



Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association
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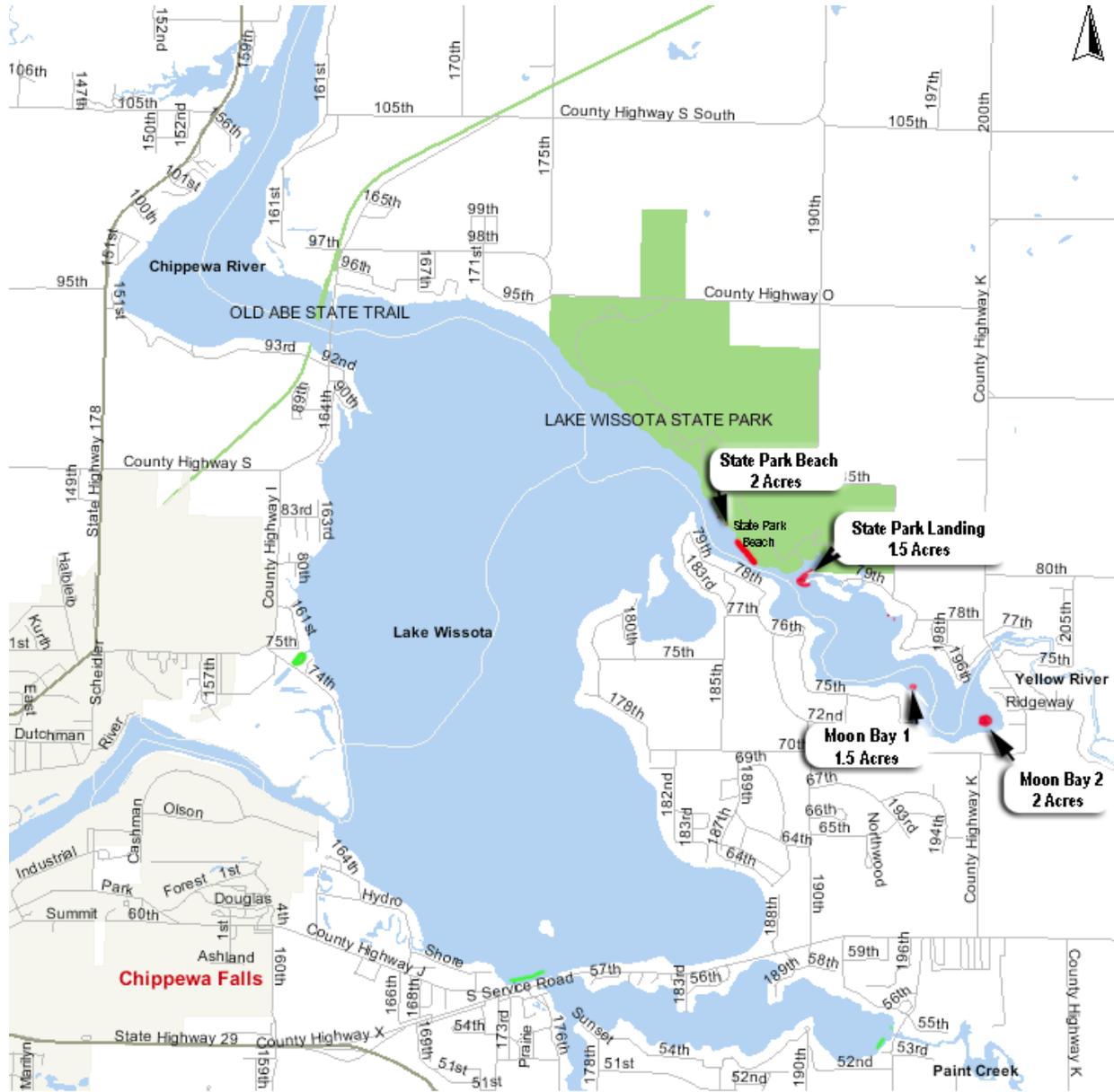
... to preserve and protect Lake Wissota and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and the aesthetic value of Lake Wissota as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

