Namakagon Lake Association Board Member for more information.

The Namakagon Aquatic Plant Management Plan is available for review at Forest Lodge Library next to the Cable Natural History Museum and the Namakagon Town Hall and online at <http://nlaonline.org/>. Please provide comments by June 18th to harmonyenv@amerytel.net.