

What is a Lake Vegetation Management Plan?

A Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may authorize a variance from the provisions of an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) permit under certain circumstances to control invasive* species, protect or improve aquatic resources, provide riparian access, and enhance recreational use on public waters.

An APM permit applicant is required to develop an LVMP before receiving a variance if the proposed control proposes methods or actions that need to be evaluated to determine if the goals of the variance are met. If a public water has an approved LVMP, all APM permits within that public water are issued in accordance with the plan.

An LVMP must contain the following information:

- 1) a description of the lake and its water quality including location, size, and clarity,
- 2) a description of the aquatic plant community,
- 3) a description of the public participation process used in developing the plan,
- 4) a description of the problems addressed in the plan,
- 5) a statement of the goal for management of aquatic plants
- 6) a description of the proposed actions to achieve the plan's goal and a map showing the location of proposed actions, and
- 7) conditions of APM permits that would be issued as part of the plan, including identification of variances.

A monitoring plan is required for an LVMP if the plan proposes methods or actions that need to be evaluated to determine whether the plan's goals will be met.

Aquatic Plant Management with a Variance

An APM permit may be issued with a variance to control invasive aquatic plants, protect or improve aquatic resources, provide riparian access, or enhance recreational use on public waters. A determination is made that there are exceptional circumstances or special or unique conditions based on specific criteria before granting a variance to control native aquatic plants to provide riparian access or enhance recreational use.

Criteria that are considered for control of invasive aquatic plants or to protect or improve aquatic resources in public waters are as follows:

- 1) whether the variance has the potential to

increase or protect native aquatic plants, improve water quality, or provide other ecological benefits,

- 2) whether the variance has the potential to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants,

- 3) whether the variance would further research or evaluation of invasive aquatic plant control, and

- 4) whether there is a feasible alternative to control invasive aquatic plants or improve aquatic resources.

Criteria that are considered for providing riparian access or to enhance recreational opportunities on public waters are as follows:

- 1) the habitat, water quality, and erosion control value of the aquatic plants in the proposed permit area and the amount of aquatic habitat reduction that would occur under the proposed control,

- 2) the abundance of invasive aquatic plants in the proposed permit area,

- 3) the selectivity of the proposed control for invasive aquatic plants,

- 4) whether shoreline development is limited on the water subject to the proposed variance such that exceeding the individual property limits would not have potential to combine with other aquatic plant control to substantially reduce aquatic habitat or result in other undesirable ecological impacts,

- 5) the presence of extensive mats of aquatic plants at the surface that substantially interfere with recreation in the proposed permit area, but only if this is not a natural condition of a shallow lake, shallow bay, or wetland,

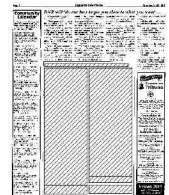
- 6) the compatibility of the proposed variance with the regulatory or management classification of the water and adjacent lands, including natural environment lakes, special protection districts, scientific and natural areas, wildlife management areas, aquatic management areas, designated wildlife lakes, and wild and scenic rivers,

- 7) whether the variance, if granted, would alter the essential character of the public water, and

- 8) whether there is a feasible alternative to provide riparian access or enhance recreational access.

Monitoring of aquatic plants, water quality, or other parameters may be required as a condition of an APM permit that includes a variance.

Practical and feasible measures also may be required to mitigate the adverse effects on aquatic habitat as a condition of an APM permit that includes a variance. Mitigation measures may include reduction in the number or size of docks and other water-oriented structures, removal of



shoreline riprap and retaining walls, restoration of natural riparian vegetation, and restoration of emergent and floating-leaf aquatic plants.

* The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not classify aggressive hybrid cattails of the specie found in Minnesota Lake as invasive.