



Magician Lake 2020 Aquatic Vegetation, Water Quality, and 2021 Management Recommendations Report



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Magician Lake 2020 Aquatic Vegetation, Water Quality, and 2021 Management Recommendations Report (2011-2020)



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Magician Lake 2020 Aquatic Vegetation, Water Quality, and 2021 Management Recommendations Report

The following information is a summary of key lake findings collected in 2020.

The overall condition of Magician Lake is ranked in the top 10% of developed lakes of similar size in the state of Michigan. The water clarity in August of 2020 averaged around 17.0 feet which is excellent given the intense spring rainfall events that led to increased nutrients this year in most lakes. Magician Lake has enough nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) to support some algae and submersed aquatic plant growth, but the nutrient levels are still considered moderately low. Invasive species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP), and Starry Stonewort are able to grow in moderate nutrient waters and thus are a challenge to the Magician Lake ecosystem. EWM and CLP have been successfully managed over the years due to intense survey efforts and rapid response treatments. Protection of the 22 native aquatic plant species is paramount for the health of the lake fishery and these plants should not be managed unless they are a nuisance to lakefront property owners and possess navigational and recreational hazards (i.e. overgrowth of pondweeds in the canals).

The water quality of the lake was excellent in 2020 with some increases in nutrients due to heavy spring rains. Public hearings were held in 2020 to renew the current Magician Lake SAD so that continued lake improvements can be possible.

Magician Lake Water Quality Data (2011-2020)

Water Quality Parameters Measured

There are hundreds of water quality parameters one can measure on an inland lake, but several are the most critical indicators of lake health. These parameters include water temperature (measured in °F), dissolved oxygen (measured in mg/L), pH (measured in standard units-SU), conductivity (measured in micro-Siemens per centimeter- $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$), total alkalinity or hardness (measured in mg of calcium carbonate per liter-mg CaCO_3/L), total dissolved solids (mg/L), Secchi transparency (feet), total phosphorus and total nitrate nitrogen (both in $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), chlorophyll-a (in $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), and algal species composition. Graphs that show trends for each parameter of each year are displayed below. Water quality is measured in the deep basins (Silver Creek and Keeler Township regions) of Magician Lake each year. Trend data was calculated using mean values for each parameter. Table 1 below demonstrated how lakes are classified based on key parameters. Magician Lake would be considered mesotrophic (mildly productive) since it does contain ample phosphorus, nitrogen, and aquatic vegetation growth but has excellent water clarity and moderately low algal growth. 2020 water quality data for Magician Lake is shown below in Tables 2-3 below.



Table 1. Lake trophic classification (MDNR).

<i>Lake Trophic Status</i>	<i>Total Phosphorus ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)</i>	<i>Chlorophyll-a ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)</i>	<i>Secchi Transparency (feet)</i>
Oligotrophic	< 10.0	< 2.2	> 15.0
Mesotrophic	10.0 – 20.0	2.2 – 6.0	7.5 – 15.0
Eutrophic	> 20.0	> 6.0	< 7.5

Table 2. Magician Lake water quality parameter data collected over the Silver Creek west deep basin on August 17, 2020.

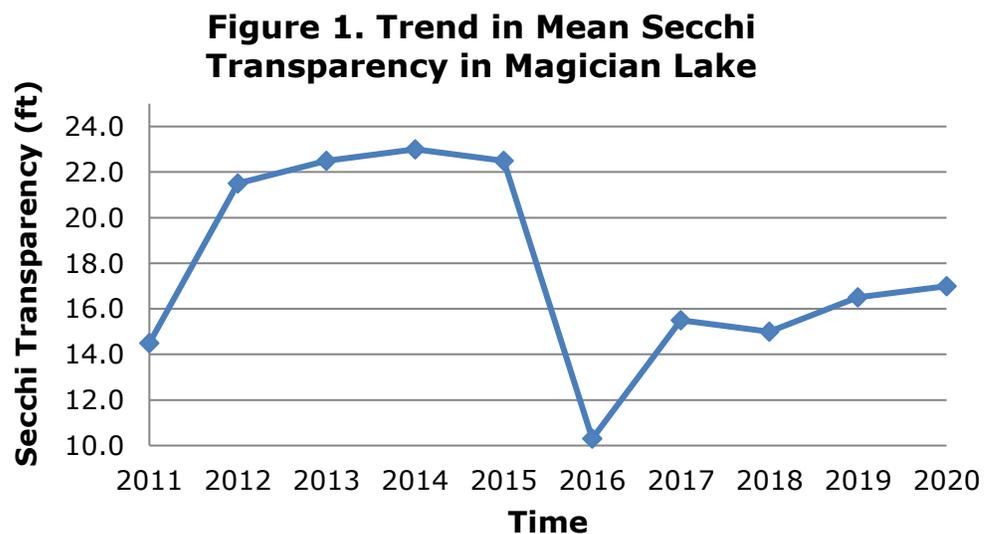
<i>Depth ft.</i>	<i>Water Temp °F</i>	<i>DO mg L⁻¹</i>	<i>pH S.U.</i>	<i>TDS mg L⁻¹</i>	<i>ORP mV</i>	<i>Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen mg L⁻¹</i>	<i>Total Alk. mgL⁻¹ CaCO₃</i>	<i>Total Phos. mg L⁻¹</i>
0	82.5	8.2	8.6	212	125.6	<0.5	154	<0.010
27	73.8	4.5	8.5	210	116.8	0.5	154	0.020
54	62.7	0.7	8.2	214	23.5	1.0	154	0.030

