

Grants fight aquatic plants

Weed control addressed by LARE grants

KPC NEWS SERVICE

INDIANAPOLIS — Grants that will address aquatic plant removal in some lakes have been approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources through its Lake and River Enhancement program.

The grants were awarded by DNR director Cameron F. Clark through the Lake and River Enhancement program in the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.

The 42 projects involve 62 lakes and one river in 15 counties. The applications were submitted by local sponsors who share at least 20 percent of the total cost.

For a list of 2019-2020 grant awardees, visit wildlife.IN.gov/3304.htm.

LARE grants are funded through the LARE fee paid by boat owners annually when they register their boats with the Bureau

of Motor Vehicles. This user-funded program benefits boaters all over the state. The grants allow for the completion of projects that would be difficult for many local organizations to fund on their own.

"Using LARE grants to control aquatic invasive plants in lakes is just one aspect of our ongoing efforts to restore or improve aquatic habitat for fish," said Mark Reiter, director of DNR Fish & Wildlife. "Controlling invasive species gives native vegetation a better chance to propagate which can improve recreational opportunities for anglers and boaters on many popular public lakes."

The grants will help control or manage aggressive non-native species, including Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and starry stonewort, that can take over and clog lakes. The grants can also provide economic benefits to lake communities by improving and increasing public access opportunities for those who fish or pleasure boat.

Learn more about LARE

WEEDS: Numerous projects funded by LARE

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at wildlife.IN.gov/2364.htm.

The local projects receiving grant funding include:

- Adams Lake, LaGrange, \$21,600
- Atwood Lake, LaGrange, \$7,920
- Big Long Lake, LaGrange, \$16,000
- Big Turkey and Henry Lakes, Steuben and LaGrange, \$36,000
- Crooked Lake, Steuben, \$6,500
- Hamilton Lake, Steuben, \$39,000
- Jimmerson Lake, Steuben, \$14,500
- Lake George, Steuben, \$6,500
- Lake Pleasant, Steuben, \$22,900
- Pretty Lake, LaGrange, \$6,100
- Snow Lake, Steuben, \$6,320
- Stone and Brokesha Lakes, LaGrange, \$13,460
- Sylvan Lake, Noble, \$5,000
- Wall Lake, LaGrange, \$12,000
- West Lakes Chain (Jones, Steinbarger, Tamarack, Waldron), Noble, \$13,000
- West Otter Lake, Steuben, \$22,200