

Aquatic Plant Protection

Aquatic plants are essential for lake health. They provide habitat for wildlife, protect shorelines from erosion, clean up water pollution, and so much more!

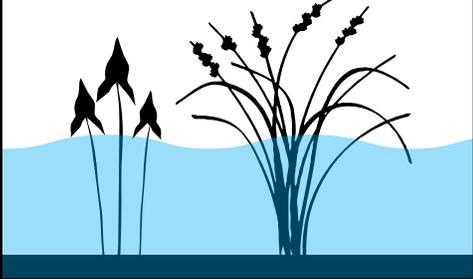
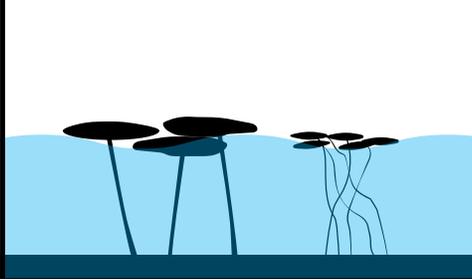
If you're a lakeshore owner looking to improve recreational access to a lake, consideration should be taken to minimize destruction of aquatic plants as they provide multiple benefits to lake health. Also keep in mind that most lakes in the District are classified as shallow, meaning ample aquatic plant growth is natural and a valuable characteristic.

The Minnesota DNR regulates the destruction of aquatic plants because removal, even of non-native plants, can impact a lake's ecosystem. Large-scale plant removal, without proper guidance, may result in unintended consequences such as more frequent algae blooms and fish die-offs.

Removal techniques, acreage removal limits, and intended aquatic plant targets will also influence permit restrictions. It is important to consult your regional MN DNR aquatic invasive species specialist to discuss best management practices.

Shoreline property owners may do limited mechanical removal of some types of aquatic plants without a permit. This includes floating-leaf and submerged plant types. However, mechanical removal of any emergent plants and any herbicide use on a lake always requires a permit. Refer to the table below for a summary of aquatic plant types and when a permit is required for removal.

If you're unsure you need a permit, visit dnr.state.mn.us/apm or call local MN DNR aquatic plant permit staff at (651) 259-5816.

Emergent	Floating-leaf	Submerged
Leaves & stems extend well above water's surface.	Leaves and flowers float on water's surface.	Grows entirely below water's surface, though flowers and seeds may extend above water.
		
<p><i>Examples: Bulrush, cattail, wild rice, arrowhead</i></p>	<p><i>Examples: Water lily, lotus, duckweed, watershield</i></p>	<p><i>Examples: Coontail, pondweed, watermilfoil, waterweed</i></p>
<p>When a permit is NOT REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Not applicable</u>. A permit is ALWAYS REQUIRED for removal of any emergent vegetation. 	<p>When a permit is NOT REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline property owner may <u>mechanically remove</u> (cut or pull) floating-leaf vegetation to create or maintain an up to 15-foot-wide channel to open water. 	<p>When a permit is NOT REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline property owner may <u>mechanically remove</u> (cut or pull) submerged vegetation to create or maintain an up to 15-foot-wide channel to open water.
<p>IMPORTANT:</p> <p>THE REMOVAL OF PROTECTED PLANTS IS NOT ALLOWED.</p> <p>The protected aquatic plant you are most likely to encounter in our watershed district is Yellow or American Lotus (<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>).</p>		
<p>When a permit is REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permit of "continuing duration" to mechanically maintain an up to 15-foot-wide channel to open water may be allowed if channel remains in the same location year-to-year. • A permit is needed for any herbicide use on any size area of emergent vegetation. 	<p>When a permit is REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permit is needed to mechanically remove anything beyond the 15-foot-wide channel. • A permit is needed for any herbicide use on any size area of floating-leaf vegetation. 	<p>When a permit is REQUIRED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permit is needed to mechanically remove anything beyond the 2,500 sq. ft. area and 15-foot-wide channel. • A permit is needed for any herbicide use on any size area of submerged vegetation.
<p>Contact the MN DNR before proceeding!</p>	<p>Contact the MN DNR before proceeding!</p>	<p>Contact the MN DNR before proceeding!</p>

See back page for more information about activities that are not allowed or require a permit.

It is **NOT LEGAL** to control aquatic plants in these ways:



- Excavate the lake bottom for aquatic plant control.
- Use hydraulic jets to control aquatic plants or remove muck.
- Destroy or prevent the growth of aquatic plants by using lake bottom barriers.

- Remove aquatic vegetation within posted fish-spawning areas.
- Remove aquatic plants from an undeveloped shoreline.
- Remove aquatic plants where they do not interfere with swimming, boating or other recreation.

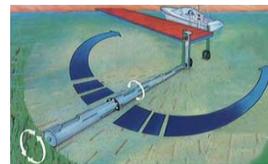


Lake/aquatic plant activities that require a permit from the MN DNR

- Applying herbicide to aquatic plants.
- Applying copper sulfate or other pesticides to water (e.g. snail control to prevent swimmer's itch)
- Use of automated aquatic plant control devices such as the Crary WeedRoller
- Harvesting wild rice
- Transplanting aquatic plants into public waters

THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST.

CONTACT THE MINNESOTA DNR FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER ACTIVITIES.



Questions? Contact the MN DNR Central Region aquatic plant permit staff at (651) 259-5816.

Learn more about aquatic plant management:
dnr.state.mn.us/apm

Learn more about aquatic plant types:
dnr.state.mn.us/apm/aquatic-plant-types.html

Lake/aquatic plant activities that require a permit from RPBCWD

- Perform work on a shoreline below the Ordinary High Water Line or 100-year Flood Elevation.
- Install rip-rap (rock) along a shoreline.
- Install a sand beach.
- Install a permanent dock.



Questions? Contact the RPBCWD permits staff at (952) 607-6512 ext. 2

Learn more:
rpbcwd.org/permits

Contact your **city water**

resources staff to find out if your property is located within a *shoreland zone*, has a *conservation easement*, or other regulation.



RPBCWD manages aquatic plants for lake health. This includes herbicide treatments to control invasive species, such as Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed, and to reduce competition for native aquatic plants. *RPBCWD does not manage aquatic plants for recreational access.* Learn more at rpbcwd.org/aquatic-plants.