



Gourdneck/Hogsett Lakes Aquatic Plant Control Program 2020 Activity Summary

A publication of the Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board

Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board

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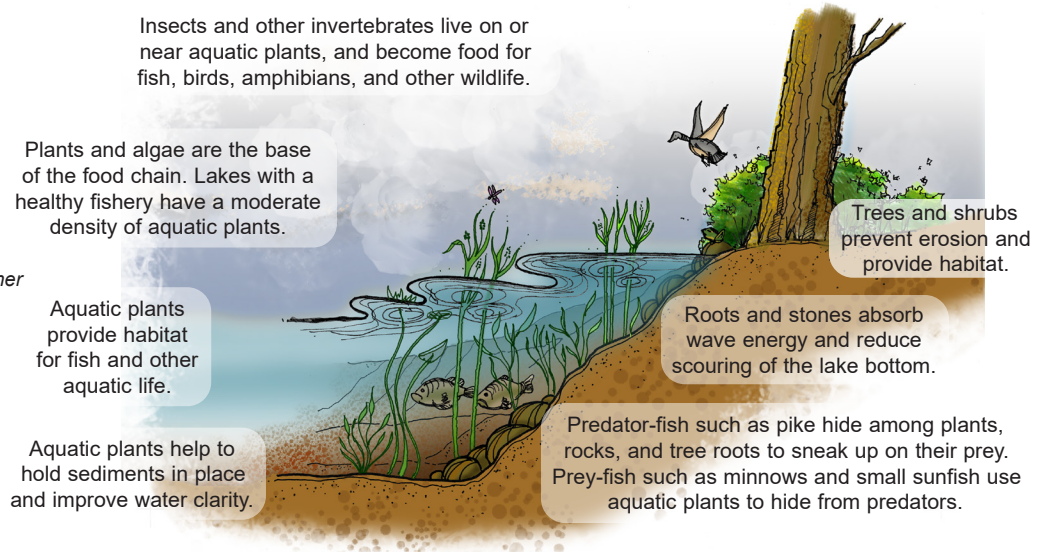
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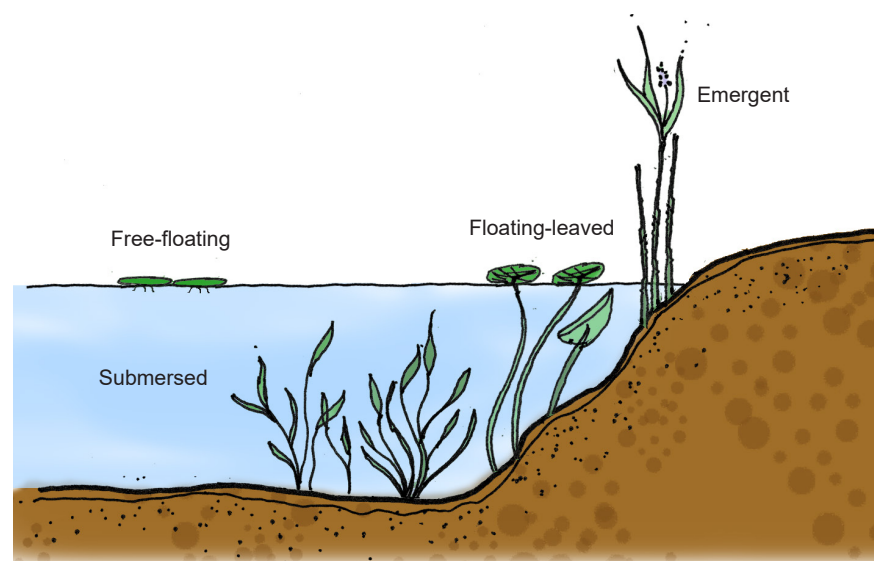
For the past several years, a nuisance plant control program has been ongoing on Gourdneck Lake. The primary objective of the program is to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants while preserving beneficial plant species. This report contains an overview of plant control activities conducted on Gourdneck Lake and Hogsett Lake in 2020.

