

## Protecting and Enhancing the Water Quality of Lake Chetac

As reported in the June, July and August 2015 editions of the Birchwood News, the Big Chetac and Birch Lakes Association is in the process of revising their management plan for Lake Chetac. The plan they have been following has been in place for five years and the DNR has asked them to update it looking forward at least another five years. The first step in updating the plan was to survey the primary stakeholder group, Chetac lakeshore property owners, to determine how they wanted to proceed. The survey results along with input from the DNR, Lake Association members and input from the public is being used to update the management plan. Two public meetings have been held by the Association to get input from members of the public on the plan. In addition, information about the lake and the Association's activities can be found at their website: [www.bcabla.com](http://www.bcabla.com). Comments regarding the management plan can be mailed to the Lake Association at BCABLA, PO Box33, Birchwood, WI 54817, or emailed to them at [BCABLA@hotmail.com](mailto:BCABLA@hotmail.com).

**Purpose of the Lake Management Plan:** The Lake Association was formed twenty years ago, with a mission of protecting and improving the water quality of the lake. The purpose of this revised lake management plan is to provide a comprehensive whole lake approach to protect and improve the water quality of Lake Chetac. As the headwaters for the entire Red Cedar Watershed, the water quality of Lake Chetac is extremely important. This revised Lake Management Plan incorporates lake protection activities through lake restoration projects and established aquatic invasive species control and maintenance activities as well.

### Proposed Goals and Objectives of the Revised Management Plan:

- Goal 1 – Reduce the number of days the lake experiences severe algae blooms**  
 Objective 1: Continue to reduce internal loading of phosphorous in the North Basin  
 Objective 2: Reduce release of phosphorous into the lake from existing sediment  
 Objective 3: Reduce release of phosphorous into the lake by managing CLP throughout the lake
- Goal 2 – Reduce the impact of CLP through aquatic plant management**  
 Objective 1: Continue to promote native plant growth in the North Basin  
 Objective 2: Continue to reduce internal loading of phosphorous in the North Basin  
 Objective 3: Adopt a whole lake management approach to herbicide treatment of CLP
- Goal 3 – Protect and enhance native plant diversity and distribution**  
 Objective 1: Continue promoting Best Management Practices (BMP's)  
 Objective 2: Continue to reintroduce native plants into areas which are treated with herbicide
- Goal 4 – Aquatic invasive species monitoring and rapid response planning**  
 Objective 1: Continue to provide watercraft inspection at public boat landings  
 Objective 2: Continue to monitor the lake for the introduction of new AIS
- Goal 5 – Maintain and enhance the current fishery**  
 Objective 1: Continue to work with the DNR and other fisheries management resource personnel to protect and enhance the existing fishery  
 Objective 2: Continue to work to return Lake Chetac to a renowned Walleye lake
- Goal 6 – Community, lake-user, and lake riparian owner education**  
 Objective 1: Promote good lake stewardship activities for lake users and riparian owners, and provide public information and promote public involvement  
 Objective 2: Continue Water Quality Monitoring Program

### Goal 7: Creation of Lake Association Committees

- Objective 1: Spread out the work required to complete the plans goals and objectives

Accomplishing the goals and objectives listed above will require a large number of specific activities. Look for an article in the October Birchwood News outlining those activities. Thanks to the work of the Lake Association, the lake is looking better than ever.

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