

A New Pond – *What do I Need to Know?*

All new pond owners ask similar questions:

- What benefits will the pond provide?
- What kind of pond do I want?
- How much will it cost to maintain?
- What if I don't want to do the maintenance?
- What specific recreational opportunities exist?
- Am I regulated by the DNR?
- What other items should I consider?

Benefits

Ponds can provide numerous benefits. These include recreational opportunities, aesthetics, increased property value, educational learning, and wildlife habitat to name a few. Your pond can provide hours of enjoyment each season of the year.

Recreational Opportunities

The recreational benefit a pond offers is a key component when owning a pond.

- Summer Fishing
- Wildlife Viewing
- Aesthetics
- Swimming
- Ice Skating
- Hockey
- Broomball
- Ice Fishing
- Dog Training

Regulations, Licenses, and Permits

Several management activities are regulated by the Wisconsin DNR. For example, to **LEGALLY APPLY** algaecides or herbicides requires a license or permit. If it is professionally applied, the applicator is required to hold the proper licenses as well. Obtaining the correct license and permit can seem confusing, but in reality it is very simple and we offer assistance with this process.

For most existing ponds, the two activities that require permits or licenses are fish stocking/removal and algaecide/herbicide applications.



Other Considerations

Ask specific questions about the pond and obtain as much information as possible. Information should include past management efforts, stocking records, problematic areas, etc. Obtain information regarding the construction of the pond such as initial depth, shoreline protection, equipment in place (aeration/fountains), water source, and intended size. If that information is not available you may want to hire a professional to evaluate the pond. Management requirements are often directly related to the structural stability of the pond.



Costs

Management costs are highly variable for each pond and for each owner. Based on our experience, a ½ acre pond can cost as little as \$500/year. Factors to consider are management objectives, overall pond condition, and the individual(s) performing the maintenance. Successful pond management programs always include a management **PLAN**, an established **BUDGET**, and a set **SCHEDULE**.



Integrated Pond Management

IPM programs are really considered “**hands-free**” **management** for the customer. A professional will develop a management plan defining specific parameters including monitoring schedules. Preventative maintenance tools are utilized focusing on water quality improvements, reduction of algaecide/herbicide use, and enhancing aesthetics. IPM is very popular with clients that demand the best from their pond, but do not have the time to perform the maintenance themselves.



For pond management guidance, assistance, and services contact a biologist with Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource LLC. We can help make owning your pond care-free and enjoyable for many years!

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