Final Report

Lake Wissota 2008 Rapid Response Project

Funded in part by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project Number AIRR-038-08

Map of project location and boundaries



Itemized Expenses

Budget Detail	Cash Costs	Donated Hours	Donated Value
Consulting Services			
<i>Project Coordination</i>		10.00	80.00
Hourly Equipment Use Charges			
<i>LWIPA donated boats for monitoring using local rates based on boat type</i>			648.00
Other Purchased Services			
<i>Chemical Treatment</i>	4,102.45		
<i>Permit Fee</i>	520.00		
<i>Publication of Legal Notice</i>	49.60		
<i>Pre-Application Survey Volunteer time</i>		42.50	340.00
<i>Post Application Monitoring Volunteer Time</i>		51.00	408.00
Totals	4,672.05		1,476.00
Total Project Cost	6,148.00		
State Share - 75%	4,610.99		
LWIPA Share - 25%	1,537.01		

Description of Project Area

Lake Wissota is a reservoir in Chippewa County, Wisconsin, just east of the city of Chippewa Falls. It covers an area of 6300+ acres. The lake was formed by the construction of a hydroelectric dam on the Chippewa River, completed in 1917.

The lake is divided into two parts by a peninsula upon which is the center of Lake Wissota Village. The smaller southern portion of the lake, the flooded portion of the valley formed by Paint Creek, is often called "Little Lake Wissota". The larger portion of the lake, lying to the north of Lake Wissota Village, is usually just called "Lake Wissota", although it is sometimes also called "Big Lake Wissota". The lake is fed by several other rivers and streams besides the Chippewa River, which enters the lake from the northwest and exits to the southwest, and Paint Creek which enters Little Lake Wissota from the east, respectively. These include Stillson Creek, which enters Little Lake Wissota from the southwest, the Yellow River which enters from the east at Moon Bay, and O'Neil Creek, which enters in the northwest, near the entrance of the Chippewa River.

The lake is a popular recreation destination in northwestern Wisconsin, in the summer for boating, canoeing, fishing, water skiing and swimming, and in the winter for ice fishing. On the northeastern shore lies the 1600 acre Lake Wissota State Park, popular with campers, hikers, swimmers and anglers.

There are 8 public access landings with in excess of 150 parking spaces to serve the boating public as well as hundreds of private docks surrounding the lake. There are also 31 platted access points which have not been developed. Many of these have been abandoned and a review of these access points is currently underway. A more detailed analysis of access was provided to Bruce Neeb in February, 2008 with a prior grant application.

Description of problem

In May of 2006, The Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association received a rapid response AIS grant from the Wisconsin DNR to conduct a 16-month program to fight Eurasian watermilfoil on Lake Wissota as outlined in the following paragraphs. We have successfully implemented all phases of the original grant and have continued our efforts since that time. However, we have discovered, through the course of our monitoring and manual control efforts over the summer of 2007 that recurrence of the plant has occurred and new infestations have arisen in and around the areas treated last year as well as at the Rod and Gun Club landing. We estimate that we will need to treat 20 acres this year and are seeking funding to continue our control and monitoring efforts. Under other funding programs, we will continue our educational and monitoring programs including our Clean Boats, Clean Waters activities, the development of a comprehensive aquatic plant management plan and further scientific study. A grant from Xcel energy will provide all matching funds required to complete this project.

Project Goals and Objectives 2008

It is the intent of LWIPA to reduce our dependency on Rapid Response grants after this treatment cycle. We have been assured that our application for an Education, Prevention and Planning project has been well received and we are awaiting official notice of funding. This Rapid Response project will enable us to continue the immediate battle against milfoil while our new project will enable us to develop long range plans, build community support and seek a more secure financial base for continuing to build an effective lake management strategy.

Our immediate goals are:

Goal 1: Implement a control program for known occurrence of Eurasian water-milfoil in Lake Wissota.

Goal 2: Implement an aquatic invasive species monitoring program to document effects and results of this treatment.

