

# BLCLA updated a weed control, buffers

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Preparing for the fall leaves, cold weather and the inevitable freezing of the lakes, the Big Lake Community Lake Association is developing and ultimately completing plans for the coming year.

Audrey Kuchinski and Chip Welling of the DNR spoke to the association at their recent meeting, explaining decisions made in the treatments of Big Lake and Lake Mitchell.

With a request of 7.72 acres to be treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed on Lake Mitchell, permission was granted for the entire acres requested to be treated.

For Big Lake, the greatest area of concern found contained an abundant growth of chara, a native plant. If these native plants are eradicated, they leave a void that is easily filled by Eurasian Millfoil.

Kuchinski agreed to survey the lakes for a second time, but did emphasize to the association no one has been able to completely get rid of

the Milfoil. "The goal is to manage the problem areas," she said.

The association then voted and approved the contribution of \$3,000 towards building a handicap accessible fishing pier to be located on the west side of Lake Mitchell.

Working with the City of Big Lake and the Jaycees, the project was recently discussed by the City of Big Lake Park Board.

"It has been talked about at the park board level," explained Public Works Director Mike Goebel,

"Before we go for city approval, we want to see about other possible donations to the project."

BLCLA member Jim Ridgeway presented plans from the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District for the city's greenways to be restored. The plans are completed and will be submitted to the DNR for approval of the beginning target date in June 2009.

Of 19 greenways identified for treatments within the city,

Washington Avenue and Crescent Street greenways located on Big Lake are the two the association is recommending to treat first.

Both greenways shows significant signs of erosion and damage.

"This is a project we plan to span over a few years," said association member Gayle Jones.

The greenways will be treated with shoreline buffers, a planting of shrubs, native plants and wild flowers along the shoreline.

The buffers help filter runoff of pollutants while reducing erosion.

"It is all a recommendation, nothing is finalized yet," explained Mark Basiletti of Sherburne County Soil and Water.

Preparing for snowfall, the association is also presenting an additional project of designating snowmobile crossings for the winter.

The crossings will be on the point, near the channel between Big Lake and Lake Mitchell.