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.

1



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.

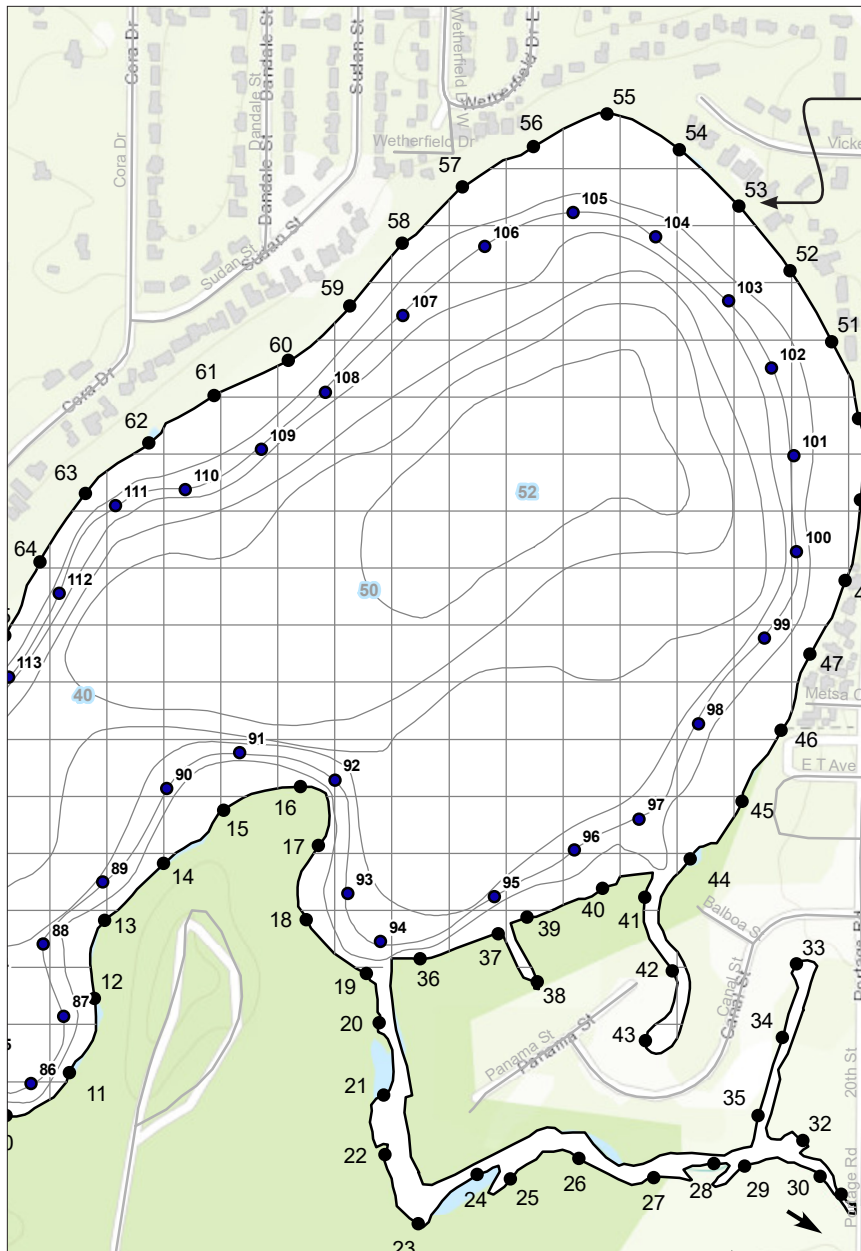


Environmental Consultant
Progressive AE

Herbicide Applicator
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

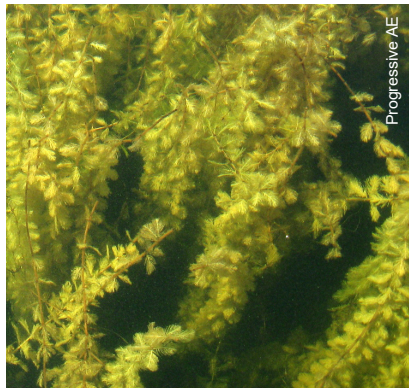
Plant control activities are coordinated under the direction of an environmental consultant, Progressive AE. Biologists from Progressive conduct GPS-guided surveys of the lake to identify problem areas, and georeferenced plant control maps are provided to the plant control contractor.

