

Photographic Comparisons of Flowering Rush Infestations, Detroit and Curfman Lakes, 2005-2010

After what appeared to be an very successful experimental treatment in 2004, the District expanded its use of Habitat (Imazapyr) to several treatment sites on Detroit and Curfman Lakes during 2005. Results from this experience were also positive and led to “lake-wide” treatments using the same herbicide from 2006 through 2009. For quite a number of sites on these lakes we had photographs which could be used to illustrate the impacts from the treatments.

Based upon this photographic evidence, it appears that treatments have resulted in substantial reductions of the extent and density of Flowering Rush infestations at many locations. In other cases, particularly with heavy boating and/or swimming activity, the results have been less favorable.

During the five years of treatment (2004-2009), lake levels have varied significantly. This variability interferes with direct year-to-year comparisons in treatment success. During an episode of high water (as in 2007), fewer Flowering Rush plants are visible, leading to the appearance of greater treatment success than may be the case. On the other hand, the perception of treatment failure during a lower water year(following a high water year – e.g. 2008) may be exaggerated.

At some sites, particularly along the Detroit Lakes Public Beach (J&K Marine sites and Public Swimming Beach), hand-removal, and intensive herbicide applications aimed at submerged populations, have produced significant changes.

Site	Treatment years	Photography Years	Summary of treatment success
Busker Beach West	4,5,6,7,8,9	5,6,7,8,9, 10	Reduction in density and extent
Busker Beach East	4,5,6,7,8,9	5,6,7,8,9, 10	Reduction in density and extent
Deadshot Bay North	4,5,6,7,8,9	5,6,7,8,9, 10	Reduction in density and extent
J&K Marine, East	5,6,7,8,9,10	5,6,7,8,9, 10	Major change
J&K Marine, West	5,6,7,8,10	6,7,8,9, 10	Major change
Public Swimming Bch	5,6,7,8,10	6,7,8,9, 10	Major change
Watertower Vista	6,7,8,9	6,7,9, 10	Lowered density, less emergent
Flats (White Clover Vista)	5,6,7,8,9	7,8,9,10	Little apparent change
Hwy 10 Overlook East	5,6,7,8,9	5,8,9,10	Reduction in density and extent
Hwy 10 Overlook West	5,6,7,8,9	7,8,9,10	Little change since 07
North Shore Drive (east)	5,6,7,8,9	6 ,8,9,10	Reduction in density and extent

<p>Note it is inherently difficult to be precise about photographic comparisons given differences in light conditions, camera location, and various camera attributes such as focal length.</p>
