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## LOPA STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE MACROPHYTE MANAGEMENT

The overarching mission of Lake Onota Preservation Association (LOPA) is to preserve Onota Lake as an environmental and recreational asset. Toward that end, LOPA is partnering with the City of Pittsfield to develop sustainable lake management practices. More specifically, LOPA is committed to encouraging sustainable macrophyte management practices.

LOPA endorses the goal of preserving an appropriate macrophyte density for a healthy fishery. Consistent with that goal, LOPA recommends lake management practices that minimize the presence of non-native invasive aquatic vegetation species, and promote the presence and diversity of native species.

LOPA recommends the City adopt and fund a flexible and adaptive macrophyte management plan that relies less on the repeated use of contact herbicides, and more on spot treatments with appropriate systemic herbicides to control nuisance invasive aquatic vegetation. LOPA also recommends the City continue to test the cost-effectiveness of hand-pulling by divers to control the growth of non-native invasive species and encourage the growth of native species. Finally, LOPA supports an increased reliance on scientifically sound assessments to monitor the macrophyte population and its impact on the fishery.

Approved December 23, 2019 by Board of Directors