

June 16, 2014 – Weed Treatment Plan

Last year, Lake Josephine was diagnosed with Eurasian Water Milfoil. It's a type of contamination that cannot be eradicated, and it normally requires aggressive and ongoing treatment to control. Left unchecked, it can overtake a lake, making it unnavigable by boats and unsafe for swimming and water sports.

We began offshore treatment for the Eurasian Water Milfoil last year, and the weeds were effectively knocked down in areas that were sprayed. Unfortunately, Eurasian Water Milfoil will tend to pop up in other areas. If you have been on the lake in past several weeks, you most certainly are aware that this is the case.

After assessing our lake's weed situation this year, Lake Management, Inc. (weed treatment company), commented that ours is one of the worst Eurasian Water Milfoil infestations that they've seen in the Twin Cities area.

Our 2014 treatment plan is as follows:

- Lake Josephine Improvement Association applied for – and was granted – a variance from the DNR to treat beyond the 15% littoral limit due to our large infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil.
 - The DNR is allowing up to 20.4 acres of offshore treatment in 2014, which is more than 2.5 times our normal allowance of 7.9 acres.
 - The DNR determines the “map” of offshore areas to be treated based upon where the milfoil is the most dense and most hazardous to lake users – the Board has not jurisdiction.
 - A condition of this year’s offshore variance is that any second round of shoreline spraying that was scheduled for this summer be reduced to a 50 ft. x 50 ft. maximum area per property so that overall lake treatment stays within DNR limits. (In effect, instead of treating 100ft. from a property’s shoreline lakewards, the vendor would only treat 50 ft. from shoreline lakewards. However, if weeds were still present 50 ft. from shore, they would treat an additional 15 ft. path to clear water.)
 - All efforts were made to notify affected homeowners prior to the offshore treatment, which took place the week of June 23rd.
- Map of Approved Treatment

Please have the map on the page from - Lake Breeze 2015 page 4 – Lake Josephine, Ramsey County: 2015 Eurasian Watermilfoil, Approved Treatment Areas

- The Concern

We’ve been extremely fortunate in past years to enjoy a relatively clean lake, and have not had to seek contributions from homeowners to cover offshore weed treatment, but that all changed a few years ago, in late 2012, after the lake was diagnosed with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

Eurasian water milfoil is an infestation that cannot be eradicated, it can only be controlled. Just as the need to control it will be ongoing, so will our need to collect contributions to cover both offshore treatment, as well as lake testing that the DNR requires as a stipulation of that treatment.

That's why, for the first time in Fall of 2013, the Board sought a voluntary contribution from lake homeowners to cover 2014 offshore EWM treatment. Similarly, we needed to do the same thing to cover this year's treatment, which was more expensive given that DNR approved a variance to treat more acreage. Roughly 60% of our 72 homeowners contributed to the 2015 treatment fund, raising approximately \$9,000.

Costs of 2015 offshore spraying were approximately \$8,200. After receiving our \$2,300 MN grant from DNR, we will be left with roughly \$5,000 left in the coffers. As a condition of receiving a DNR treatment permit and variance approval, we need to conduct a 2015-2016 Lake Vegetation Management Plan, which will have additional costs associated with it. Clearly, our fundraising efforts will continue to be needed, and we hope we can rely on your continued support!

Living on Lake Josephine is a privilege. . .one that we don't want to take for granted. THANK YOU for your continued support in conserving this beautiful resource and in protecting our property values. We look forward to your input & engagement.