



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING



PROJECT NAME

The Onota Lake Preservation Strategy

INTRODUCTION

Environmental staff are working in partnership with the Lake Onota Preservation Association (LOPA) and the City of Pittsfield to implement The Onota Lake Preservation Strategy. The strategy is a critical step in whole watershed management for the lake. It is made up of three complimentary components:

1) Addressing the re-growth of Eurasian watermilfoil (following a whole-lake herbicide treatment in 2000); 2) An assessment project to obtain information necessary to pursue long-range management objectives; and 3) Monitoring and outreach that expands the current volunteer water quality monitoring program and citizen involvement.

The project is funded through five competitive grants:

1. Department of Environmental Protection (s319),
2. Department of Environmental Management Lakes & Ponds Grant Program,
3. Berkshire Environmental Fund Community Improvement Projects,
4. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Volunteer Monitoring Assistance Program, and
5. Massachusetts Environmental Trust Environmental Monitoring Program.



Public Dock at Onota Lake

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The project is piloting several non-chemical methods of invasive weed control.
- The project is being held up as a model for lake watershed management statewide.

STATUS/NEXT STEPS

Ultimately, the partners in this effort hope to reduce the dependency on herbicides and protect and enhance the natural environment for both current and future users. Onota Lake is a valuable environmental and recreational resource in the Berkshires. This series of projects will continue the years of watershed management and implementation activities conducted through a strong partnership between BRPC, LOPA, and the City.

For more information on this program or other current Environmental Planning projects contact Amy Pfeufer at 442-1521 or apfeufer@berkshireplanning.org.

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