

North Lake: Late-season Vegetation Survey Summary

The LakeScan™ late-season vegetation survey on North Lake took place on Thursday, August 18, 2022. Weather was sunny and partly cloudy with temperatures reaching 80 degrees and 5mph winds from the west. Visibility through the water column was good with a Secchi disk depth of 12.2ft.

Overall, the lake appears to be in great condition. Chara, Illinois pondweed, variable pondweed, large-leaf pondweed, and wild celery were the most common native aquatic plant species observed during the late-season survey. Chara was the most widely distributed species observed and was regularly found intermixed with native pondweed species. The native pondweeds and wild celery were observed at moderate abundances both nearshore and offshore. In a few areas these native species were observed exhibiting high densities and growing at or near the water's surface. Areas observed with the greatest nuisance conditions include the northeast lobe (AROS 367-371 & 455-459), the southwest lobe (AROS 231-235, 328-335, 343-349, 435-444), and along the southeast shoreline (AROS 412-417). Prior to our survey, Huron Lakes Weed Control had just finished harvesting. This provided relief to many of the recreational and navigational nuisance conditions the pondweeds created in offshore areas.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) observed in North Lake during the late season survey include Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and starry stonewort (SSW). EWM was observed at low densities within only a handful of AROS around the lake. This suggests that the early seasons treatment was effective at controlling EWM throughout the recreational season. Starry stonewort was the most widely distributed AIS. Typically, SSW was observed growing at low to moderate densities in nearshore areas and greater densities offshore (Tier 5 AROS). Starry stonewort had only presented nuisance conditions in one of the canals (AROS 621-622), but otherwise did not present nuisance conditions.