

Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Management Policy

April 12, 2018

The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission works in partnership with its member cities, Hennepin County, MnDOT, property owners, and other parties to protect and improve lakes, wetlands, and streams in the watershed. The Commission's goal is to meet State of Minnesota water quality standards and to promote a healthy and diverse community of native aquatic organisms and vegetation. To achieve that goal the Commission may periodically partner with one or more member cities to undertake lake internal load management projects, such as alum treatments or rough fish management. As lake water clarity improves, both native and non-native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) may become more abundant. This policy sets forth the standards and actions the Commission will take to assist in managing SAV.

1. Prior to undertaking any internal load improvement projects, the Commission will obtain spring and late summer SAV surveys, and compile all known information about SAV and SAV management for the previous five years.
2. Commission staff will review SAV data with the DNR to determine likely SAV response to internal load reductions and SAV management options.
3. On lakes with an existing infestation of non-native invasive curly-leaf pond weed and/or Eurasian water milfoil, the Commission will undertake chemical or mechanical treatment for up to three years as necessary to address the non-native AIS infestation. The Commission will incur all costs of this treatment, including vegetation surveys, treatment delineations, and permits and variances.
4. On lakes with non-nuisance infestation of non-native invasive curly-leaf pond weed and/or Eurasian water milfoil, the Commission may provide spot treatment to prevent spread of the invasive species for up to three years or as necessary to control the infestation. The Commission will incur all costs of this treatment, including vegetation surveys, treatment delineations, and permits.
5. The Commission will continue to undertake routine SAV surveys on its regular, published schedule and may provide spot treatment of AIS as necessary.
6. The Commission will not participate financially in the cost of SAV management performed for recreation and access purposes. The Commission will not manage increased growths of native aquatic vegetation resulting from improved water quality. Lakeshore property owners may at any time undertake shoreline SAV management in accordance with DNR regulations at their own expense.
7. At the request of a majority of lakeshore owners, and at their expense, the Commission may act as fiscal and contracting agent to provide SAV management for recreation and access purposes. If the lakeshore owners or lake association wish to form a Lake Improvement District, the Commission may provide technical assistance and liaison with Hennepin County and the DNR.