



Wabeek Lake Aquatic Plant Control Program 2023 Activity Summary

A publication of the Wabeek Lake Improvement Board

Wabeek Lake Improvement Board

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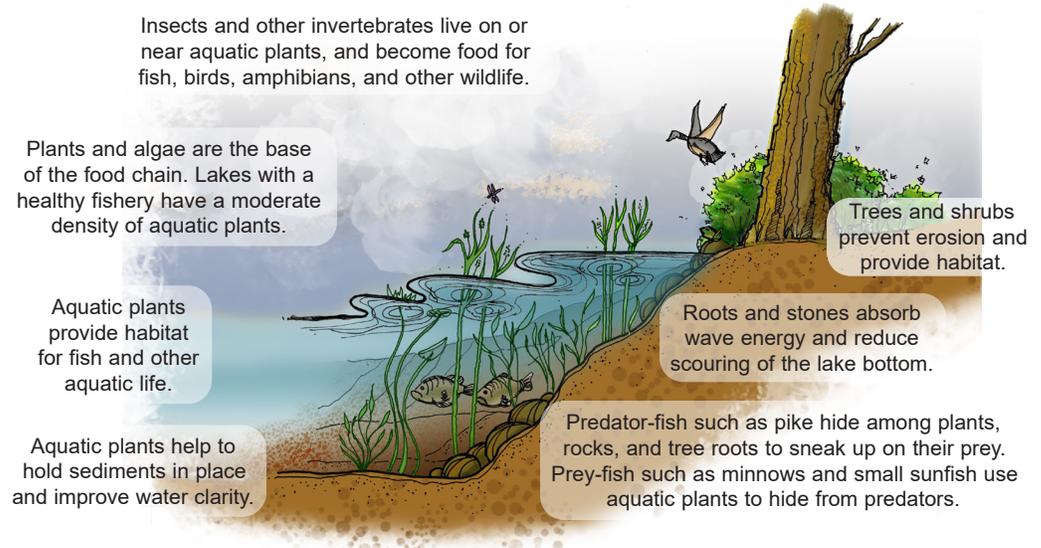
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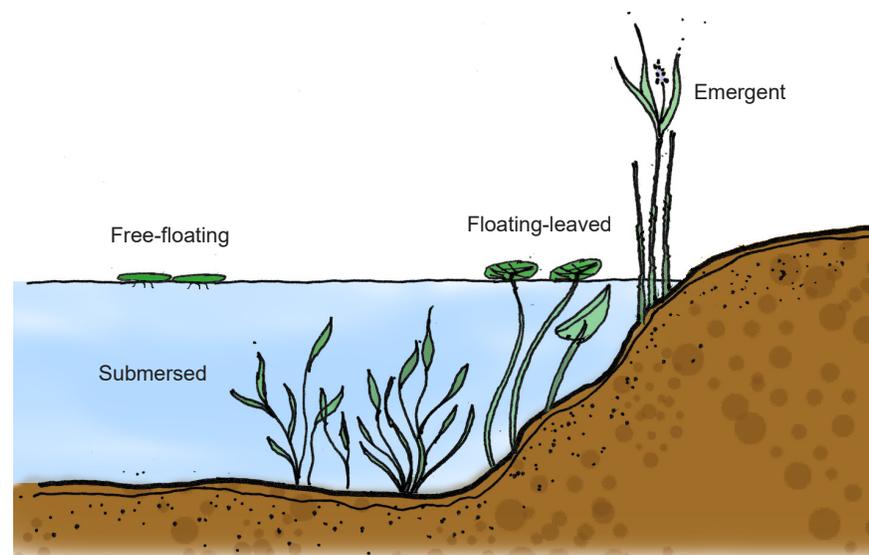
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This year, a nuisance plant control program was implemented on Wabeek Lake. The primary objective of the program is to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants while preserving beneficial plant species. This report contains an overview of plant control activities conducted on Wabeek Lake in 2023.

Aquatic plants are an important component of lakes. They produce oxygen during photosynthesis, provide food, habitat and cover for fish, and help stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments.



There are four main aquatic plant groups: submersed, floating-leaved, free-floating, and emergent. Each plant group provides important ecological functions. Maintaining a diversity of aquatic plants is important to sustaining a healthy fishery and a healthy lake.

