

July 29, 2021

Dear Lake Isle Residents

**Subject: Herbicide Application for Flowering Rush at Lake Isle**

Flowering Rush continues to threaten Lake Isle due to large, dense monocultures with tendency to colonize previously open parts of a waterbody, flowering rush is causing numerous negative impacts at Lake Isle.

Flowering Rush impacts include:

- alters fish and wildlife habitat,
- outcompetes native vegetation,
- creates ideal habitat for the Great Pond Snail which is a host of the parasite swimmer's itch,
- causes flooding concerns for residents due to the blockage of a drainage easement,
- and is preventing swimming and boating recreation.

Flowering Rush challenges include:

- a vigorous aquatic perennial plant that is capable of underground stem growth as well as regeneration from root fragments and bulbils.
- grows early in the spring season, ahead of all native vegetation
- root fragments can float, have large food reserves and can easily form roots while floating.
- winter ice heaves result in disturbance that encourages increased vegetative growth and opportunity for flowering Rush to spread under seasonal disturbance.
- native fish species, such as northern pike, cannot access areas of open vegetation for spawning when Flowering Rush is present.

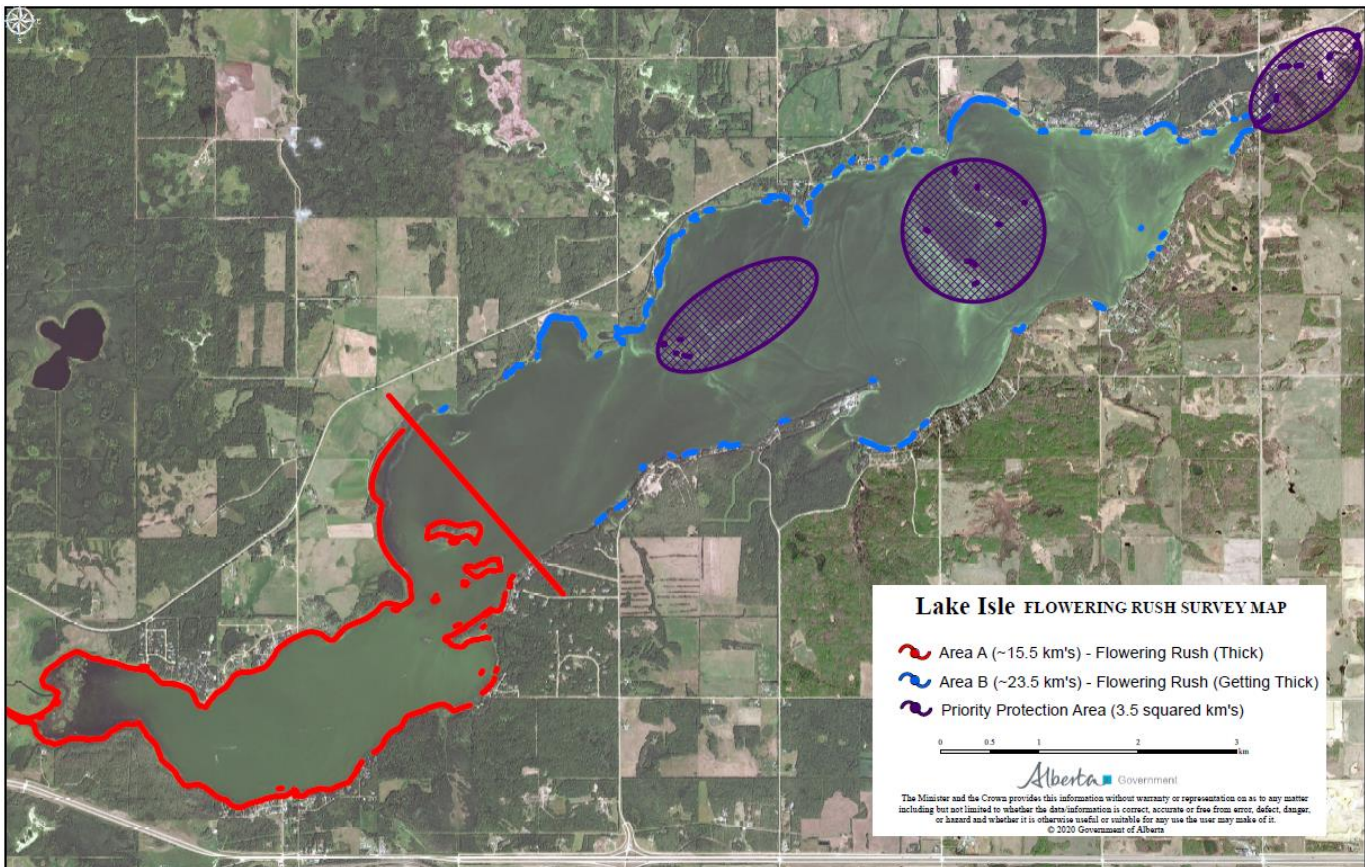
All possible control options have been explored but herbicide remains the best approach to removing Flowering Rush.

Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP) staff have worked with community members to explore other non-chemical methods and supported response methods through advice and financial support since 2014. First Nations consultation recently conducted site visits that conveyed the importance of this work. This work will be an on-going project recognizing the importance of continued response efforts to improve Lake Isle for all users.

HABITAT AQUA (imazapyr) Aquatic Herbicide is a pesticide registered for use in Canada by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Prior to being registered, the PMRA conducts a rigorous review of the pesticide to ensure it can be applied in a manner that does not adversely affect humans, aquatic life, fish and wildlife, while effectively controlling invasive Flowering rush. Cortex Management has been contracted to apply the herbicide. Cortex Management has previous experience in aquatic herbicide applications, including Flowering Rush control.

In Flowering Rush, the herbicide is translocated into, and kills, underground or submerged storage organs, which prevents regrowth. Within 10 hours of application, Habitat Aqua slows and stops the growth of Flowering Rush. Generally, one to two weeks after application, plant yellowing (chlorosis) can be seen. Between two and four weeks, death of growing points occurs. Complete control of targeted vegetation may take a month or more. There are no restrictions on the recreational use of water in the Habitat Aqua treatment area – including swimming and fishing. There are no restrictions on livestock consumption of water from an area treated with Habitat Aqua. Water treated with Habitat Aqua may **not** be used for irrigation purposes is the only restriction.

