



Village of Pewaukee Aquatic Plant Collection Policy

Purpose:

A periodic permit application is written and submitted by the Director of Public Works and granted to the Village of Pewaukee under Section 23.24, Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code NR 109 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to conduct mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants over approximately 60 acres of Pewaukee Lake, in Section 8, Township 7 North, Range 19 East, in the Village of Pewaukee. This permit is historically issued for a five-year term, with the current permit expiring December 31, 2026

In general, the permit indicates the Village will be authorized to harvest in approximately 60 acres within the Village of Pewaukee. Specific dimensions and location of channels, and depth of cut follow the Pewaukee Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update, dated May 2017, with guidance from the Lake Management Plan for Pewaukee Lake, (Southeast regional Planning Commission), June, 2020. Specific plants are targeted and the depth of harvesting is calendar based and varies due to anticipated fish spawning periods. No requirements within the DNR harvesting permit govern collection of lake weeds off public lakefront areas, the beach, or for riparian property owners.

This policy intends to describe rules and guidelines, setting anticipated expectations for riparian property owners, elected officials, and provide for Village staff to conduct safe, efficient, and productive management and collection of aquatic weeds within the Village limits. These expectations are subject to the availability of staff and the other limitations set forth in this policy.

Standards for Aquatic Plant Management:

- Collection of aquatic plants from private landowners requires that all plants shall be placed in piles on a barge accessible shore location with a 26-foot minimum space between piers, water craft, and boat-lifts, or on the end of a pier. This placement facilitates pick up, avoids damage to private property (piers and watercraft), the hull of the barge on shoreline and shallow water obstructions, and allows employees to safely transfer the plant material to the barge. The determination of whether specific areas of shoreline are accessible shall be at the discretion of public works staff or designee.
- Traversing rocky, steep, and wet shoreline areas, and wading in shallow areas while carrying pitchforks and wearing waders creates a significant liability exposure for the Village and the possibility of injury to harvesting staff. Village employees will not risk their safety and risk personal injury to retrieve weeds on rip rap and steep or rocky slopes. Harvesters will not generally proceed closer to the shoreline than the end of piers except as indicated above for shallow depth pile retrieval. Where a barge accessible property shoreline consists of rip rap or rocks between its entire limits, a pile may be placed for collection on the rocks in a location mutually acceptable to collection staff and the property owner.
- Subject to staff availability, fully operational equipment, and weather permitting, weed pile collection will be performed three to five days a week per the priorities indicated below. Equal consideration will be given to both the north and south sides of the lake. Plants must be free of

trash, such as cans, tree limbs, leaves, etc. Where collection off a pier can be safely made from the side of a pier or where a shallow water pile collection is made, a 26-foot minimum space between piers, water craft, and boat-lifts, is required to safely maneuver the barge to the pick-up point. If in the opinion of the harvester operator (and after notifying the riparian owner), these conditions are not met, the Village will not collect plant material at that property.

- Priorities for weed harvesting and collection in order are: the lakefront beach and adjacent lakefront shorelines; the Laimon Park boat launch area; mechanically harvesting areas parallel to shorelines and navigation channels per the permit, and collection of floating weed masses, (which can be wind deposited on shorelines); then removing piled collected weeds from piers and shorelines meeting the criteria indicated above. No cutting below the surface will occur on Fridays due to weed fragmenting. Emphasis will be given to pile collection weekly Monday and Friday.
- Collection and harvesting will generally begin upon the arrival of seasonal employees, when available, approximately Memorial Day. Regular collection will cease with the departure of seasonal employees, generally immediately before the Labor Day weekend. Provided continuing seasonal staff are available or the availability of full-time employee crew, limited harvesting will occur after Labor Day during September of each year. A final pile collection will be conducted after the last Sunday in September. All piles must be placed for collection by 7 am the following day, and weather permitting will be collected by the following Friday. Harvesting watercraft, shore stations, and other equipment will be removed from the lake for seasonal servicing immediately after this final collection.

This policy is subject to amendment from time to time by the Village Board coinciding with an aquatic harvesting permit. Public works staff will endeavor to harvest and collect plants in accordance with this policy and in accordance with the state permit; however, its ability to do so will be subject to the availability of staff and the need to address other pressing public works issues, including insuring safe and compliant water supply and sanitary sewer operations. The Village cannot guaranty that lake weeds will be harvested and collected as anticipated by this policy.