

Cedar Lake



Lake Management Plan and Aquatic Plant Management Plan

SUMMARY June 2023



Photo by Beth Wood

Advisory Committee Members

Lake Residents

Doreen L'Allier
Rene Claassen
Dan Davison
Jim Drill Sr.
Joel Foust
Jim Gehrke

Lake Residents

Mike Hayes
Nathan Maier
Kevin Morris
Danielle Olson
Michelle Rinehart
John Simpson

Board Members

Tom Deans
Dan Early
Jim Reckinger
Warren Wood

Advisors

Cheryl Clemens Harmony Environmental
William James UW Stout
Kasey Yallaly Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Steve Schieffer Ecological Integrity Service
Eric Wojchik Polk County Land and Water Resources
Timm Johnson Farmer Led Council

The Cedar Lake Management Plan and Aquatic Plant Management Plan provides a blueprint for preserving lake water quality and native habitats, preventing introduction of invasive species, and supporting long-term ecological health of the lake. The plan presents information about Cedar Lake water quality, fisheries, aquatic plants, invasive species, and lake management methods. The plan and background documents are available at <https://cedarlakewi.org/>

A volunteer advisory committee of lake residents and board members, and advisors representing various organizations, guided the update of this plan. Cedar Lake property owners also completed a survey to share their concerns, perspectives, priorities, and management recommendations. The results from this survey are summarized in the plan. Finally, an implementation action plan was developed to direct future management actions. This lake management plan will guide the Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District in lake management from 2024 to 2028. The plan is an update of a plan previously developed in 2017.

Lake Management Goals, Objectives, and Actions

The Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District board and committees will carry out plan actions and track their implementation. They will also evaluate progress toward reaching plan goals and objectives. The Lake District will seek financial and technical support from partner organizations.

Goal 1. Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species and effectively manage those introduced into the lake.

Invasive species can overtake natural habitats and create nuisance conditions. Invasive species threats are numerous especially with many infested water nearby in the Twin Cities Metro area.

Prevention measures are used to limit their introduction.

Actions to prevent aquatic invasive species introduction

- Monitors at the landing educate boaters about prevention measures as part of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program.
- Tools to remove plants and debris and a decontamination station using a mild bleach solution will be provided. Polk County ordinance now requires use of decontamination stations when present at lake access points.
- Signs will remind boaters of security cameras present at the public landing to encourage boat and equipment decontamination.
- Professional and volunteer monitors seek to identify newly introduced aquatic invasive species early and respond appropriately. You can help by notifying us of suspected AIS.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) Management

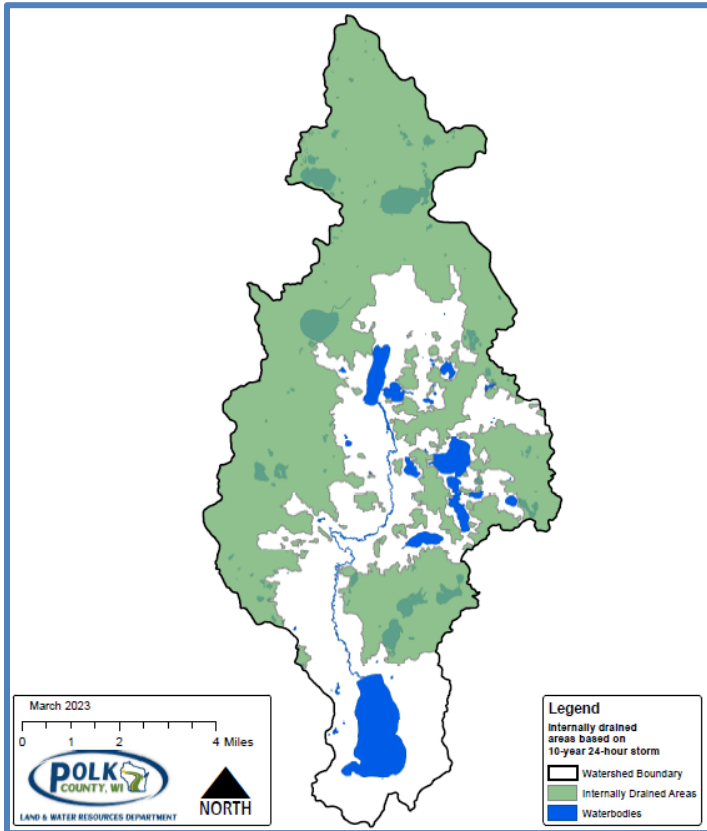
Eurasian water milfoil was discovered at the south end of Cedar Lake in 2015. Since that time, the Lake District has used manual and chemical control measures to contain its growth with varying results. We are careful with application times and chemical selection to effectively control EWM while limiting impacts to natural systems.

