

Dear Friends and Neighbors of Sunset Lake,

The Sunset Lake Association of Portage County was founded to preserve and enhance Sunset Lake's natural beauty and ecological balance.

We are reaching out to request financial support for our highest priority project aimed at addressing the proliferation of Eurasian Water Milfoil. Eurasian Water Milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that poses a risk to the health and biodiversity of our lake ecosystem.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is a submerged aquatic plant native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. It was introduced to North America in the 19th century and has since spread rapidly across many freshwater bodies, including Sunset Lake. If left unchecked it can form dense mats that can choke out native vegetation, impair water quality, and disrupt aquatic habitats. Its rapid spread and dense growth make it extremely difficult to manage and eradicate, posing a significant challenge to the ecological balance of our lake.

The presence of EWM in Sunset Lake threatens not only the aesthetic appeal of the lake, but also its ecological integrity. Dense mats of this invasive plant can impede boating, swimming, and other recreational activities, negatively impacting the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, EWM can alter water chemistry, deplete oxygen levels, and provide poor habitat for native fish and wildlife, further compromising the health of the lake ecosystem.



Sunset Lake Association wants to be proactive and remove as much EWM as possible from the lake each year to ensure that it never reaches the level shown in the picture above. We are seeking financial assistance to hire professional divers experienced in aquatic invasive species management. The divers are able to access and remove plants that are in deeper water and can't be reached by wading or snorkeling volunteers. The funds raised will be dedicated solely to the removal and control of Eurasian Water Milfoil from Sunset Lake. Our goal is to implement effective management strategies that will mitigate the spread of this invasive plant and maintain the ecological balance of our lake for the benefit of present and future generations.

We estimate the total cost of the project to be between \$10,000 and \$15,000. \$1,829 for identifying and mapping the EWM plus \$2,600/Day for Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) removal and disposal of the invasive plants. Our goal is to hire the boat and crew for 4-5 days.

We assure you that all donated funds will be used exclusively for this project, with full transparency and accountability to our donors through our website <https://sunsetlakeportageco.com/>. No donated funds will be allocated for any other Lake Association activities. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so all donations are tax deductible. Donations can be mailed to:

Sunset Lake Association, Katie Simenson – Treasurer, 321 Travellers Run, Burlington, WI 53105

So far we have raised over \$3000 for the project. Your generous support will make a significant difference in our efforts to combat the spread of EWM and preserve the health and beauty of Sunset Lake. Together, we can safeguard this valuable natural resource for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

Thank you for considering our request. If you require any further information or would like to discuss this project in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact Pat Quigley directly at 715-937-1334 or sunsetlakepoco@gmail.com