

I. Lake Wissota, for All Generations

Why Have an Aquatic Plant Management Plan?

Lake Wissota is a remarkable resource and one of western Wisconsin's leading recreational lakes. A great recreational lake is characterized by good water quality and good water quality is attained only through a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Respondents to the Lake Wissota Planning Survey overwhelmingly indicated that Lake Wissota was valuable to them for the natural beauty and the recreational value it offers them. Fishing, swimming, boating, and spending time with family were responses repeated over and over when asked, "What does Lake Wissota mean to you?" The purpose of the Lake Wissota Aquatic Plant Management Plan is to protect the recreational and scenic values that make Lake Wissota a relaxing destination for lake users and to protect and improve habitat quality for fish, wildlife and aquatic life, through the protection of the aquatic plant community, which is ***directly linked to water quality***. Families and citizens, particularly our children and future generations, deserve to have a lake with clean water to use and enjoy.

Respondents to the Lake Wissota Planning Survey overwhelmingly indicated that Lake Wissota was valuable to them for the beauty and the recreational value it offers them.

Goals

The goals of the Lake Wissota Aquatic Plant Management plan are to:

- (1) **Protect and enhance the native aquatic plant community** so that it provides sustainable and sufficient

habitat for fish, wildlife, and aquatic life, especially those species mentioned in the Designation of Critical Habitat Areas, Lake Wissota, Chippewa County report (Konkel, 2007).

- (2) **Control the aquatic invasive species currently in the lake**, Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), at levels below that which would displace or otherwise harm the native aquatic plant community, wildlife, and recreation.
- (3) **Prevent new aquatic invasive species from entering the lake and prevent the spread of Lake Wissota invasive species to other lakes** by continuing to educate boaters through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program and other education outreach.
- (4) **Monitor the health and changes to the aquatic plant community on Lake Wissota over time** by conducting a full plant survey of the lake once every five years to assess the health of the aquatic plant community.
- (5) **Reduce phosphorous loading to the lake** to reduce nuisance algal blooms and improve water quality.