

# Amery Lakes

## Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Pike Lake, North Twin Lake, and South Twin Lake

*SUMMARY March 2023*

### **Advisory Committee Members**

Jon Bergquist, Pike Lake Resident

Debbie Christopherson, Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board

Jason Whitley, North Twin Lake Resident

Tom Hartman, Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board

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Sara Schanon Jenson, North Twin Lake Resident

### **Advisors**

Steve Schieffer, Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board and Ecological Integrity Service

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This aquatic plant management plan for the Amery Lakes of Pike, North Twin, and South Twin in Polk County, Wisconsin, presents a strategy for managing aquatic plants by protecting native plant populations, alleviating nuisance conditions, and preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species. The plan includes data about the plant community, watershed, and water quality of Amery Lakes. Based on this data and public input, goals and strategies for the sound management of aquatic plants are presented. The plan and background documents are available at

<https://amerywisconsin.org/148/Sustainability-Initiatives>

This plan will guide the Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District (Amery Lakes District) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in aquatic plant management for Amery Lakes over the next five years (from 2023 through 2027).



# Lake Management Goals, Objectives, and Actions

The Amery Lakes District board and committees will track the implementation of plan actions and evaluate progress toward reaching plan goals and objectives. The Amery Lakes District will seek financial and technical support from partner organizations.

## Goal I. Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

*Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are aquatic nonindigenous species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. AIS currently in Amery Lakes include Eurasian water milfoil (all lakes), curly-leaf pondweed (all lakes), and purple loosestrife (North and South Twin). Yellow iris was found in North Twin Lake in the past and removed. Additional AIS threaten Amery lakes. For example, zebra mussels are found in nearby lakes including Balsam Lake, Lake Wapogasset, and Deer Lake.*

*Progress toward this goal is measured through regular monitoring provided pro bono by Ecological Integrity Service.*



Zebra Mussels

### Actions to prevent AIS introduction

- Staff at the landing will deliver AIS prevention messages and gather data through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program.
- The Lakes District will install signage with AIS prevention messages and a camera to monitor compliance at the North Twin boat landing.



**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
IT'S THE LAW**

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

**Before launching and before leaving YOU MUST:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.\*

 **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law

\*Limited exceptions apply. Visit [WWW.DNR.WI.GOV](http://WWW.DNR.WI.GOV) and search for "BAIT LAWS."

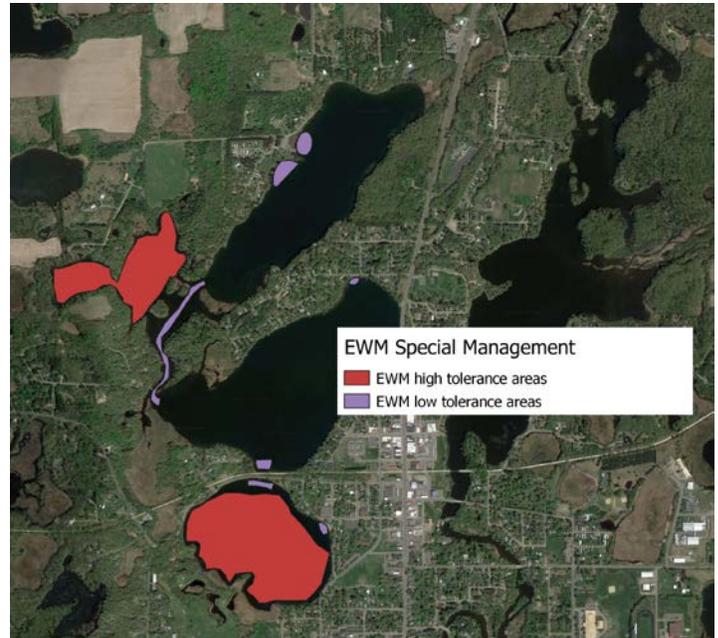
## Goal II. Control the spread of aquatic invasive species.

*Dense growth of Eurasian water milfoil can cause negative impacts to recreation and to native plants and ecosystems.*

*Protocols and responsibilities for monitoring Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and other AIS are established in the plan. The Amery High School Freshwater Ecology class will assist with monitoring.*

### Actions to Control Aquatic Invasive Species

- The plan establishes thresholds for herbicide treatment of Eurasian water milfoil, which vary depending upon the likelihood of spread and predicted impacts on native plant populations. With these standards, herbicide use is avoided in essential habitat areas. Herbicide treatment procedures are established.
- When AIS such as purple loosestrife and yellow iris are found, they will be removed manually or chemically.
- Curly leaf pondweed will be controlled only if navigation is impaired over at least 3 years. If herbicide treatment occurs, it will be applied early in the season to avoid impacts on native aquatic plants.
- Regular professional and volunteer monitoring, along with protocols and contacts for response, are established should a new invasive species be introduced.



## GOAL III. Preserve the diverse native plant community.

*Whole lake plant surveys to evaluate the native plant community are planned every 5 -7 years.*

### Program Guidance to protect native plants

- Use AIS control measures that limit impacts on native plants.
- Limit herbicide treatments for AIS where recreational impacts or ecological harm are not identified.
- Follow criteria for EWM tolerance levels.



*Photo by Ed Ronkowski*

## **Goal IV. Protect Amery lakes through the education and involvement of lake residents and visitors.**

*We will encourage good lake stewardship with education efforts to promote the observance of no-wake rules, AIS prevention methods, avoiding native plant removal, and encouraging shoreline owners to restore natural shorelines and reduce runoff from their properties.*

### Actions for education and involvement

- Amery Lakes District newsletter
- Creative/active outreach at community events (Fall Festival, Music on the River, Love your Library, etc.)
- Quarterly reports to the Amery City Council
- Update Lakes District web page on the City of Amery website
- Articles/Know your Lakes Column in the Amery Free Press
- Lake stewardship info added to boater education classes



For more information, including volunteer opportunities, contact: [amerylakesdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:amerylakesdistrict@gmail.com)

