Lake/Pond Management Plans

Mike Adam, Senior Biologist
Lake Management Plans

• A document that guides your lake management decisions.
• Encourages partnerships between concerned citizens, special interest groups, and resource management agencies.
• Identifies the concerns regarding the lake.
• Sets realistic goals, objectives and actions.
• Identifies needed funds and personnel.
• Fluid – can be changed over time as lake issues or management techniques change.
7 Steps for Adaptive Lake Management Planning

1. Identify Stakeholders
2. Gather Information & Identify Concerns
3. Develop Goals, Actions, Objectives
4. Evaluate Solutions & Alternatives
5. Take Action
6. Monitor & Evaluate
7. Re-assess & Modify
1. Identify Stakeholders

- Identify all stakeholders
  - Broad community support
- Identify Communication Pathways
  - Examples: Open Public Meetings, Workshops, Social Media, News Releases, Questionnaires, Newsletter, Website, Emails
- Identify groups/individuals who can provide support
  - Volunteers, Government Entities, Consultants, etc.
- Establish a Lake Planning Committee

Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
2. Gather Information & Identify Concerns

• Purpose of this step is to learn as much as possible about the lake.
• Identify gaps or missing data.
• Use all information available to identify problems and concerns regarding your lake.
• Nominal Group Technique
Gathering Information & Data

The Lake Planning Committee needs to collect the following:

- Maps and historical documents about the lake and traditional uses
- Aerial photos
- Bathymetric maps
- State and local regulations and ordinances
- Technical information/research on topics of concern
  - WQ, aquatic plants, fish, wildlife
- Watershed map and land use characteristics
- Social and demographic trends
Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program - VLMP

- Water Clarity (Secchi Disk transparency)
- Water Chemistry
- Dissolved Oxygen / Temperature Profiles
- Online Database
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**Average** 174 1.54 <0.1  0.071 0.196 0.081 134 436 11.0 486 103 2.74 0.7736 8.42 7.51
3. Develop Vision, Goals, Objectives & Actions

- **Vision**: Your vision communicates what your group believes are the ideal conditions for your community “the dream”.
- **Goals**: General statement about what the group hopes to accomplish over the long term.
- **Objectives** identify specific measurable results to aim for towards each goal.
- **Actions** describe specific ways the group will reach its objectives.
- Successful plans have clearly defined goals and objectives that are ATTAINABLE.

**What is your vision for your lake in 20 years?**
3. Vision, Goals, Objectives, & Actions

Overall Vision: “Our vision for the Fox River watershed in Illinois is to balance all the uses and demands on our natural resources while preserving and enhancing a healthy environment.” [Fox River Ecosystem Partnership]

Separate goals by lake issues with objectives and specific actions.

Goal 8: Preserve the quiet nature and safety of Adams, Bear, and Thomas Lake users while allowing for recreational opportunities.

Objectives 8.1: Provide recreational opportunities to enjoy Adams, Bear, and Thomas Lakes while minimizing conflicts between users and protecting lake water quality and habitat.

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<th>Start/end dates</th>
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<td>Post slow-no-wake signs at the boat landings on each lake that also list the state statute</td>
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4. Evaluate Solutions & Alternatives

- Many management options available.
- Assess based on feasibility for your lake (money, time, lake user needs, technical feasibility).
- Use Management Option Tables to help guide you!
Management Options: Aquatic Plants

- Identify Bottom Ownership
- Work with different HOA or bottom owners to create a joint treatment plan; it saves money and prevents over treatment
Management Options: Fish

Fish and Aquatic Plants
- Healthy plants = Healthy fish
- Cover and Protection (Too much aquatic plants can create a stunted population of pan-fish)
- Set aside areas for aquatic plants
- Properly designed and installed Aerators - if needed
5. Take Action

- Write your plan.
- Create a timeline.
- Begin on your action steps.
6. Monitor & Evaluate

• Develop a mechanism for tracking activities and monitoring successes and obstacles.
• Monitoring process may require collecting data
  • Water Quality
  • Plant Surveys
  • Community Surveys
• Project documentation critical!
  • Detailed records of activities, expenses, time and labor.
7. Re-assess & Modify

- Lake Management Plans are fluid and can change.
- Lakes change over time.
- Needs may change over time.
- New management options may be needed or become available.
Resources - Documents

- Lake Management Plan Guide Overview
  - 7 Steps
- Lake Management Plan Template
- Lake Management Option Tables
- Goal Worksheet & Goal Examples
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