- In addition to monthly summer lake-wide searches for EWM and other AIS, our professional monitor records EWM and native plant growth each July in and near where EWM grows and is controlled. This measures the extent of EWM growth and the effectiveness and impacts of control measures.
- Volunteer monitors are needed to search the entire lake on a regular basis.
- Control methods are selected based on the density and extent of EWM growth. Recent chemical treatments have been very effective. Hand removal and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting are used to remove scattered growth.



Elizabeth J. Czrapata

Eurasian Water Milfoil



Cover crops and crop residue increase infiltration and reduce runoff of nutrients and sediment to Cedar Lake.

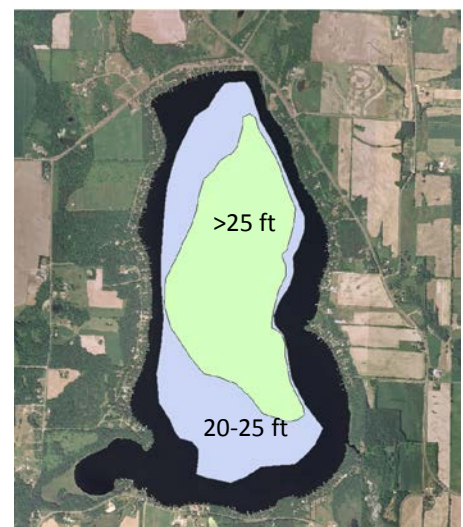
Cedar Lake and its watershed (the land that drains to the lake). The green-shaded areas are considered internally-drained which means runoff is mostly contained in depressions, ponds, other lakes, and wetlands.

Goal 2. Achieve and maintain clear water throughout the summer.

Progress toward this goal is measured with the help of the UW-Stout which is contracted to measure in-lake water quality, tributary in-flows, and phosphorus released from lake sediments. This monitoring not only evaluates progress, but also guides important decisions regarding future water quality measures such as the alum treatments. **Success is measured by various water quality parameters. Our ultimate vision is to remove Cedar Lake from the Wisconsin impaired waters list.**

Actions to preserve water quality

- Because most of the phosphorus (which leads to algae blooms) comes from the lake bottom, the Lake District applies alum to bind phosphorus in lake sediments. We have completed three of five recommended alum treatments with a fourth planned for July 2023.
- Maintenance alum doses will likely be needed some time following the fifth dose. Monitoring results will tell us appropriate timing and doses.
- The Horse Creek Farmer-Led Council has made impressive progress implementing agricultural conservation practices which reduce runoff of sediment and nutrients to Cedar Lake.



Cedar Lake alum treatment zones

Goal 3. Protect and improve near shore habitat both in the water and on the land.

The area where the water meets the land provides critical habitat for many creatures – birds, butterflies, fish, frogs, and pollinators to name a few. Because this is also the area where we live and recreate, our actions make a difference. Our plan seeks to limit negative human impacts to near shore areas. This will benefit us as well. After all, viewing wildlife was ranked as the most frequent recreational activity on Cedar Lake in a recent Lake District property owner survey.

Actions to protect and improve habitat

- **To encourage lake owners to preserve and restore natural shorelines, we are seeking volunteers to plant native plants along their Cedar Lake shorelines.** A range of resources will be available to support native planting efforts from how-to information to demonstration projects and even grant support for installation.
- Leaving fallen trees in the lake and installing “fish sticks” in areas of low waves and little ice push will be encouraged.
- The Cedar Lake Dam maintains lake water levels according to DNR requirements. Our dam is in need of maintenance in the near future, and we will seek DNR grant funding to assist.



*Cedar Lake Native Plantings.
Photos by Beth Wood.*

Interested in planting native plants along your shoreline?

