

MEDIA RELEASE

Village of Vernon Hills

290 Evergreen Drive • Vernon Hills, IL 60061
847-367-3700 • www.vernonhills.org

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Contact: Dave Brown, Public Works Director/Village Engineer: 847-918-3544, DaveB@vhills.org

Contact: Carissa Hansen, Public Works Admin Assist: 847-680-2270, CarissaH@vhills.org

Pond Treatments Underway in Vernon Hills

Vernon Hills, IL – Vernon Hills is home to many ponds and lakes, and those areas are now receiving extra attention. Village contractor's have begun treating ponds around the community for algae as well as invasive species.

“The majority of the ponds have not been treated in twenty years,” explains Vernon Hills Public Works Director Dave Brown. “It will require some initial impacts, but this is a necessary evil to address the needs of the ponds.”

Pond management requires several steps and a measured pace. Due to the current conditions of the ponds and potential concerns of a fish kill, the management of the ponds is now underway and proceeding at the appropriate pace.

Ponds are being treated for algae as well as for invasive aquatic plants. Many of the ponds around the Village are determined to have a high concentration of Eurasian Watermilfoil, an invasive non-native plant that forms thick tangles of stems underwater and mats of vegetation at the surface – all of which choke out native species.

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Residents should note that initial pond treatments will cause Watermilfoil plants to turn brown and wilt within the next week. As the plants die, this will in turn produce additional nutrients, which will likely cause algae blooms. The Village's contractor is poised to target the algae blooms as they occur, though that treatment must take a slower pace to avoid depleting each pond's dissolved oxygen supply, which could in turn lead to a larger concern of a fishkill.

"Unfortunately, things may get worse before they get better," warns Brown, noting that the initial treatment will cause noticeable changes as the Watermilfoil begin to decay. "Staff and contractors will work to manage and mitigate this process, working at an appropriate pace to maintain healthy balance in these ecosystems."

Should you have questions, please contact David Brown, Director of Public Works at DaveB@vhills.org.

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