



▫Aquatic Weed Control ▫Lake Restoration
▫Retention Pond Renovation

Utilizing the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) funding format is a common practice in Seminole County for aquatic weed control and/or lake restoration projects designed to improve aquatic conditions. Aquatic weed control and/or lake restoration efforts serve public purpose by improving water quality, controlling invasive plant species, restoring native vegetation, improving use of waterways, and in some circumstances enhancing storm water control. By definition of benefit, lakefront parcels are included in both aquatic weed control and lake restoration MSBUs and are, therefore, assessed a cost share for the improvements provided. [Note: MSBUs purposed solely for storm water control improvement and/or retention pond renovations are structured and defined on a case-by-case basis.]

The routine operations and management of aquatic weed control MSBUs are governed locally through the establishment of MSBU Ordinances approved and established by the Seminole County BCC. The improvement efforts are funded by assessments levied against benefiting waterfront parcels. The creation of an MSBU, as well as the on-going efforts to provide improvements requires community involvement and support.

The initial step in evaluating the needs and recommendations for aquatic improvements may include water quality surveys and analyses to determine aquatic health and needs. After the evaluation has been completed, a plan is formulated to work toward optimum water quality and healthy aquatic conditions. The defined plan for a particular project may contain several features:

1. Chemical control of invasive species through herbicide treatments;
2. Biological control of hydrilla with triploid grass carp (installation of fish barrier(s) frequently required in conjunction with stocking of carp);
3. Mechanical removal of exotic/invasive vegetation;
4. Excavating to remove accumulated sediment;
5. Offsite disposal of excavated material;
6. Creation of wildlife spoil islands with use of excavated material;
7. Shoreline planting of native-species plants via participatory planting events with residents and other volunteers;
8. Ongoing lake surveys to monitor water quality and health.

Aquatic weed control plans typically include features 1, 2, 7 and 8; while lake restoration plans may include all listed features. When the initial plans are formalized, cost and priorities will be highlighted. Final plans will be based on the parameters of available resources. Please contact the MSBU Program at 407-665-7178 for further information.