

MONITORING PROTOCOL FOR SECTION MONITORS AND FOR ALL PROPERTY OWNERS

While Windigo has been divided into 19 sections with each to be monitored by a designated monitor, the lake would be benefitted if all property owners took a few moments when on the lake to search the lake for suspicious plants as follows:

1. What Invasive Species Should Be Looked For?

Presently the greatest threats to Windigo are Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed.

2. What Do These Plants Look Like?

The WLPOA has distributed to all property owners cards depicting these plants. Section monitors will be provided with detailed booklets which not only illustrate these invading species, but will also contain “look alike” plants which are native to the lake and are not harmful, but are confusing similar.

3. Where Should I Look For The Invasive Species?

These plants are best observed in 5 to 10 feet of water using polarized sunglasses on a clear, calm day. To obtain a sample of a suspicious plant a small rake may prove useful to grab the plant for closer inspection.

4. What Should I Do If An Invasive Plant Is Found?

The location of the plant should be noted through use of a marker (cabin, tree, buoy etc.) or GPS unit. The sample should be placed in a Ziploc bag and taken to the Sawyer County Conservation Department or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Research for confirmation of the species.

5. When Should The Lake Be Monitored?

Curlyleaf pondweed begins growing in the fall, slowly grows beneath the lake ice and generally dies out at the end of June. The time to inspect for this species is every two weeks in early spring from the time the ice goes out until late June, meaning a careful inspection at least once a week over the two week period. Of course, looking for plant life in the lake at any time will be helpful.

The time to search for Eurasian Watermilfoil is from June through August, again at two week intervals in the same manner as set forth above.

6. What Will The County Or State Do If They Confirm The Existence Of The Invasive Species?

Presently, there are a number of options available to eradicate an invasive species ranging from hand picking to the use of herbicides. Needless to say, the sooner an offensive plant is reported, the sooner it can be eradicated.

Thank you for working to keep our lake healthy, natural and wild.