

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

To: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission

From: Kristine Butteris, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Date: 4/15/2025

Subject: Lake Victoria Findings

Background

From as early as 1979, where it was discovered that the Department of Local Affairs and Development was the coordinating agency charge with enforcement of Lake Oscala which would later be known as Lake Victoria.

There have been several attempts to donate Lake Victoria to the City of Watertown in 1995 and in 1996 to which the City of Watertown has declined the donation both times.

The isthmus that connects both Heiden Pond and Lake Victoria was, however, accepted in 1996.

In 2000, it was brought to the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission, to consider a request to chemically treat Lake Victoria's weed and algae issues. It was denied. The reasons were as follows:

- The City owns more than half of the frontage adjacent to Heiden Pond and owns less than a quarter of the frontage of Lake Victoria which is the isthmus and the South 3rd St. right of way.
- The culvert connecting Heiden Pond to Lake Victoria is not a major contributor to the weed problems in Lake Victoria.
- The nutrients that are causing the weed issues in the lake are likely from the yards of the homes.

Budget Goal

Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity

Financial Impact

There would be increasing costs to the City of Watertown to treat Lake Victoria.

Recommendation

With the history of this property, all of the questions as to who maintains the body of water are very clearly stated that it is not the responsibility of the City of Watertown to maintain.