



Aquatic Weed Harvesting Update

By [Andy Gehron](#) 07/02/2012 15:24:00



The lake weed harvester began operation for the season on May 4th. This year it has been operating five days a week, with some of those days having extended hours. To date, 382 cubic yards of aquatic plants have been removed from the lake...which is 64 truckloads of lake weeds disposed of just this year! During the same period last year, 94 cubic yards of aquatic plants were removed from the lake.

The mild winter and warm spring have contributed to the explosive growth of two invasive weed species. We can expect another summer of heavy weed growth and the Village has dedicated its available resources to combat this problem.

The Village weed harvesting plan was developed in consultation the Lake County Lakes Management Unit. The areas that are cut on any given day are highly dependent upon wind conditions. Wind speed and direction can make it more difficult to capture the cut weeds and can actually push the weed harvester ashore in shallow areas. It can also make it difficult to get close to piers and docked vessels.

To better control the invasive weed species, the Village is developing a comprehensive multi-year lake management plan. The goal of the plan is to evaluate Bangs Lake and determine the best courses of action necessary to establish and maintain proper balance between aquatic plants, fishery, animals, and other elements so that Bangs Lake remains a healthy and viable body of water for year-round active and passive recreation.

Once a plan is developed, it will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for review. The review process averages seven months. Through this project, the Village will be seeking alternative sources of funding to support the additional costs associated with new weed control methods. This project is expected to be completed by summer of 2014.