

Management Plan for Becker and South Twin Lakes

Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Invasive Species

Fish, other aquatic biota, and many terrestrial animals depend on aquatic plants for food and habitat including spawning areas. Aquatic plants also help to baffle waves thus reducing shoreline erosion and some species of plants (water lilies) help to keep the water cool in the summer. Healthy aquatic plant communities, along with a vigilant watch, will help to limit any aquatic invasive species from becoming established in South Twin and Becker Lakes.

***Vision:** The Becker and South Twin Lakes planning committee envisions maintaining the aquatic plant communities of Becker and South Twin Lakes for the visual appearance, habitat quality, and benefits to water quality.*

Goal:

Objective:

Actions	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
Learn about native aquatic plants in South Twin and Becker Lakes through plant identification workshops.			Golden Sands RC&D Invasive Species Coordinator
Share information about the importance and maintenance of native aquatic plants in South Twin and Becker Lakes			UWEX Lakes WI DNR Lakes Specialist UWSP
Provide information on the rare and endangered species present on South Twin and Becker Lakes			
Communicate the science of how turbidity impacts the plant species on South Twin and Becker Lakes			
Routinely survey the aquatic plant community on South Twin Lake to determine if species are being lost or the plant community is changing			

Goal: Prevent any aquatic invasive species from becoming established in Becker and South Twin Lakes

Objective:

Actions	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
Learn to identify native and invasive species			Golden Sands RC&D Invasive Species

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			Coordinator
Form a group of citizens to routinely monitor for new aquatic invasive species.			Golden Sands RC&D Invasive Species Coordinator UWEX Lakes
Utilize the Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan if new invasive species are found			UWSP

Shorelands and Critical Habitat

Shorelands are some of the most important habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, including birds, in and near lakes. Intact vegetative shorelines also help to slow runoff moving to the lake and filter runoff before it enters the lake. Protecting and restoring shorelines help to provide scenery, solitude, and privacy, as well as natural space for lake residents to enjoy nature. Shorelands also include any fallen trees and branches that rest in the water. This woody material provides habitat for young fish, frogs, turtles, birds, and other creatures. The majority of shorelands around both South Twin and Becker Lakes are natural and native vegetation is in tact.

***Vision:** The planning committee of Becker and South Twin Lakes envision maintaining natural shorelines around Becker and South Twin Lakes to preserve the scenic quality and wildlife habitat.*

Goal: Protect and restore healthy stable shoreland habitats near and around Becker and South Twin Lakes

Objective:

Actions	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
Share information on importance of native vegetation and native shorelands for the health of the lake			Portage County Land Cons Dept UWEX Lakes
Explore conservation easements for willing shoreland owners			North East Conservancy Trust North Central Conservancy Trust NRCS
Provide clarification to landowners on the boating ordinances			

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(No wake within 100 feet of shore) and how this can protect shorelands			
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Objective: Shorelands will all meet state/county shoreland zoning ordinances

Actions	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
Landowners will be familiar with Portage County shoreland zoning ordinances and their purposes for protecting water quality, habitat, etc.			UWSP Center for Land Use Education Portage County Planning and Zoning

Water Quality and Land Use

South Twin and Becker Lakes are host to a wide variety of plants, insects, fish, amphibians, and a variety of other animals that all depend on good water quality in the lake. Survey respondents on South Twin Lake felt that the water quality was either good or excellent, while respondents on Becker Lake felt the water quality was Poor. Citizens who were familiar with the lake felt that overall the water quality in South Twin Lake had stayed the same over time, while the water quality in Becker Lake had declined.

Vision:

Goal:

Objectives:

Action	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
Monitor the water quality in South Twin and Becker Lakes to establish baseline data and determine if changes are taking place			
Work on increasing land management practices that protect water quality in South Twin and Becker Lakes			
Communicate the science of how turbidity can impact			

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the water quality in South Twin and Becker Lakes			

Fishing and Recreation

Vision:

Goal:

Objective:

Action	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
Obtain fisheries information on South Twin Lake			
Learn if and how turbidity can affect the fisheries on South Twin Lake			

Vision:

Goal:

Objectives:

Actions	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources
			WDNR

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Organization/Communication

Vision:

Goals:

Objectives:

Action	Lead person/group	Start/end dates	Resources