

## **WEBSTER LAKE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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### **WLCA Year-end Weed Report and Funding Request – October, 2017**

In October, 2017, Webster Lake Conservation Association (WLCA) and its contractor, Aquatic Control, Inc., brought to the attention of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) that several areas of Webster Lake were again seeing Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), an invasive aquatic weed, approaching or spreading on the surface of the water. This weed can and has negatively impacted navigation in Webster Lake.

Likewise, weed chop caused by boat engine propellers cutting through the weed mass drifts to and collects in thick masses at the shoreline fouling beach areas as it decomposes. Also, many of the pieces of the weed chop will take root and grow, thus re-populating the weed and spreading it to new areas. Because EWM can live through the winter, even under ice cover, and rebound in early spring, WLCA, with the permission of the IDNR, made the unprecedented decision to order a late fall kill treatment on 79 acres of EWM. That treatment was applied on October 17. *Please see the map of the areas of the lake treated in October below the text of this e-mail.*

In May, 2017, WLCA and Aquatic Control, with the permission of IDNR, treated to kill 60 acres of EWM in different locations on the lake. In addition to these two EWM treatments, WLCA paid the full cost of a partial shoreline/channel general weed treatment in mid-May and a full shoreline/channel general weed treatment in late June. Without these shoreline/channel treatments, Webster Lake channels would be virtually impassable and its shoreline thick with weeds and weed chop making both navigation and fishing very difficult.

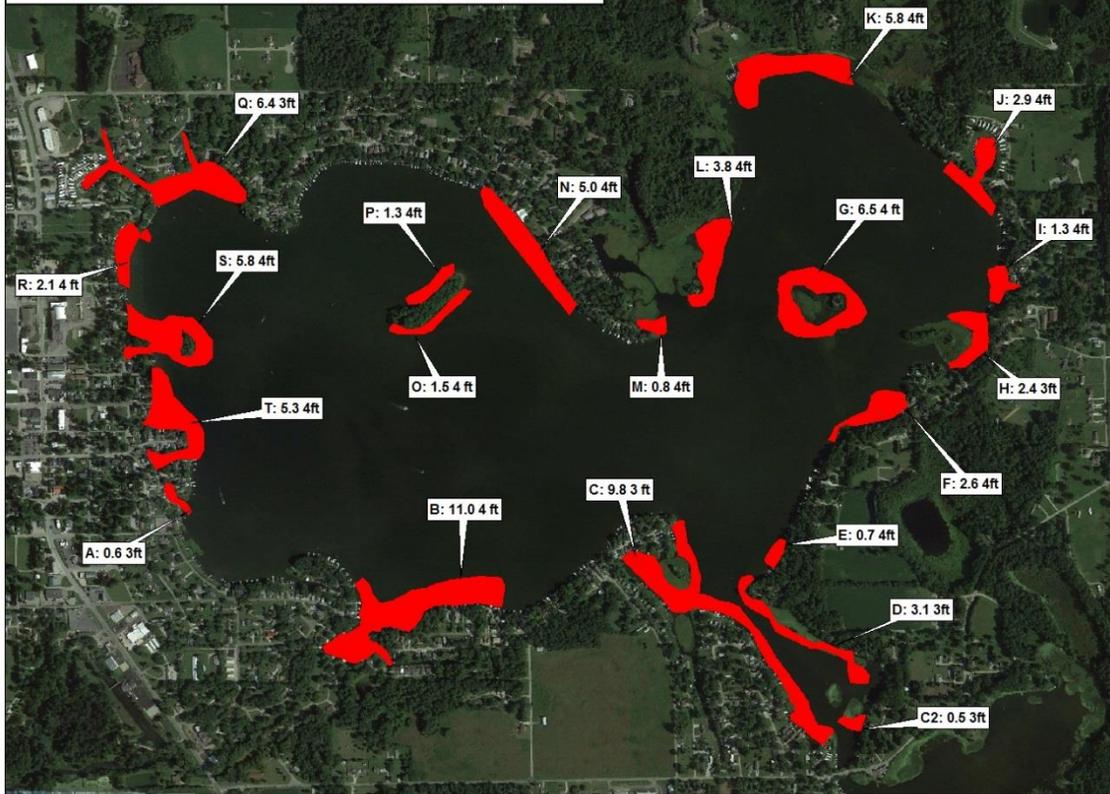
The costs of treatments to kill EWM are partially covered by a LARE grant with the balance of the cost being paid by WLCA using your dues moneys and designated contributions to its Weed Fund. WLCA has spent \$38,239 solely on weed treatment applications for Webster Lake in 2017. Additionally this year, WLCA will be spending approximately \$2,800 toward the costs involved in a joint project with Epworth Forest Church Camp and the IDNR to stop the further erosion of the Kline Island shoreline. Unchecked erosion will not only reduce the size of the island and the depth of the lake, but will also provide more nutrients for weed growth. Total weed and restoration costs for 2017 will exceed \$41,000.

WLCA anticipates that costs for similar weed treatment applications and Kline Island shoreline restoration will be at least as much in 2018.

**In light of these current and on-going expenses, WLCA asks that you please consider joining us as a member, if you are not already supporting this organization. Also, as a current member or a new member, please consider sending an additional generous contribution designated to the Weed Fund when you pay your 2018 dues. It is not too late to pay your 2017 dues and/or contribute to the Weed Fund.**

**Please keep all of the above in mind when you receive your 2018 membership invoice. Your membership and extra contributions are essential in the work of maintaining Webster Lake as one of the best lakes in the area**

Webster Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Areas 10/12/17 (79.2 acres)



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