Contact Doreen, Shoreland Committee Volunteer:
doreenlallier@gmail.com

Goal 4. Balance recreational uses so that residents and lake users can enjoy the natural benefits Cedar Lake provides.

Our plan encourages safe lake recreation where various users can enjoy Cedar Lake and at the same time preserve its natural benefits. State regulations require no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline (and each other) for boats and within 200 feet of the shoreline for personal watercraft. We are learning more about how large wakes from recreational boating can erode shorelines and disturb bottom sediments. Because of the large waves created by wake boats and surf boats, a safe setback distance from shore is at least 500 feet.

- While Lake Districts and Towns can develop ordinances to limit wakes to be more protective than state regulation, our current focus is to educate residents and lake users to observe recommended no-wake zones, drive safe and sober, and be considerate of other boaters.



Goal 5. Carry out the Cedar Lake Management Plan effectively and efficiently with a cooperative spirit.

The Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board is responsible for management of the lake in cooperation with partner organizations including Polk County, the Towns of Alden and Star Prairie, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Farmer-Led Council, the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, and Star Prairie Fish and Game. Board members are elected at Lake District annual meetings by Lake District eligible voters who also must approve annual budgets. Committees of board members and other volunteers are established for effective plan implementation.

Actions for effective and efficient plan implementation

- Establish and support committees. **We need volunteers. Please consider how your skills can support lake protection efforts.**
- Support the board with education and recruitment. Committee participation is a great way to learn more about the board if you are considering running for the board.
- Update of the lake management plan with the support of partners and advisors will begin in 2027.

Goal 6. Encourage and engage lake residents and visitors to be active lake stewards.

Engagement of the Cedar Lake community is essential for reaching plan goals. From the board of directors to lake property owners and visitors to the lake – we can all contribute toward improving Cedar Lake’s water quality and natural habitat.

Actions to involve the lake community

- Regular targeted outreach focusing on achieving plan goals. Important ongoing communication tools include our website, annual newsletter, email outreach, and presentations at annual meetings.
- In addition to improvements to current communication tools, we are considering a Lake District Facebook page, new-owner and short-term rental lake stewardship packets, shoreland demonstration sites and events, and updated signage at the landing.
- Staff and volunteers from partner organizations provided valuable input in the development of this plan. The Lake District will continue to work with partners and seek their support and involvement in lake management efforts.

Comments on the Cedar Lake Management Plan will be accepted through July 11, 2023. The complete plan is found on our website: <https://cedarlakewi.org/>.

Please send comments via email to: harmonyenv@amerytel.net

Cedar Lake District Committees

Aquatic Invasive Species

Jackie Elkin
(Clean Boats, Clean Waters)

Jim Reckinger
(EWM and Volunteer Monitoring)

Dan Early
(EWM and Volunteer Monitoring)

John Simpson
(AIS decon station)

Outreach

Tom Deans (Board Lead)
Danielle Olson (Tech Guru)

Shoreland

Warren Wood (Board Lead)
Doreen L’Allier (Natural Shorelines Promotion)

We need additional committee volunteers. For more information email:
district@cedarlake-wi.org

Or contact a board member listed above:
<https://cedarlakewi.org/contacts/>

Visit Our Web Site:
<https://cedarlakewi.org/>



PO Box 93
Star Prairie, WI 54026
Cedarlakewi.org

CEDAR LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT **ANNUAL MEETING**

9:00 a.m.
Saturday, August 5, 2023
Star Prairie Town Hall
2118 Cook Drive, Somerset, WI

AGENDA will include approval of minutes from 2022 annual meeting, review and approval of 23/24 budget, audit committee report, updates of Lake District activities, election of commissioners, public comments. State regulation requires that eligible Lake District members be in attendance to vote. No absentee ballots or proxy votes are permitted.

BUDGET includes income and expenses of **\$XX,XXX.** **\$XX,XXX** of income is expected from grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

STAY IN TOUCH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST. We distribute information via email occasionally. To keep up-to-date with Lake District activities, subscribe to our email list or update to your preferred email contact. To enroll, email us your name, lake address, and email address to: district@cedarlakewi.org

ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS. Regular board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Alden Town Hall, 183 155th Street, Star Prairie, WI **OR VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

Contact harmonyenv@amerytel.net to request meeting information for public access to board video conference meetings.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: Cedarlakewi.org