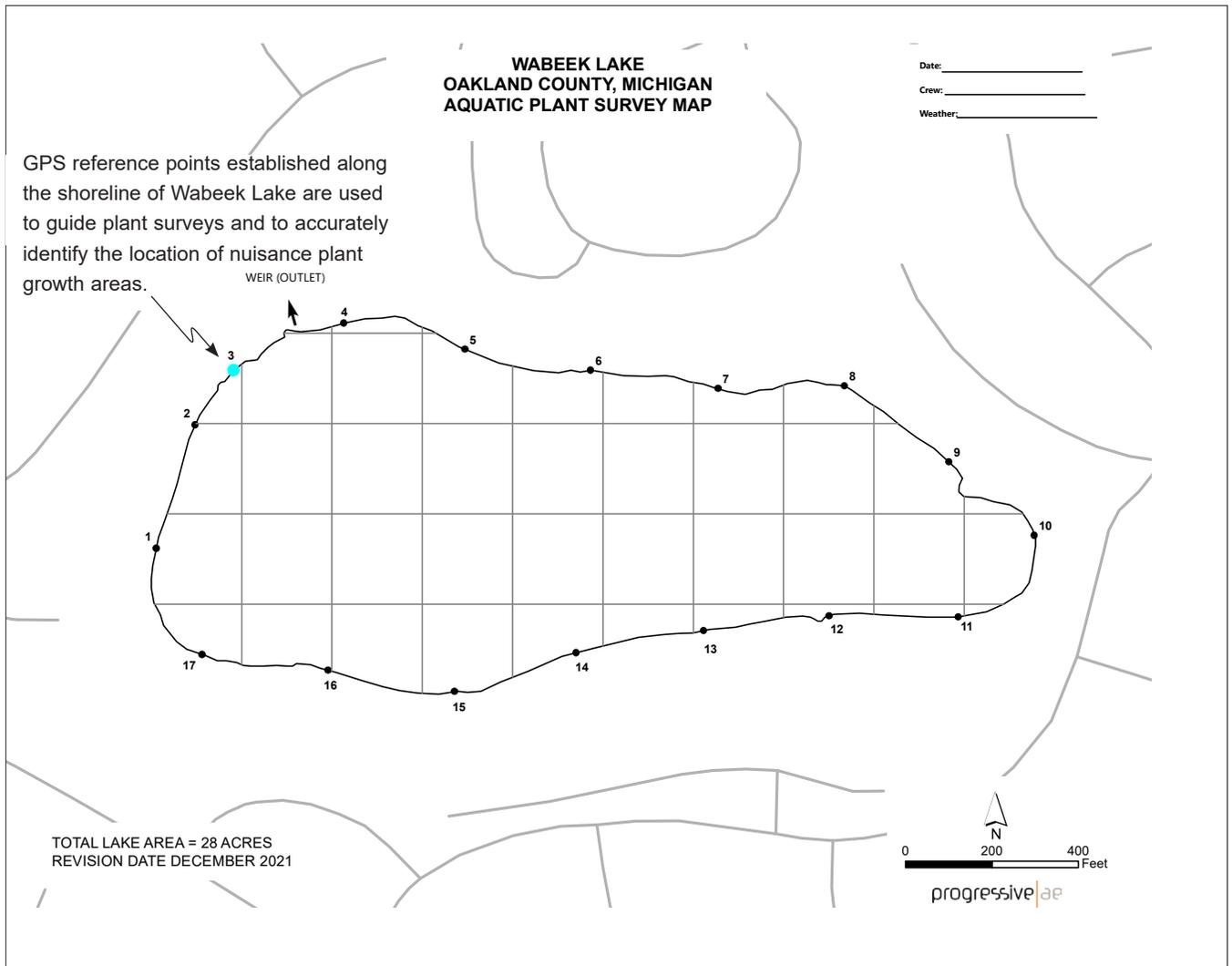


Environmental Consultant
Progressive AE

Herbicide Applicator
Aqua-Weed Control Inc.

Plant control activities are coordinated under the direction of an environmental consultant, Progressive AE. Biologists from Progressive conduct GPS-guided surveys of the lake to identify problem areas, and georeferenced plant control maps are provided to the plant control contractor.

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Plant control in Wabeek Lake involves the select use of herbicides to control invasive plant growth. The primary plants targeted for control in Wabeek Lake are Eurasian milfoil and Phragmites. These plants are non-native (exotic) species that tend to be highly invasive and has the potential to spread quickly if left unchecked.



Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)

Plant control activities conducted on Wabeek Lake in 2023 are summarized in the table below.

WABEEK LAKE

2023 NUISANCE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SUMMARY

Work Type	Date	Plants Targeted	Acres
Survey	June 8		
Herbicide	June 15	Eurasian milfoil	5
Survey	August 21		
Herbicide	September 7	Eurasian milfoil, phragmites	9
Total			14

End-of-year Aquatic Plant Survey

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In addition to the surveys of the lake to identify invasive plant locations, a vegetation survey of Wabek Lake was conducted on August 21st to evaluate the type and abundance of all plants in the lake. The table below lists each plant species observed during the survey and the relative abundance of each. At the time of the survey, two submersed species, two floating-leaved species, and seven emergent species were found in the lake. Wabek lake has poor diversity and abundance of native submersed plants.

WABEEK LAKE AQUATIC PLANTS AUGUST 21, 2023

Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	Percent of Sites Where Present
Eurasian milfoil*	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Submersed	100
Illinois pondweed	<i>Potamogeton illinoensis</i>	Submersed	6
White waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Floating-leaved	65
Yellow waterlily	<i>Nuphar</i> sp.	Floating-leaved	59
Swamp loosestrife	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	Emergent	82
Cattail	<i>Typha</i> sp.	Emergent	71
Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	Emergent	53
Purple loosestrife*	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Emergent	41
Pickernelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Emergent	35
Phragmites*	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Emergent	29
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Emergent	6

Exotic invasive species*