Goal 3: Complete all reports and recommend future action

Description of methods and activities

Goal 1: Implement a control program for known occurrence of Eurasian water-milfoil in Lake Wissota.

May-June 2008 Treatment of known EWM

Using data from post treatment monitoring throughout the summer of 2007 and a pre-treatment survey conducted by experienced LWIPA volunteers and staff from the Citizen Science Center at Beaver Creek Reserve in April and May 2008, we contracted with a certified applicator to treat 7 acres of known plant beds with 2,4D on June 2, 2008 at a total cost of \$4,102.45. Our spring plants surveys revealed a much smaller infestation than anticipated from our fall surveys and we were able to greatly reduce our use of chemical treatment. As a part of the survey process, we established a grid of survey points, identified via GPS coordinates, in the areas we expected to find milfoil. This grid provides a base for more accurate and clearly defined survey strategy for future efforts in identifying the presence of milfoil or other plant species. Additional expenses for the DNR permit and required legal notice added an additional \$569.60 to our cash costs.

Goal 2: Implement an Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring program to document effects and results of this treatment.

May 2008 Citizen Monitoring Training

Rather than conduct a specific training session, volunteers were trained as needed throughout the Summer. These volunteers then participated in monitoring throughout the summer.

May 2008 – September 2008

Re-infestation prevention

Volunteers from LWIPA and Citizen Science Center staff conducted follow up surveys throughout the summer growing season of the treated areas to guard against re-occurrence. In general, the treatment followed past experience. Areas that were treated for the first time this year, continued to grow. The area at the west end of the Moon Bay Island did come back vigorously in the late summer and we were unable to pull as the algal growth prevented us from entering the water. We will have to treat this area again next year. The State Park Beach did have recurring growth, but, with the help of volunteers and State Park staff pulling on a regular basis all summer, we did a much better job of controlling this area. The remaining treated areas, the state park landing and West Moon Bay, showed only a very few isolated plants throughout the growing season. Pulling efforts continue to provide control at the Rod and Gun landing once growth was discovered later in Summer.

Volunteers from the Association donated 103.5 hours in direct support of this project for pre and post monitoring and project coordination.

An important component of our monitoring program this year was the receipt of an additional AIS grant that provided the resources to enable us to implement a Neighborhood Watch program on the lake. Volunteers concentrated their efforts on areas identified by botanists from the Citizen Science Center at Beaver Creek Reserve as likely to harbor Eurasian watermilfoil. A detailed description of the program will be published as an interim report for the planning grant.

Our Neighborhood Watch monitoring program did discover three new areas of milfoil occurrence: one at the east end of the Little Lake, one along the North side of Hwy X, West of the bridge connecting the two lakes, and a small bed adjacent to the Lafayette Landing near the Hwy X bridge. LWIPA Volunteers pulled these areas throughout the Summer and we will likely need to consider treatment or the use of divers to control these areas next year.

Goal 3: Complete all reports and recommend future action

This report is accompanied by monitoring logs and financial statements as required for reimbursement reporting.

Recommendations for future action.

This project is integral to the mission of LWIPA : “... to preserve and protect Lake Wissota and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and the aesthetic value of Lake Wissota as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.” It is seen as an opportunity to demonstrate to the residents and recreational users of the lake that our association is intent on fulfilling our mission. It is a part of a continuing commitment by our organization to become an important voice for improving our lake community.

This project will allow us to continue our control efforts while we develop a comprehensive aquatic plant management plan . A two-year AIS Education and planning project has been approved for funding that will allow us to develop a long range plant management plan, build community support and continue scientific study and mapping projects into 2009. We expect that the experience gained in implementing this project will allow us to continue to grow our organization in numbers and in influence. We hope to become a catalyst for future lake planning efforts and to facilitating collaboration and cooperation between the local units of government, environmental and recreational groups, riparian landowners, and the business community surrounding Lake Wissota.

The discovery of additional occurrences of milfoil and the recurrence of growth in newly treated areas will most likely require that we once again implement a treatment plan next spring. As our planning develops, we will consult with our lake leaders and DNR staff as to which funding programs will best help us continue our control efforts.