



Wetland Vegetation Treatment Policy

Introduction	This policy provides the basis for treatment of wetlands for algae and aquatic vegetation and establishes incentives for property owners around the wetland to take steps that protect water quality of private wetlands. The City's participation in funding of wetland vegetation and algae treatment will be conditional on property owners around a wetland implementing on-site mitigation.
Determining When to Treat Wetlands	The City complies with the Minnesota DNR's permitting process when treating Bloomington wetlands. The City will only apply for a DNR permit to treat wetlands for vegetation and algae when it is needed to control swimmer's itch or leeches, dense growths of aquatic vegetation that would interfere with watercraft, swimming or other normal recreational uses, excessive filamentous algae, excessive plankton algae, or purple loosestrife.
Location and Types of Treatments	<p>City staff will initiate Normandale Lake, Bush Lake, Washburn Pond and Smith Pond treatments.</p> <p>For other wetlands, the City will only apply for DNR permits and treat wetlands when petitioned by a majority of the abutting owners and when a majority of the owners directly abutting the wetland agree to implement the on-site mitigation measures identified below.</p> <p>The City intends to protect recreational use on Bloomington's lakes and ponds without seriously interfering with the natural environment. Therefore the City adopts the DNR's recommendations to limit the amount of chemical used and frequency of application to the smallest amount that is normally expected to be effective. Typically this means one or two chemical applications per summer.</p> <p>The City will work with the DNR, other State, Federal and Local agencies and private companies to remain current with effective EPA approved herbicides and other control methods.</p>
On-Site Mitigation	<p>Residents owning property abutting both public and private wetlands are encouraged to implement on-site mitigation measures. These measures reduce the amount of nutrients reaching the wetland from the immediate watershed and therefore will mitigate growth of aquatic vegetation and algae.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish and maintain a native vegetative buffer zone as recommended in the City's Wetland Protection and Management Plan;• Compost or mulch grass clippings and leaves. Do not dump them near the wetland, in the street, or near a storm drain;• Agree to comply with other urban landscape best management practices.
Cost Sharing for Aquatic Weed Treatment	<p>When the majority of property owners abutting a wetland petition for its treatment, the City will pay for the cost of aquatic vegetation treatment including obtaining a DNR permit, the chemicals and the cost of City staff or a contractor to apply the chemicals according to the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If less than 50% of the abutting owners commit to on-site mitigation, the City will not treat the pond• When more than 50% but less than 100% of the abutting property owners commit to on-site mitigation, the City will pay half of the cost and all abutting property owners will share the other half of the cost.• When 100% of the abutting property owners commit to on-site mitigation, the City will pay the total cost of treatment..