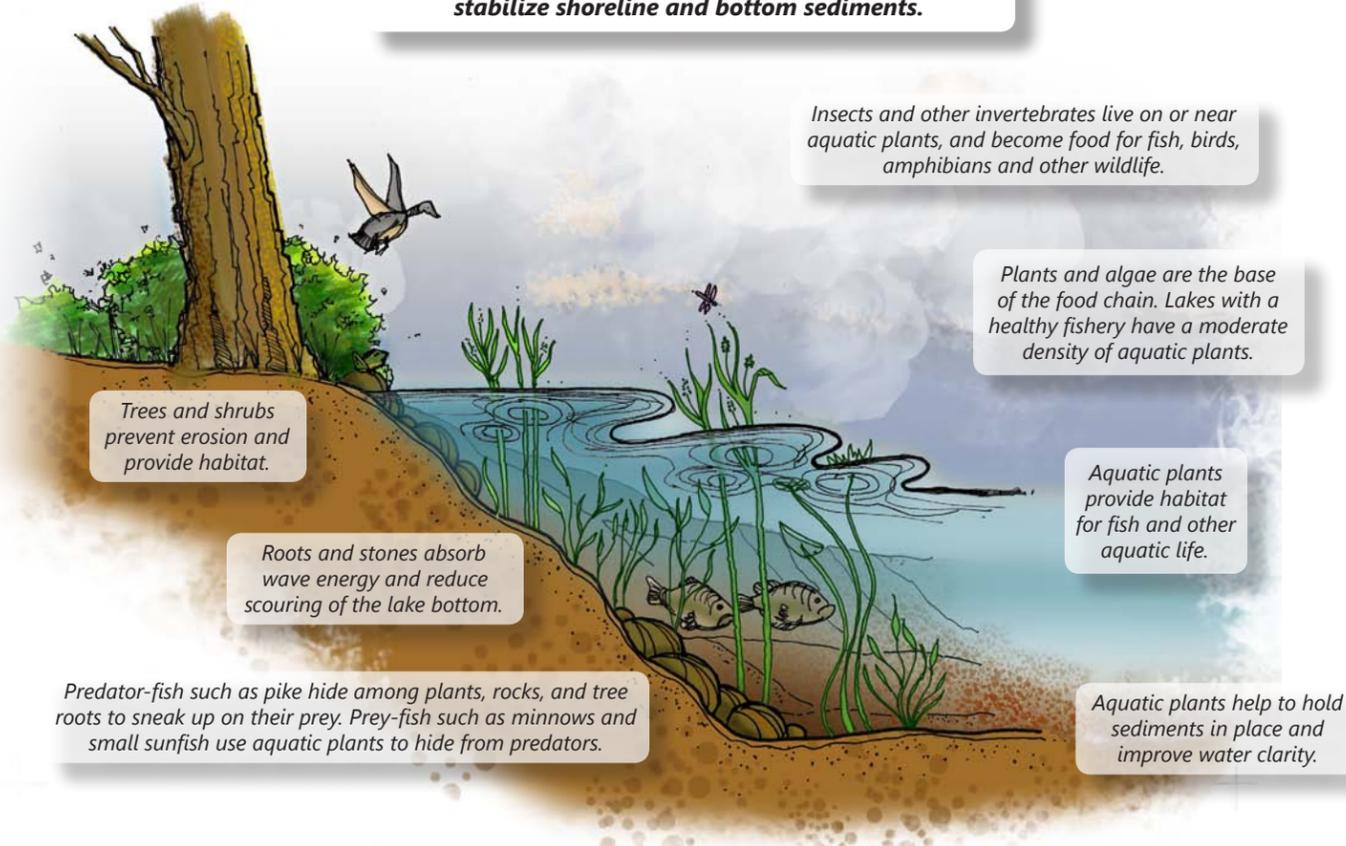


Wixom Lake Aquatic Plant Control

Nuisance aquatic plant control is the primary focus of the Wixom Lake improvement program. In managing aquatic plants, it is important to remember that most plants are beneficial to the lake. Plants in lakes produce oxygen during photosynthesis, help stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments, and provide cover and habitat for fish and other aquatic inhabitants.

Aquatic plants are part of a healthy lake. They produce oxygen, provide food and habitat for fish, and help to stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments.



The objective of a sound aquatic plant control program is to remove plants only from problem areas where nuisance growth is occurring. Excessive removal of aquatic plants can have negative consequences. For example, broad-spectrum herbicide treatments can result in algae blooms and reduced water clarity which, in turn, can be detrimental to the fishery. Maintaining a diversity of beneficial plants is as important as controlling nuisance and exotic species.



Eurasian milfoil
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Curly-leaf pondweed
(*Potamogeton crispus*)



Starry stonewort
(*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

The Wixom Lake plant control program focuses primarily on invasive, exotic species. An exotic species is one that is found outside of its natural range. Exotic plant species that are currently a threat to Michigan lakes include Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and starry stonewort. Early detection and rapid response is key to effective control of invasive aquatic plant species. The Wixom Lake plant control program includes multiple plant surveys to detect invasive and nuisance plants as well as targeted herbicide treatments and mechanical harvesting to control nuisance plant growth.

Plant control activities in Wixom Lake are coordinated under the direction of the lake board's environmental consultant, Progressive AE. Beginning in spring and continuing through summer, biologists from Progressive AE survey the lake to identify specific locations where nuisance plants are growing. Problem areas within the lake are accurately determined by using a global positioning system (GPS) to navigate between waypoints that correspond to waypoints on the Wixom Lake aquatic plant survey map. Once nuisance plant locations are identified, a detailed plant control map and GPS waypoints are provided to the plant control contractor. Progressive AE then conducts follow-up surveys to evaluate contractor performance.

In Michigan, a permit must be acquired from the Department of Environmental Quality before herbicides are applied to inland lakes. The permit lists the herbicides that are approved for use, respective dose rates, use restrictions, and indicates specific areas of the lake where treatments are allowed. In addition to a state permit, federal regulations require herbicide applicators to acquire a pesticide general permit and to prepare and submit a pesticide discharge management plan.

Wixom Lake Plant Survey Map (in part)

