

## Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Chairperson Arnett and Commission Members  
From: Andrew Beyer P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer  
Date: May 8, 2025  
Subject: Public Works Commission Meeting of May 13, 2025

### Update, no action required: Lake Victoria Vegetation Management

#### Background

A request was received from property owners abutting Lake Victoria for assistance in managing aquatic vegetation. The City owns land adjacent to Lake Victoria between Franklin Street and Boomer Street as part of Clark Park. In January, the Public Works Commission reviewed the request and tasked staff with examining the ownership of Lake Victoria and drafting a comprehensive, city-wide aquatic vegetation management policy for City-owned waterfront property.

The packet presented to the Commission in January is attached for reference.

#### **Ownership:**

The City Attorney has determined that the City does not have any claim to Lake Victoria, and the Lake would belong to the State of Wisconsin as reserved by the WI constitution.

#### **Policy:**

City staff met to discuss next steps in development of a draft policy pertaining to aquatic vegetation management for City-owned waterfront. Staff continues to work through draft policy details which will be presented to the Commission at a later date. Policy details to include:

1. Aquatic vegetation management of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulated bodies of water like rivers, streams, and lakes
2. Vegetation management of City-owned stormwater management facilities
3. Vegetation management of City-owned ditches and swales

## Budget Goal

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure in an effort to ensure quality, safety and compliance

## Financial Impact

The Public Works Department does not have funds allocated for aquatic plant management of Lake Victoria in the 2025 budget.

## Recommendation

Staff recommends no financial commitment at this time for aquatic vegetation management at Lake Victoria. A comprehensive draft policy for City-owned waterfront vegetation management is currently in development and will be presented to the Public Works Commission for review at a future meeting.