



MEMORANDUM

DOUGLAS HARBOR AUTHORITY

April 16, 2024 at 4:30 PM

TO: Douglas Harbor Authority

FROM: Jenny Pearson, Project Manager

SUBJECT: 2024 Harbor Treatment Update

For the past 4 years the City of Douglas has contracted with Aquatic Doctors Lake Management of Grand Rapids in an effort to control the invasive species rapidly spreading over Wade's Bayou and the Douglas Harbor. Invasive aquatic species such as Eurasian milfoil, duck weed, and coon-tail were unsightly and made boating recreation extremely difficult. The treatment applications achieved great results and the City received a considerable amount of positive feedback. Controlling invasive aquatic species benefits the community as a whole and improves water quality, encourages establishment of natural aquatic species, improves recreational value of the harbor, and draws visitors to the community.

With the 2024 summer season approaching, the intent is to treat the harbor once again. The proposed treatment area will be the waterfront areas from Schultz Park to the Union Street boat launch. While the municipality does not own the waters of the lake, the City may serve as a coordinator for activities that impact the quality of the harbor.

Treatment dates are tentatively scheduled for June 11 and July 16. Authorization letters have been mailed and when the treatment dates get closer a notice will be mailed to all residents within a 300ft reach of the waterfront.

Moving forward Aquatic Drs feel the best option would be to continue to manage the growth each year, even if on a smaller scale. After the 2024 season they feel we will have gotten most of the growth under control. They suggest entering into the maintenance portion of the program by keeping control of what we have gained and not letting the harbor slip back to being overgrown. After this season they feel the City will be able to manage a smaller area and the cost should go down. Each year could be different depending on the weather, but the program is working, and we are seeing the results and believe we are on the right track to long term improvements.