

## **Pipe Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District**

# **10-Year Strategic Plan**

**The Water Quality Committee Core Group initiated this document to provide the strategic framework for long-term management of the Pipe Lakes.**

- **Presented to the Water Quality Committee Auxiliary Group and the District Board on July 20, 2007.**
- **Presented to District members at the 2007 Annual Meeting on September 1st.**
- **Approved by the District Board of Commissioners at its October 12, 2007 meeting.**
- **Updated by the District Board of Commissioners at its January 18, 2008 meeting.**

**The District recognizes that the plan will require implementation guidelines including projections, assumptions, cost estimates, and benchmarks. These additions will be completed as new information and analysis becomes available.**

## The Challenge

We are two lakes - one community. Our two lakes came into existence over 10000 years ago when the last glaciers in this area receded. With the formation of the lakes, a community of plants and animals started to develop. Over many years, this community evolved into a healthy ecosystem, without the help of humans. Today this community includes people as well. Collectively, we desire much of the natural character that existed in and around the lakes prior to our presence. At the same time, we also desire the opportunity to enjoy the many forms of recreation that a lake offers. Accomplishing these two desires at the same time is a major challenge. This challenge results because, as humans, we have the capacity to degrade many of the natural things we came to the lake for. A tool is needed to help us maintain the best possible balance between enjoying a natural setting and at the same time enjoying the variety of recreational opportunities available to us. The tool we recommend is a Strategic Plan that will mobilize public support for lake protection and management and identify ambitious goals and benchmarks for success. This plan will be updated from time to time as necessary to reflect new information and changing community needs. Certain elements of the plan will require implementation guidelines including detailed projections, assumptions, costs and benchmarks.

## Vision

Our vision is a healthy lake ecosystem that attracts, protects, and balances the needs of all living species.

## Mission

The mission of the Pipe Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District is to improve and protect the waters and associated watershed area for the safe use and enjoyment of all.

## 10-Year Key Goals

1. Develop broad community support and involvement for long term protection and enhancement of the lakes, watershed and habitat for native plants, animals, birds and fish. *The actions of each of us collectively determine the quality of our lakes.*
2. Improve average water clarity through significant reduction of annual phosphorus loading by 2015. *Improved clarity makes our lakes more enjoyable and enhances our property values.*
3. Avoid Eurasian watermilfoil, Curly leaf pondweed and other invasive species. *Our children and grandchildren will want to enjoy what we now have - waterways not clogged with invasive plants.*

## Strategy Overview

Strategic Directions	Proposed Actions	Measures of Success
Educate, motivate and sustain support from shoreland owners, visitors, community leaders, and public officials.	Develop new & improved communication tools Encourage establishing a privately supported stewardship fund Promote broad-based participation in lake protection Develop demonstration projects that show what works	Support of lakeshore and watershed owners Support of public agencies and elected officials Newsletter/website enhancements Number of website visits Stewardship fund participation Number of volunteers Conference/workshop attendance
Initiate projects in the outer watershed to reduce runoff and protect/enhance habitat.	Create partnerships with land owners for Runoff control projects and Land conservation Seek public agency help for projects	Phosphorus delivered by streams Acres protected or enhanced Length of stream corridors preserved
Initiate projects with shoreland owners to reduce runoff and protect/enhance habitat.	Provide shoreline restoration cost sharing Provide support for runoff reduction beyond the shoreline area Seek public agency help for projects Promote citizen awareness of sensitive areas	Amount of natural shoreline added or enhanced Reductions beyond shoreline area Land owner participation
Protect against entrenchment of invasive plant and animal species.	Continue lake inspections for invasive species Continue education and greeting program (CBCW) at landing Promote citizen awareness Develop invasive species contingency strategies	Control invasive species Number of watercraft users greeted Area of aquatic plant zone inspected annually Volunteer hours
Monitor and interpret information on the lakes and their watersheds.	Collect lake clarity and chemistry data Monitor stream phosphorus delivered to lakes Maintain trained primary and backup volunteers Assess need for special studies each year.	Annual monitoring % completion In-lake phosphorus concentration Average summer Secchi depth New understanding gained