2

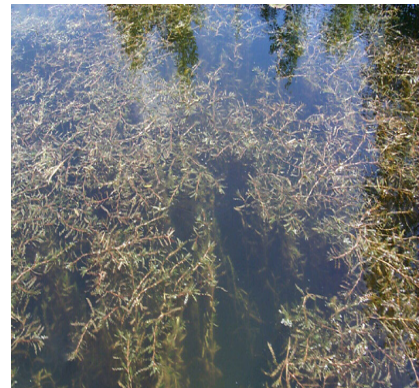


GPS reference points established along the shoreline and drop-off areas of Gourneck and Hogsett Lakes are used to guide plant surveys and to accurately identify the location of nuisance plant growth areas.

Plant control in Gourdneck and Hogsett Lakes involves the select use of herbicides to control invasive plant growth. Primary plants targeted for control in Gourdneck and Hogsett Lakes include Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. Both of these plants are non-native (exotic) species that tend to be highly invasive and have the potential to spread quickly if left unchecked.



Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Plant control activities conducted on Gourdneck and Hogsett Lakes in 2020 are summarized in the table below.

**GOURDNECK AND HOGSETT LAKES
2020 NUISANCE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SUMMARY**

Work Type	Date	Plants Targeted	Acres
Survey	May 19		
Herbicide	May 28	Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed	12
Herbicide	June 4	Nuisance pondweeds	15
Survey	June 17		
Survey	June 22		
Herbicide	June 25	Eurasian milfoil, pondweeds, Chara	29
Survey	July 15		
Herbicide	July 23	Eurasian milfoil, pondweeds, Chara	9
Survey	August 11		
Herbicide	August 19	Eurasian milfoil, Chara, nuisance pondweeds	15
Survey	August 31		
Herbicide	September 2	Nuisance wild celery	1
Total			81

End-of-year Aquatic Plant Survey

4

In addition to the surveys of the lake to identify invasive plant locations, a vegetation survey of Gourdneck Lake was conducted on August 31 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, 16 submersed species, two floating-leaved species, and eight emergent species were found in the lake. Gourdneck Lake maintains a good diversity of beneficial, native plants species.

GOURDNECK LAKE AQUATIC PLANTS

August 31, 2020

Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	Percent of Sites Where Present
Chara	<i>Chara</i> sp.	Submersed	79
Wild celery	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	Submersed	64
Sago pondweed	<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>	Submersed	35
Illinois pondweed	<i>Potamogeton illinoensis</i>	Submersed	33
Slender naiad	<i>Najas flexilis</i>	Submersed	23
Variable pondweed	<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	Submersed	19
Thin-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	Submersed	12
Coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Submersed	11
Eurasian milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Submersed	11
Curly-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Submersed	10
Water stargrass	<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Submersed	7
Flat-stem pondweed	<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	Submersed	6
Variable-leaf milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	Submersed	2
Elodea	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Submersed	2
Northern milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Submersed	1
Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Submersed	1
White waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Floating-leaved	70
Yellow waterlily	<i>Nuphar</i> sp.	Floating-leaved	17
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Emergent	62
Cattail	<i>Typha</i> sp.	Emergent	46
Pickerelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Emergent	31
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Emergent	28
Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	Emergent	26
Swamp loosestrife	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	Emergent	16
Iris	<i>Iris</i> sp.	Emergent	14
Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Emergent	1