Table 3. Magician Lake water quality parameter data collected over the Keeler Township deep basin on August 17, 2020.

<i>Depth ft.</i>	<i>Water Temp °F</i>	<i>DO mg L⁻¹</i>	<i>pH S.U.</i>	<i>Cond. µS cm⁻¹</i>	<i>TDS mg L⁻¹</i>	<i>ORP mV</i>	<i>Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen mg L⁻¹</i>	<i>Total Alk. mgL⁻¹ CaCO₃</i>	<i>Total Phos. mg L⁻¹</i>
0	83.1	8.5	8.5	341	212	122.6	<0.5	153	<0.010
16	76.9	8.0	8.5	341	214	111.5	0.5	154	0.020
32	67.1	2.2	8.2	343	214	20.7	1.0	155	0.040

Water Clarity (Transparency) Data

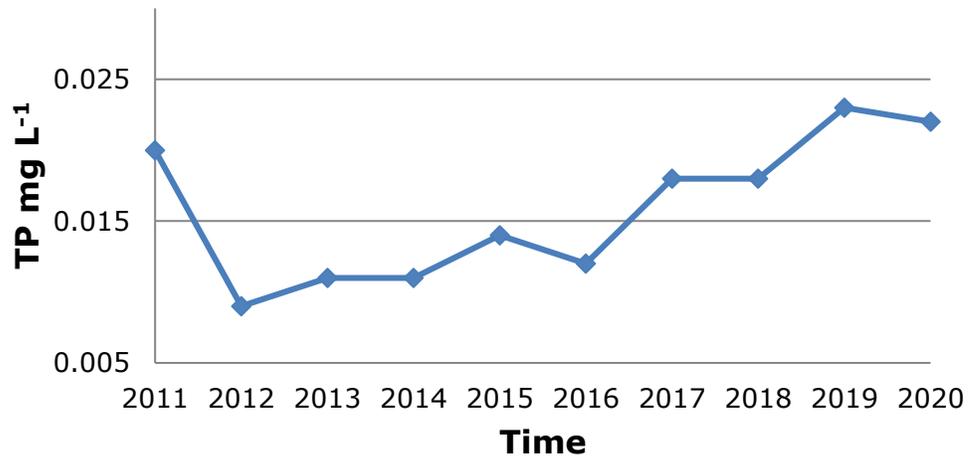
Elevated Secchi transparency readings allow for more aquatic plant and algae growth. The transparency throughout Magician Lake in August of 2020 was adequate (mean of 16.5 feet) to allow abundant growth of algae and aquatic plants in the majority of the littoral zone of the lake. Note: Secchi transparency in Magician Lake is much higher in spring and has been around 22-25 feet in recent years. Secchi transparency is variable and depends on the number of suspended particles in the water (often due to windy conditions of lake water mixing) and the amount of sunlight present at the time of measurement. The trend in Secchi transparency is shown in Figure 1 below.



Total Phosphorus

Total phosphorus (TP) is a measure of the amount of phosphorus (P) present in the water column. Phosphorus is the primary nutrient necessary for abundant algae and aquatic plant growth. TP concentrations are usually higher at increased depths due to higher release rates of P from lake sediments under low oxygen (anoxic) conditions. Phosphorus may also be released from sediments as pH increases. TP concentrations ranged from 0.010-0.040 mg/L with the highest values in August of 2020 which is still quite low for an inland lake but expected during seasons with intense rainfall as observed in 2020 (Figure 2).

