

Appendix A - Lake Como Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan: Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal 1: Support and implement aquatic plant management actions that minimize negative impacts on the native aquatic plant diversity or water quality.

1. Objective 1: Implement an aquatic plant harvesting and surface skimming management plan.
 - a. Action 1: Purchase, operate, and maintain an aquatic plant harvester to support nuisance aquatic plant management on Lake Como.
 - b. Action 2: Develop partnerships with the City of Bloomer and other entities to support a harvesting program for Lake Como.
2. Objective 2: Maintain the current CLP population at less than 3.0 acres of continuous coverage with a rake density of <2.0 .
 - a. Action 1: Complete annual CLP bed mapping surveys for area and density.
 - i. Survey work can be contracted out or completed by trained BCLA volunteers.
 - b. Action 2: If growth of CLP reaches or exceeds 3.0 acres of continuous coverage with a rakehead density ≥ 2 , consider development of management actions likely to be focused on harvesting to control it.
3. Objective 3: Implement a native plant management plan to increase usability and aesthetic appeal of the lake while minimizing damage to the native ecosystem.
 - a. Action 1: Encourage lake property owners to complete physical removal of nuisance aquatic vegetation from around their docks and boat lifts following guidelines in NR 109.07.
 - b. Action 2: Implement an annual native plant harvesting program to maintain 10-ft navigation and fish passage lanes through areas of nuisance aquatic plant growth.
 - i. Aquatic plants in navigation and fish passage lanes will be harvested to a depth no deeper than $2/3$ of the water column in waters ≥ 3 -ft in areas with an average rakehead density ≥ 2 .

- ii. Dump sites for harvested plants must be identified and approved by the WDNR before any harvesting can be completed.
 - c. Action 3: Implement a large-scale surface skimming project.
 - i. Skimming of surface mats of vegetation will be completed no deeper than 18-inches below the lake surface, and in water ≥ 3 -ft in depth.
 - ii. Dump sites for harvested plants must be identified and approved by the WDNR before any harvesting can be completed.
 - d. Action 4: Chemically treat designated areas along the City Beach and North City Park.
 - i. Chemical treatment at the City Beach consists of a narrow band in 5-7 feet of water that follows the contour of beach sand placed in the water.
 - ii. Chemical treatment adjacent to North City Park consists of a narrow band along the shoreline to allow fishing, wading, and use of small watercraft.
 - iii. Herbicide application would be completed only one time between the first of June and the end of July using a contact herbicide at appropriate label rates.
- 4. Objective 4: Continue surface collection and removal of duckweed and watermeal upstream of the Hwy Q Bridge.
 - a. Action 1: Surface collection and removal done in cooperation with the City of Bloomer and BCLA.
 - i. Dump sites for harvested plants must be identified and approved by the WDNR before any harvesting can be completed.
- 5. Objective 5: Install an aquatic plant deflector curtain adjacent to the City Beach to reduce undesirable floating vegetation and debris fouling the beach area.
 - a. Action 1: Apply for a Chapter 30 permit for a miscellaneous structure placed in navigable water.
 - b. Action 2: Research availability of and installation of an aquatic plant deflector curtain adjacent to the City Beach.

- c. Action 3: Annually install and remove an aquatic plant deflector curtain adjacent to the City Beach.
- 6. Objective 6: Maintain or improve native plant community measurements of FQI, SDI, and species richness as determined in the 2018 whole-lake, point-intercept, aquatic plant survey.
 - a. Action 1: Continue regular whole-lake warm-water point-intercept aquatic plant surveys at least every five years.
- 7. Objective 7: Implement an annual, monthly volunteer monitoring program to track any changes in the water quality of Lake Como.
 - a. Action 1: Collect Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen profiles, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and Secchi disk data monthly and in accordance with the CLMN protocol.
 - i. Collection completed May through August every year with collection added in September and October if working off of grant funding.

Goal 2: Implement and maintain AIS education and prevention efforts.

1. Objective 1: Prevent new AIS from entering and becoming established in Lake Como.
 - a. Action 1: Implement a Clean Boat Clean Waters watercraft inspection program at the main public access point.
 - i. 100-200 hours annually with grant funding
 - ii. Volunteer hours only without grant funding
 - b. Action 2: Plan, place, and maintain materials on the kiosk at the main access point on Lake Como.
 - c. Action 3: Install AIS signs at the secondary walk-in landing on the east side of Lake Como.
 - i. AIS signs are available from the WDNR at no cost
2. Objective 2: Implement and maintain an AIS education and information program.
 - a. Action 1: Create and distribute annual newsletters updating AIS and other BCLA activities.
 - b. Action 2: Host events to promote public awareness, identification, knowledge, and involvement in lake and AIS activities.
 - i. Plan individual events or coordinate with other entities like Chippewa County, Clubs, and Organizations
 - c. Action 3: Create and maintain an Bloomer Community Lake Association webpage and/or Facebook page.
 - d. Action 4: Continue holding regular public meetings of the BCLA to encourage constituent involvement and facilitate communication between the BCLA and other stakeholders.
 - i. Increase awareness of the BCLA and what they do by being part of area events including the County Fair, festivals, etc.
 - ii. Present goals and objectives for Lake Como at local government and civic organization meetings
3. Objective 3: Implement and maintain an AIS monitoring program.
 - a. Action 1: Establish and maintain an in-lake and shoreline AIS monitoring program following CLMN guidelines.
 - i. AIS monitoring should occur at least once a month June-September

