

P.O. Box 424  
Ewart, MI 49631  
800-382-4434



## PERMISSION FORM – OTSEGO LAKE

I hereby give permission to PLM Lake & Land Management Corp to treat my lake frontage to control aquatic plants and/or algae. I hereby give permission for PLM Lake & Land Management Corp to access my property and treat for emergent vegetation including Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife, etc. if required. In addition, I will remove any restriction sign at the conclusion of the longest stated time. I may relinquish this approval in writing sixty (60) days before treatment of my property and understand that I am giving permission indefinitely or until relinquished. Signing this form does not obligate me to pay for services unless a contractual agreement has been signed.

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**Signature**

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**Print Name**

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**Lake Address**

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**Mailing Address (if different from lake)**

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**Phone**

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**Email**

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**Date**

May 27, 2021



Dear Property Owner,

The Otsego Lake Association is working to manage the infestation of invasive plants in Otsego Lake. Specifically, several patches of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), Starry stonewort (SSW) and Curlyleaf pondweed (CLP), have been found and need to be properly managed to protect the lake and aquatic ecosystem. In order to comply with the Michigan EGLE Permit, permission from riparian owners in effected lake areas, is needed to grant authorization for the treatment of this invasive plant species in Otsego Lake. It is very important that we obtain permission from all lake residents.

The Otsego Lake Association has spent considerable time weighing out all best management practices and options for EWM and SSW management in your waterbody as well as determining reputable and cost competitive firms to work with. Restorative Lake Sciences has been contracted to survey and manage the lake, while PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. was selected to perform the chemical treatments.

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was originally found by PLM in survey work a few areas ago. Over the past few years, your association has been using non chemical methods for management and now feel it is within the best interest of your lake to use best management practices that include chemical, spot treatment approaches. In order to keep this management program successful, the association needs your participation. EWM and SSW are highly invasive, exotic plant/algae species that outcompetes native species, grows rapidly (approximately a foot a week) and does not serve as good vegetative coverage for the lake's fishery. If left unmanaged, EWM and SSW would quickly expand and not only cost considerably more to manage, but have greater negative impact on the ecological and recreational use of the lake.

Here are a few commonly asked questions and their answers.

**Q.** Will aquatic plant control eliminate all aquatic vegetation?

**A.** NO! Nearly all available aquatic plant controls are SELECTIVE (i.e., they control some plants but not others). Intelligent aquatic plant management uses this selectivity to remove particularly problematic plants while leaving others unaffected. This approach minimizes interference with recreation while leaving desirable vegetation that provides BENEFITS to the lake (see below). Harvesting cuts all plants in the affected area, but plants are not killed and will regrow. Intelligent aquatic plant management removes the most problematic aquatic plants, which are typically exotic species, while preserving desirable native vegetation.

**Q.** Can't we get rid of ALL the weeds in our lake?

**A.** NO. And even if you could, you shouldn't. Native aquatic plants are an important component of the lake ecosystem. They provide many benefits, including stabilizing sediments, oxygenating the water, providing habitat for fish and invertebrates...

**Q.** Can we swim after a weed treatment?

**A.** YES AND NO. There is a 24 hour swimming restriction within 100 feet of any treatment area of the lake. Actually, almost all of the herbicides that we use do not have a swimming restriction on the product label. However, EGLE does not want you in the water during treatment for your safety and ours. If you see a boat doing a treatment, please exit the lake, as sometimes we need to come in close to shore. Treatment notices will be posted on the day of treatment along the shoreline of all treated areas. Therefore, if your area does not have a notice (sign in yard) then you do not have a swimming restriction. Also, offshore areas of the lake (deeper water) will be safe for swimming and boating.

**Q.** Can we irrigate our lawn and flowers after a weed treatment?

**A.** YES AND NO. Several of the herbicides that will be applied to the water do have turf and ornamental flower irrigation restrictions. The restrictions can range from 3 days to 14 days. If you pull water from the lake to irrigate, please read posted sign carefully to determine your irrigation restriction for that treatment.

**Q.** Will my dog get sick if he drinks the treated water?

**A.** NO. A dog would have to drink several thousand gallons of treated water to observe any noticeable effect. However, we do not want your dog in the water during or right after a treatment. Some of the herbicides we use become inactive if the sediment is stirred up in the water column. Therefore, keep the pets out of the lake for 24 hours

**Q.** Are the fish safe to eat?

**A.** YES, provided there are no restrictions independent of the treatment! There are no fishing restrictions with any of our herbicide treatments. The herbicides used do not accumulate in the fish.

**Q.** We don't want to use CHEMICALS in our lake... isn't harvesting a more environmentally responsible aquatic plant control technique?

**A.** Not necessarily. The most environmentally responsible control technique depends on the goals of the management program and the type(s) of plants to be controlled. In some cases, harvesting is the best choice. In other cases, harvesting can exacerbate aquatic plant problems. For example, we would not recommend harvesting a lake with an uncontrolled Eurasian watermilfoil population because harvesting will speed the spread of this aggressive exotic plant and hasten the replacement of native plants.

This management program needs your help to successfully manage the infestation of EWM and SSW on your lake! Please return the first page permission form to PLM by June 18, 2021, so we can get permits in order to complete treatments this summer. The tentative plan is to initiate treatment of SSW in the canal areas (all canals are heavily infested with SSW) this summer and to treat on the main lake area for EWM in September.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [breg@plmcorp.net](mailto:breg@plmcorp.net) or 800-382-4434 ext. 2200 or the please contact the Otsego Lake Association – Mark Lamberies at [marklamberies@gmail.com](mailto:marklamberies@gmail.com)

Please return this permission form as soon as possible, via mail, email or fax!

Thank you!



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