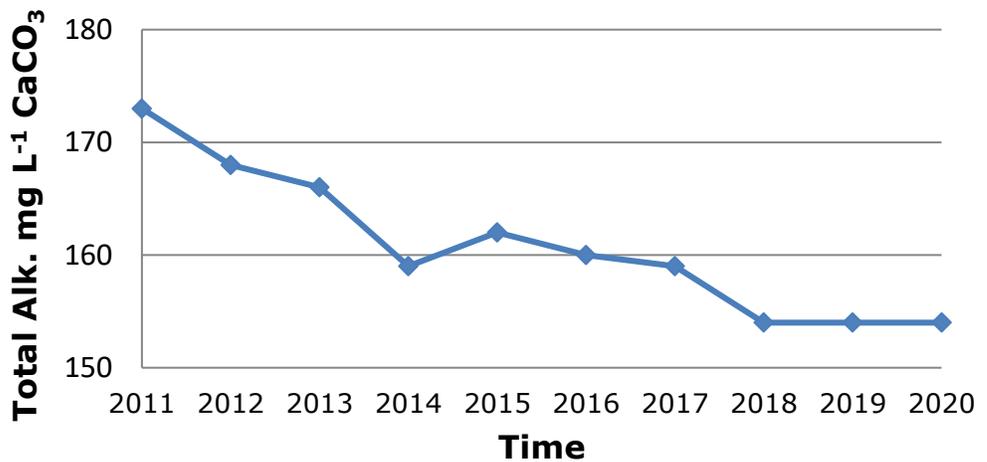
Figure 2. Trend in Mean TP in Magician Lake



Total Alkalinity

Lakes with high alkalinity (>150 mg/L of CaCO₃) are able to tolerate larger acid inputs with less change in water column pH. Many Michigan lakes contain high concentrations of CaCO₃ and are categorized as having “hard” water. Total alkalinity may change on a daily basis due to the re-suspension of sedimentary deposits in the water and respond to seasonal changes due to the cyclic turnover of the lake water. The alkalinity of Magician Lake was moderate in August of 2020 with a mean of 154 mg/L of CaCO₃ (Figure 3) and indicates a moderately hard water lake that is well-buffered.

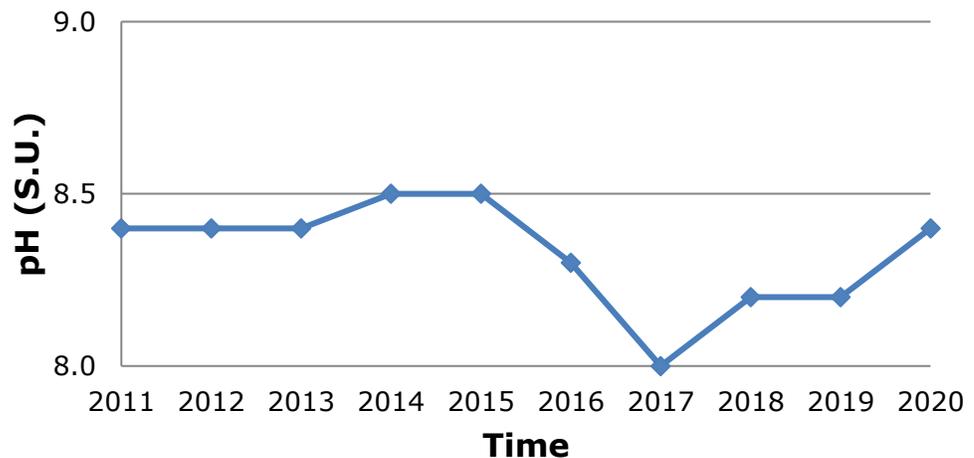
Figure 3. Trend in Mean Total Alkalinity for Magician Lake



pH

Most Michigan lakes have pH values that range from 6.5 to 9.5. Acidic lakes (pH < 7) are rare in Michigan and are most sensitive to inputs of acidic substances due to a low acid neutralizing capacity (ANC). Magician Lake is considered “slightly basic” on the pH scale. The pH (Figure 4) of Magician Lake in August of 2020 averaged 8.4 S.U. which is ideal for an inland lake.

