



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project Public (Virtual) Open House

April 8, 2020

Information from Presentation and Questions and Answers

April/May 2020: Aquatic plant survey and herbicide treatment of curly-leaf pondweed

Summer 2020: Carp management in Sweeney Lake and Schaper Pond

Fall 2020: First alum treatment, applied below the water's surface

Residents along the lakeshore will be notified before the alum treatment. The treatment should take approximately 5 days to complete.

Q: Will increased plant growth in Sweeney Lake impact recreational boating?

A: It's possible boating will be slightly impacted in areas of the lake that are <15 feet deep. Plant growth in areas between 10 and 15 feet deep is expected to become denser. However, most growth will be in plants that are submerged, or below the water's surface, rather than in plants that grow on or near the surface.

Q: Will increased plant growth affect the channel between Sweeney and Twin Lakes?

A: Since the channel between Sweeney and Twin Lakes is about 3 feet deep or less, it is not expected that plant growth will be affected.

Q: Will there be any impacts to Twin Lake?

A: There are no expected impacts to Twin Lake as there are no project activities slated for Twin. Although it's not expected due to previous surveys, if carp are discovered at significant levels in Twin Lake, carp management may be needed in the lake.

Q: Was the Twin Lake alum treatment successful?

A: Yes, monitoring completed after the alum treatment in 2013 showed that it had controlled the phosphorus levels in the bottom of Twin Lake. More recent monitoring continues to indicate that a second phase of alum treatment is not necessary at this time.

Q: Are there other fish that cause water quality issues?

A: Carp have the most significant impact on water quality due to their disruptive activity at the bottom of the lake which stirs up sediment and can release nutrients. Other fish species are not likely to impact water quality in Sweeney Lake.

Q: Can we use our dock-mounted aerator?

A: Yes, assuming you have any needed MDNR permits.