



June 9, 2023

Eurasian Water Milfoil Update

In July of 2021, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was discovered on Spring Lake during a yearly survey conducted by Blue Water Science (BWS). Up to this time, EWM was not present on Spring Lake but had been present on Upper and Lower Prior Lakes. EWM is an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that creates a dense mat on the water's surface which can inhibit water recreationists, overtake habitat from competing native aquatic plants and can provide unsuitable habitat shelter, food, and nesting for native animals.

In August of 2021, The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was contacted and subsequently a more in-depth survey and hand pulling exercise was conducted by the DNR and BWS, but the degree of infestation was found to be greater than initially thought and further hand pulling was no longer recommended.

Due to the impact that EWM may have on the lake, the SLA decided to go ahead with a more aggressive approach and treated with herbicide approximately 8 acres of the lake in September 2021. The \$4,800 cost for this treatment was covered with funds from the Spring Lake Association (SLA). This treatment was successful, but the SLA felt that there may be additional EWM findings in 2022.

In February 2022, the SLA applied for and received a Grant from the DNR for the control of EWM. This DNR Grant provided up to \$50,000 to be used for lake surveys and treatment in 2022 and 2023.

In 2022, three additional surveys were conducted by BWS resulting in approximately 20 acres to be treated. The first treatment in June covered 14 acres and the second treatment in August covered 5 acres. The two surveys and treatments resulted in an expenditure of \$27,000 which was covered by the DNR Grant.

Two additional surveys were completed in 2023 by BWS; one in April 2023 and one in June 2023. SLA Board Members were present when both surveys were completed and provided additional eyes on the areas being surveyed. The second survey was a more in-depth point intercept survey that included rake sampling points every 50 meters where aquatic plants are present. This survey did not show any EWM present. The estimated cost of the Point Intercept Survey of \$3300 will be covered by funds from the DNR Grant.

At this time and due to these early positive results, we are **cautiously** optimistic that the treatments in 2021 and 2022, were successful in mitigating and controlling the spread of EWM.

The total cost of the surveys and treatments is around \$30,000, leaving approximately \$20,000 of the DNR Grant that will go unused as this grant expires on July 1, 2023.

Our second Aquatic Seminar will be held on July 26, and all are welcome to attend to learn more about native aquatic plants and aquatic invasive species.

An additional lake survey will be conducted by the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District in August to confirm these early survey results.

Going forward please be observant for any signs of EWM and report them to Board.SLA@Gmail.com.

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