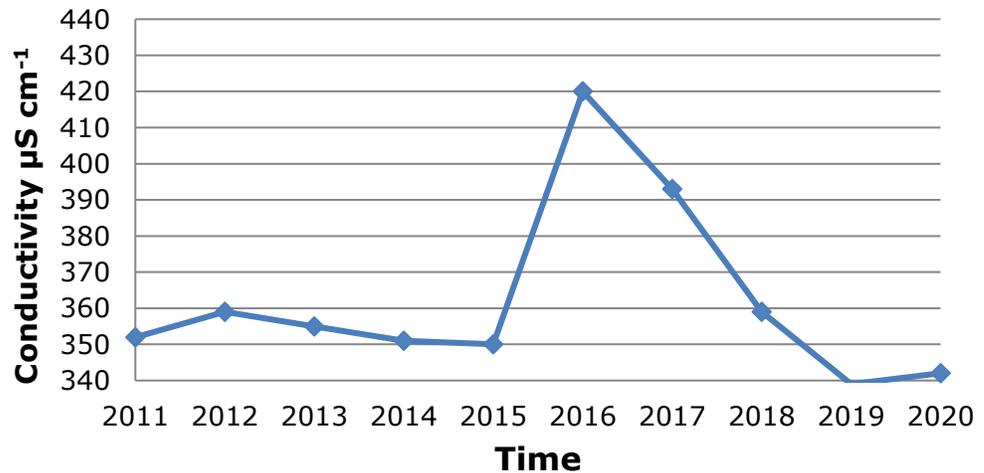
Figure 4. Trend in Mean pH for Magician Lake



Conductivity

Conductivity is a measure of the number of mineral ions present in the water, especially those of salts and other dissolved inorganic substances. Conductivity generally increases as the amount of dissolved minerals and salts in a lake increases, and also increases as water temperature increases. The conductivity values for Magician Lake were moderate in August of 2020 and ranged from 341-343 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (Figure 5). Severe water quality impairments do not occur until values exceed 800 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and are toxic to aquatic life around 1,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.

Figure 5. Trend in Mean Conductivity for Magician Lake



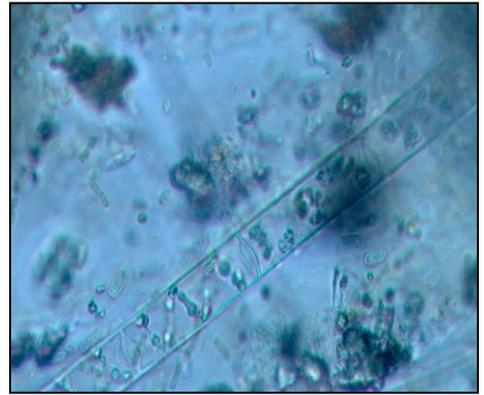
Chlorophyll-*a* and Algal Species Composition

Chlorophyll-*a* is a measure of the amount of green plant pigment present in the water, often in the form of planktonic algae. High chlorophyll-*a* concentrations are indicative of nutrient-enriched lakes. Chlorophyll-*a* concentrations greater than 6 $\mu\text{g/L}$ are found in eutrophic or nutrient-enriched aquatic systems, whereas chlorophyll-*a* concentrations less than 2.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ are found in nutrient-poor or oligotrophic lakes. The mean chlorophyll-*a* concentration (Figure 6) in Magician Lake in August 2020 was around 1.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which is favorable given the increased rainfall and runoff observed during 2020.

The algal genera were determined from composite water samples collected over the deepest basin of Magician Lake in 2020 were analyzed with a compound bright field microscope. The genera present included the Chlorophyta (green algae): *Scenedesmus* sp., *Mougeotia* sp., *Rhizoclonium* sp., *Chlorella* sp., *Cosmarium* sp., *Gleocystis* sp., *Pandorina* sp., and *Cosmarium* sp. The Cyanophyta (blue-green algae): *Gleocapsa* sp., the Bascillariophyta (diatoms): *Navicula* sp., *Synedra* sp., and *Cymbella* sp. The aforementioned species indicate a diverse algal flora and represent a good diversity of alga with an abundance of diatoms that are indicative of great water quality.