## 2021 Treatment Area



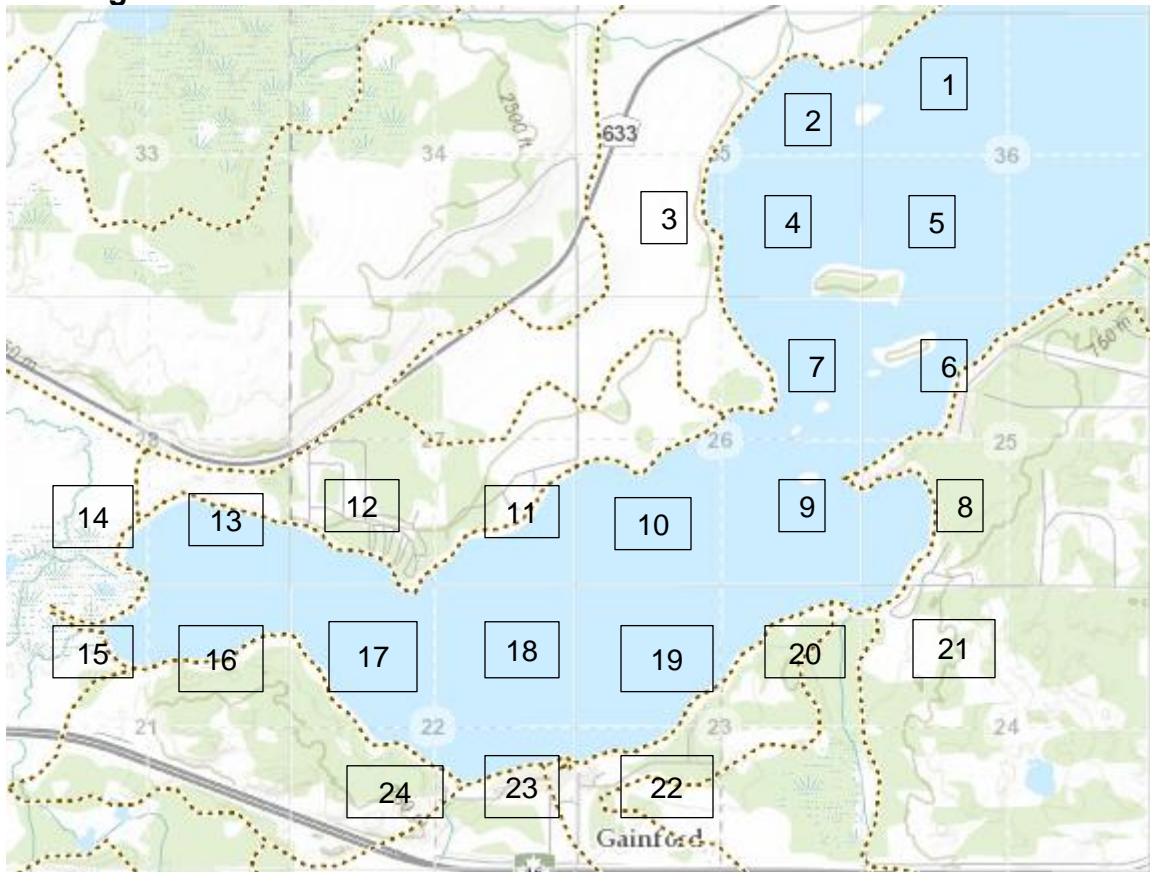
Priority Protection Areas – these will be given the most attention in 2021 to ensure that Flowering Rush does not establish by using hand removal methods under the supervision of the Alberta Community Partnership group.

Area A contains thick portions of Flowering Rush in the southwest. It will be targeted herbicide applications in 2021. Applications will be completed by a certified applicator, with significant experience, under management of Alberta Environment & Parks staff. The application will occur during the first 2-3 weeks of August 2021. Application will occur by boat and from the shoreline to ensure sufficient coverage of Flowering Rush stands.

Area B contains sporadic portions of Flowering Rush in the northeast and is slated for subsequent years for response work.

Tackling Area A will remove a large sources of Flowering Rush in the following legal land locations.

## Treatment Legal Land Locations



- |    |               |     |               |     |               |
|----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 1. | NW 36 53 6 W5 | 9.  | SE 26 53 6 W5 | 17. | NW 22 53 6 W5 |
| 2. | NE 35 53 6 W5 | 10. | SW 26 53 6 W5 | 18. | NE 22 53 6 W5 |
| 3. | SW 35 53 6 W5 | 11. | SE 27 53 6 W5 | 19. | NW 23 53 6 W5 |
| 4. | SE 35 53 6 W5 | 12. | SW 27 53 6 W5 | 20. | NE 23 53 6 W5 |
| 5. | SW 36 53 6 W5 | 13. | SE 28 53 6 W5 | 21. | NW 24 53 6 W5 |
| 6. | NW 25 53 6 W5 | 14. | SW 28 53 6 W5 | 22. | SW 23 53 6 W5 |
| 7. | NE 26 53 6 W5 | 15. | NW 21 53 6 W5 | 23. | SE 22 53 6 W5 |
| 8. | SW 25 53 6 W5 | 16. | NE 21 53 6 W5 | 24. | SW 22 53 6 W5 |

Due to urgency of this project and consequences of not proceeding, we are moving forward with local notification, which is the pre-cursor for the herbicide application, scheduled to occur in August 2021. We wanted to make you aware of this effort and address any concerns or issues in advance of application. I can be reached at (780) 427-7791 or [nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca)

Sincerely,

*Nicole Kimmel*

Nicole Kimmel  
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Alberta Environment and Parks