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Park Lakes and Ponds Crystal Clear

If you walked around Muhlenberg Lake, Dadonna Terrace or the lake in Trexler Park this summer you may have noticed how clear the waters were. Remember last year when our park waters were unsightly due to algae blooms and nuisance and invasive vegetation?

Although concerns were addressed in a timely manner last year, a proactive strategy was needed in order to minimize lake and pond growth this year. The Allentown Dept. of Parks and Recreation engaged Aquatics Analysts, Inc. to develop and implement a safe and effective aquatics management strategy for 2011. The results speak for themselves (ie, clearer water, minimal algae and vegetation growth). How was this achieved?

- **Dadonna Terrace:** On May 25, the first half of Union Terrace Lake was treated to control growth of curlyleaf pondweed and a floating mat of filamentous algae. Two weeks later the second half of the lake was treated. The split treatment was very effective in managing growth. Treatments were also given on June 23 and July 14 for filamentous algae. The two fountains in the lake helped to aerate the water and minimize growth.

- **Muhlenberg Lake:** On May 25, Muhlenberg Lake was treated to control the growth of curlyleaf pondweed and floating mats of filamentous algae. This was the only treatment



performed in 2011 and was very effective. The lake was surveyed throughout the summer and fall and remained in a good ecological balance.

- **Trexler Lake:** On May 25, Trexler Lake was treated to control the growth of curlyleaf pondweed, elodea and naiad. A second treatment was made thirty days later and although these treatments were effective in managing the growth of aquatic plants, additional treatments were required to control algae growth during the season.

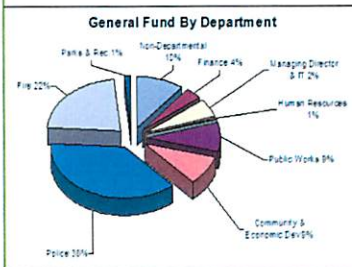


Before



After

Did you know...



- Allentown has over 35 miles of trails, over 2,000 acres of open space, 39 parks, 14 miles of streams & greenways, 34 ball fields, 53 game courts, 4 outdoor pools & 2 spray parks, 12

- pavilions & 6 picnic groves, 5 arboretums, 45 buildings & restrooms, maintains a skate park, disc golf course & the Old Allentown Cemetery; and
- the Allentown Department of Parks & Recreation accounts for only 1% of the city budget yet maintains responsibility for these treasures as well as snow, litter and leaf removal, mowing, recreational activities, summer concerts in the parks and more ?

- **Rose Garden Reflection Ponds:** On May 25, the Rose Garden Reflection ponds were treated to control the growth of curlyleaf pondweed and filamentous algae. Several additional treatments were applied during the season to manage the growth of algae.

- **Municipal Golf Course Ponds:** On June 8, the municipal golf course ponds were treated to control the growth of floating filamentous algae mats. Pond dyes were also implemented to deter growth by shading the water, thereby reducing photosynthesis. Follow-up treatments were given on June 17 and August 12.



- **Little Lehigh Fly Pond:** On June 8, the Little Lehigh Fly pond was treated to control the growth of curlyleaf pondweed and algae. An additional treatment was applied on June 17.

Surveys of each body of water were made throughout the summer with very positive results, and, the data gathered will prove quite valuable in formulation of the 2012 aquatics management strategy.

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