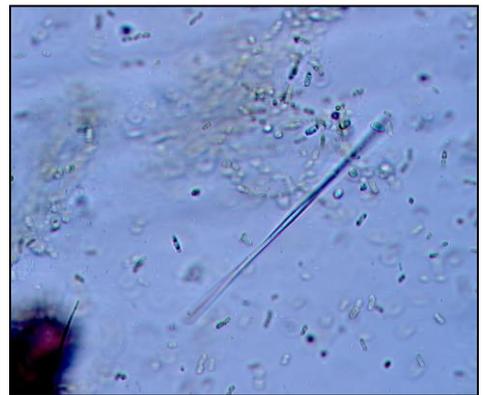
Scenedesmus-A Green Algae



Spirogyra-A Green Algae

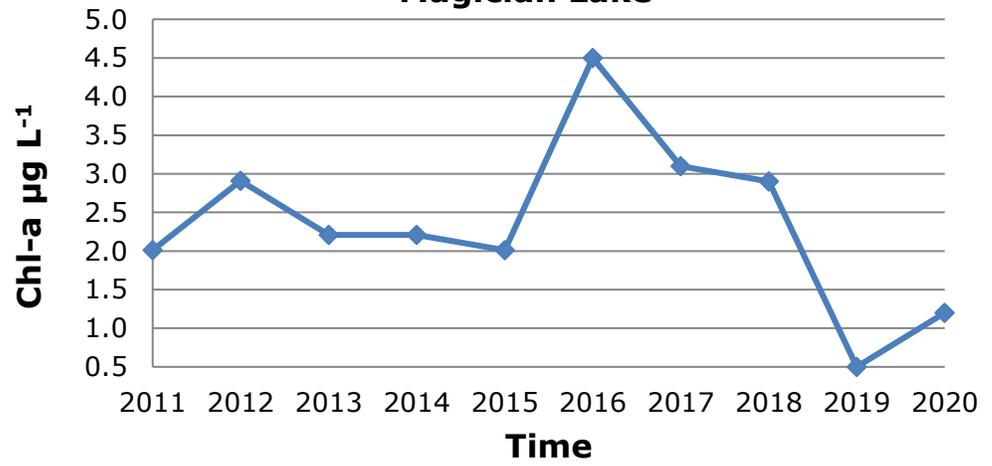


Oscillatoria-A Blue-Green Algae



Synedra-a Diatom

Figure 6. Trend in Mean Chlorophyll-a in Magician Lake



Aquatic Vegetation Data (2020)

Status of Native Aquatic Vegetation in Magician Lake

The native aquatic vegetation present in Magician Lake is essential for the overall health of the lake and the support of the lake fishery. The survey on May 29, 2020 utilized 664 GPS locations to determine that there were a total of 22 native aquatic plant species in Magician Lake. These include 15 submersed species, 2 floating-leaved species, and 5 emergent species. This indicates a good biodiversity of aquatic vegetation in Magician Lake. In 2009 just prior to management of the EWM, there were 19 species with only 12 submersed aquatic plant species. This means that since efforts have begun, there are now two more native aquatic plant species that were not previously present. The reason for this is that removal of the EWM allows for lower-growing natives to germinate. The overall % cover of the lake by native aquatic plants is low relative to the lake size and thus these plants should be protected unless growing near swim areas at nuisance levels.

The most common native aquatic plant species included: 1) Southern Naiad (Figure 7), which appears as a thin-leaved, bright green colored aquatic plant that lies a foot or so off of the lake bottom, 2) Variable-leaf Pondweed (Figure 8), which is a bright green and brown colored small, low-growing pondweed that is often found near the shoreline, and 3) the macro alga Chara (Figure 9), which has a strong, skunky odor and resembles small green nodules that grow along the lake bottom.

Table 4 below shows the many different species of native aquatic plants in Magician Lake during 2020.



Figure 7. Southern Naiad



Figure 8. Variable-leaf Pondweed



Figure 9. Chara

Table 4. Magician Lake Native Aquatic Plant Species (May 29, 2020).

<i>Aquatic Macrophyte Species</i>	<i>Aquatic Macrophyte Common Name</i>	<i>Aquatic Macrophyte Growth Form</i>	<i>% Cover in Littoral Zone</i>
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian Watermilfoil	Submersed	0.1
<i>Chara vulgaris</i> (macroalga)	Muskgrass	Submersed	18.7
<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>	Thin-leaf Pondweed	Submersed	9.1
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	Flat-stem Pondweed	Submersed	2.0
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	Variable-leaf Pondweed	Submersed	19.6
<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	White-stem Pondweed	Submersed	4.1
<i>Potamogeton illinoensis</i>	Illinois Pondweed	Submersed	15.1
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	Large-leaf Pondweed	Submersed	2.0
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Floating-leaf Pondweed	Submersed	1.1
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	Wild Celery	Submersed	7.1
<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	Whorled Watermilfoil	Submersed	0.1
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Common Waterweed	Submersed	4.2
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Bladderwort	Submersed	2.5
<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	Southern Naiad	Submersed	19.9
<i>Najas marina</i>	Spiny Naiad	Submersed	4.2
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	White Waterlily	Floating-Leaved	1.6
<i>Nuphar</i> sp.	Yellow Waterlily	Floating-Leaved	0.5
<i>Sagittaria</i> sp.	Arrowhead	Emergent	0.7
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	Pickernelweed	Emergent	0.7
<i>Typha</i> sp.	Cattails	Emergent	0.4
<i>Scirpus</i> sp.	Bulrushes	Emergent	0.4
<i>Decodon verticillata</i>	Swamp Loosestrife	Emergent	0.4