- b. Action 2: Create an AIS Response Plan for any AIS that could be introduced into Lake Como.
 - i. An AIS Response Plan identifies procedures to follow and people to contact if a new AIS is discovered in a lake

Goal 3: Promote and support nearshore, riparian, community, municipal, and watershed best management practices that will improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce runoff, and minimize nutrient loading into Lake Como.

1. Objective 1: Officially adopt the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes Initiative for Lake Como.
 - a. Action 1: Provide information and education related to habitat improvement and runoff reduction projects that can be funded with Healthy Lake grants.
 - b. Action 2: Offer at least one workshop annually focused on simple projects through the Healthy Lake Initiative that will improve habitat and reduce runoff.
2. Objective 2: Install three or more Healthy Lakes habitat improvement and/or runoff reduction projects annually.
 - a. Action 1: Identify property owners and community members interested in implementing Healthy Lakes projects that will improve habitat and reduce runoff.
 - b. Action 2: Work with the City of Bloomer to identify municipal projects that will improve habitat and reduce runoff.
 - c. Action 3: Apply for Healthy Lakes grant funding to support projects that improve shoreland habitat and reduce runoff.
3. Objective 3: Increase the amount of coarse woody habitat in Lake Como.
 - a. Action 1: Provide educational and informational materials to lake property owners that promote the benefits of coarse woody habitat in a lake.
 - b. Action 2: Encourage property owners not to remove woody debris that falls naturally into the lake from their shoreline unless it presents a dangerous and/or undesirable condition.
 - c. Action 3: Install a demonstration Fishsticks project somewhere on Lake Como.

Goal 4: Engage lake residents, community members, lake users, and visitors in being active lake stewards.

1. Objective 1: Encourage behavior changes in residents in the following areas: shoreland development, landscaping to reduce runoff, AIS, water quality, aquatic vegetation, recreational practices, and responsibility for the lake.
 - a. Action 1: Help lake residents to understand AIS concerns, identify and monitor for AIS within the lake, and report and/or remove what they find.
 - b. Action 2: Encourage boaters to implement appropriate AIS prevention strategies on their watercraft.
 - c. Action 3: Distribute educational and informational material related to being good lake stewards.
 - i. Create and distribute welcome packets, newsletters, information/educational displays, Facebook and/or webpage, BCLA meetings, and other resources to increase the level of public awareness and interest in the lake.
2. Objective 2: Encourage and support BCLA constituent participation in annual lake and AIS conferences in WI and MN.
 - a. Action 1: Research and share dates and times for various lake and AIS conferences in MN and WI.

Goal 5: Develop a more comprehensive water quality management plan for Lake Como.

1. Objective 1: Request funding through the WDNR surface water grants to develop a comprehensive water quality management plan.
 - a. Action 1: Apply for lake management planning grant funding to support review of existing data, collection of new data, and development of a more comprehensive water quality management plan for Lake Como.
 - i. Grant eligibility is determined by the WDNR
 - ii. Lake Management Planning grants can be used to develop a more comprehensive water quality management plan for Lake Como
 - iii. Included in such a grant could be tributary loading, watershed analysis, land use analysis, identification of outfalls into Lake Como

Goal 6: Implement the Lake Como Aquatic Plant Management Plan effectively and efficiently with a focus on community and constituent education, information, and involvement.

1. Objective 1: Request grant funding through the WDNR surface water grants program to support the implementation of actions in the Lake Como APM Plan.
 - a. Action 1: Apply for AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning and/or CBCW grants to support AIS management planning, summary reporting, plant surveys, watercraft inspections, AIS monitoring, and AIS education efforts.
 - i. Grant eligibility is determined by the WDNR
2. Objective 2: Complete annual project activity and assessment reports.
 - a. Action 1: Use reports to make recommendation for annual revisions and updates to the APM Plan.
3. Objective 3: Complete an End-of-project Summary Report.
 - a. Action 1: Overall review of project successes and failures.
 - b. Action 2: Review the goals, objectives, and actions in the 2020-2024 APM Plan for successful implementation.
 - c. Action 3: Revise or rewrite the Lake Como APM Plan in five years.
4. Objective 4: Build and support partnerships to support management planning and implementation.
 - a. Action 1: Communicate with local, county, and state entities; schools and local business; clubs and organizations, etc. to generate support for management actions.
 - b. Action 2: Share results from Action 1 with constituents and partners.