Status of Invasive (Exotic) Aquatic Plant Species in Magician Lake

The amount of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM; Figure 10) present in Magician Lake varies each year and is dependent upon climatic conditions, especially runoff-associated nutrients. 2020 experienced intense spring rainfall events and associated nutrient runoff and many lakes experienced nuisance milfoil and algal outbreaks. The spring 2020 survey revealed that approximately 11.8 acres of EWM was found throughout Magician Lake. On June 11, 2020, the milfoil was treated with high dose granular Triclopyr (Renovate OTF®). The treatment was very successful with only a few stems remaining as of late September of 2020. Also, on June 11, 2020, an algae and diquat treatment were conducted on algae and nuisance Curly-leaf Pondweed (Figure 11) which were present in the southwest canals. Muck pellets were also added to the aerated canal. A 2.0 acre pondweed and algae treatment was conducted again in the south canal on July 20, 2020. RLS staff was present to oversee the treatments.

Treatment maps for each of these invasive species are shown in the maps below (Figures 12-13).



Figure 10. Eurasian Watermilfoil



Figure 11. Curly-leaf Pondweed



Figure 12. Eurasian Watermilfoil distribution in Magician Lake (May 29, 2020).



Figure 13. Curly-leaf Pondweed distribution in Magician Lake (May 29, 2020).

Management Recommendations for 2021

Continuous aquatic vegetation surveys are needed to determine the precise locations of Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-leaf Pondweed, Starry Stonewort and any other problematic invasives in and around Magician Lake. These surveys should occur in late-May to early-June and again post-treatment in 2021. Restorative Lake Sciences will be present to oversee all aquatic herbicide treatments in 2021 as in previous years.

Due to the relative scarcity of native aquatic vegetation in Magician Lake, the treatment of these species with aquatic herbicides is not recommended (one exception is the overgrowth of nuisance pondweeds in the canals). The plan for 2021 includes the continued use of high dose systemic aquatic herbicides (triclopyr) for effective treatment of invasive milfoil only in target areas. Nuisance pondweeds in the canal has responded well to Clipper® at 200-400 ppb. Curly-leaf Pondweed has responded well to Aquathol-K® at 1-2 gallons per acre. Starry Stonewort if found again in the canals may respond well to a mixture of Clipper® at 200 ppb and chelated copper. These two invasives have been well-controlled in recent years.

Water quality parameters in the main lake will also be monitored and graphed with historical data to observe long-term trends. Foam along the shore of the lake is often from dissolved organic matter (DOM) which is a natural process that forms when the lake becomes turbulent and DOM mixes into the water column.

In conclusion, Magician Lake is a healthy lake with excellent aquatic plant biodiversity, good water clarity, moderate nutrients, and a healthy lake fishery. Management of the invasive aquatic plants and protection of the water quality are paramount for the long-term health of the lake.

Glossary of Scientific Terms used in this Report

- 1) Biodiversity- The relative abundance or amount of unique and different biological life forms found in a given aquatic ecosystem. A more diverse ecosystem will have many different life forms such as species.
- 2) CaCO₃- The molecular acronym for calcium carbonate; also referred to as “marl” or mineral sediment content.
- 3) Eutrophic- Meaning “nutrient-rich” refers to a lake condition that consists of high nutrients in the water column, low water clarity, and an over-abundance of algae and aquatic plants.
- 4) Mesotrophic- Meaning “moderate nutrients” refers to a lake with a moderate quantity of nutrients that allows the lake to have some eutrophic qualities while still having some nutrient-poor characteristics
- 5) Oligotrophic- Meaning “low in nutrients or nutrient-poor” refers to a lake with minimal nutrients to allow for only scarce growth of aquatic plant and algae life. Also associated with very clear waters.
- 6) Sedimentary Deposits- refers to the type of lake bottom sediments that are present. In some lakes, gravel and sand are prevalent. In others, organic muck, peat, and silt are more common.