

Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Permit Instructions – Lake Athens

Directions: Follow these instructions to complete your annual Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Permit for Lake Athens. Additional examples and instructions can be found in the Lake Athens Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Plan and in the LAPOA member support files: <http://www.athenstxwater.org/how-we-do-it/aquatic-vegetation-treatment> & <https://www.lapoa.org/>.

STEP 1: Check Your Timing

Permits must be submitted to AMWA between March 1st and May 31st each year. If you miss this window, you must wait for the next year. Note: If you want to treat with chemicals in the May treatment window, you must submit your permit by April 23rd.

STEP 2: Pick Your Target Plant Species

Since permits are due early in the year, you will need to anticipate the weeds you would like to treat. You can look at the vegetation maps in the Lake Athens Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Plan to get some sense of the plants in your area of the lake, you can talk to neighbors, or you can ask your applicator for help. If you have some experience with the weeds, you can match the way they look to the descriptions in the attached appendix in this document.

STEP 3: Make Sure You Know Your Targeted Treatment Windows

Your permit will be good for all treatment windows as long as the permit is approved before the treatment window starts. You want to treat Coontail, Pondweed, and Eel Grass in May for the first time while American Lotus will probably best be treated for the first time in the June window. If you want to target the May treatment window, you must submit your permit by April 23rd.

STEP 4: Pick Your Applicator

To speak with different applicators, visit the following site <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/applicators/>. Call the applicator and describe your treatment goals to them. The type of plants, width of your property and distance you want to treat away from the shore will all be helpful data points for your applicators. Ask the applicators for a cost estimate range and then make a decision on the best applicator for you. You will need your Applicator to provide you with contact information and then review the Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal Form. **Note: Make sure to ask your Applicator for his/her license number as you will need it to complete the permit forms.**

STEP 5: Make Sure You Have the Necessary Forms

The forms you need for permits can be found at this site: <http://www.athenstxwater.org/how-we-do-it/aquatic-vegetation-treatment>. In general, you will need two primary forms and then a third page with a “location of treatment description” of the treatment. The first primary form is the AMWA Permit and the second primary form is the TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal Form. Once you complete these forms, you will want to attach the “location of treatment description” to these forms. This page is really just a picture or a drawing of the area you want to treat. If you are treating an Exotic Invasive Species, you will need a final form which is the TPWD Exotic Species Permit Application for Aquatic Vegetation Removal.

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STEP 6: Complete the AMWA Permit

The AMWA Permit is the primary permit application form for AMWA. Please see the completed example form on the LAPOA website for an illustration on how to complete. Specific instructions are below:

1. Complete the top part of the form on page 1 with your address and contact information. Lot information (if applicable) can be found at the Henderson County Appraisal District when you search for your property (<http://iswdatacorp.azurewebsites.net/> and choose “Henderson” for Appraisal District).
2. In the middle part of Page 1, check all of the boxes for the forms and items you have included with your application. While you may not have the Exotic Species form, you should have the other four boxes checked: 1) Both Pages of Application 2) Location of Treatment 3) TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal 4) Non-Refundable Application Fee.
3. In the middle part of Page 1, check the boxes for the type of treatment you will seek to permit. TPWD has advised that most property owners should apply for and check both Mechanical and Chemical treatments on the same permit – EVEN IF YOU DO NOT EXPECT TO DO BOTH TREATMENTS. This will keep all of your options open over the course of the season. Unless you are dealing with a special exception, you should never expect to check the Biological box.
4. At the bottom of Page 1, read the acknowledgements and check each of those boxes
5. At the top of Page 2, fill in the contact information for your Applicator and check the box for “Aquatic Vegetation Removal”.
6. In the middle of Page 2, fill in your name, the address of the property, and “TBD” for the Permit App No.
7. Send the completed permit to your Applicator and have them complete the bottom with his/her Signature, Name, and Title. **Note: AMWA has agreed to accept applications without an Applicator signature as long as the Applicator Company Name, Applicator Contact Name, and Applicator Phone number are on the Applicator signature line of the Permit form.**
8. Once the Applicator sends back the signed form, turn in the AMWA Permit with the rest of your forms and money to AMWA.

STEP 7: Complete the TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal Form

The TPWD Aquatic Vegetation Treatment Proposal Form is the primary permit application form for TPWD. Specific instructions are below:

1. Put “Lake Athens” for the Water Body Name
2. Put the date you turn in the form to AMWA for the Submission Date
3. Put your property address for the Physical Site Address
4. Put “TPWD survey (7/11/2017)” for the Date Surveyed
5. Put “May 7-18, June 11-22, August 13-24” for the Proposed Treatment Date
6. Put “II” for the Tier
7. Circle “Floating” and “Submerged” for Aquatic Vegetation Type (Note: common Lake Athens Species are typically not “Emergent”; for example, Lilly Pads are Floating and Coontail is Submerged)

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STEP 7 (Continued)

8. Put the names of all of the targeted species for treatment in the Target Aquatic Vegetation Species Name (examples would be “Coontail”, “Eelgrass”, or “American Lotus”)
9. Put the estimated acres to be treated in the Estimated Aquatic Vegetation Coverage (acres) to be treated (see the hints on how to calculate your acres in the “location of treatment” step below)
10. Circle “Mechanical” and “Chemical” for the Proposed Treatment Type
11. Write in the Applicator Name and the Applicator License Number
12. Write in your name for Homeowner / Property Owner Name
13. Fill in the treatment table. While this table can be intimidating, please see the example treatment options for these fields at the AMWA website in the Vegetation Management Plan. Just confirm with your Applicator which chemical they would prefer to use and their expected application rate. **(Helpful Hints:** Chemical application rates are designed to be by acre so you can easily multiply your acreage times the application rate to calculate the total treatment used. Also, use a tape measure from your dock or boat to estimate your average treatment depth.)

STEP 8: Complete the Location of Treatment Description

There is no formal form or permit for the Location of Treatment description. This is just an extra page you should attach to the permits with your own description of the area you are treating. Ideally, this description includes the address, the acreage to be treated, and a picture with markings of the area you expect to treat. If you are just applying for a standard treatment permit, AMWA has advised you can simply turn in a map of the lake with your property location marked on the map and a simple area calculation based on your shoreline length times the 75 foot treatment distance from the shore. If you need to request a custom treatment plan, you suggest you use Google Earth Pro to mark up a picture and calculate your target treatment acreage. We have included both standard and custom examples for location treatment descriptions on the LAPOA website.

STEP 9: Turn In Your Permit to AMWA

Since the Permit has multiple pages and requires a payment, it is best if you take your full permit to the AMWA offices or mail it to AMWA’s mailing address. If you go to the office, you will find it located at 5302 FM 2495, just before the Lake Athens Bridge on FM 2495. The office is open Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The AMWA mailing address is:

Athens Municipal Water Authority
P. O. Box 229
Athens, TX 75751
Tel: 903-804-8501

APPENDIX – LAKE ATHENS VEGETATION TYPES

Common Native Nuisance Species

Coontail (also called hornwort): See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/coontail/>

American Pondweed: See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/visual-index/american-pondweed/>

Eel Grass (also called Wild Celery): See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/eelgrass/>

American Lotus (also called Lilly Pads): See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/american-lotus/>

Maidencane: See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/maidencane/>

Exotic Invasive Species (SPECIAL PERMITS AND TREATMENT REQUIRED)

Hydrilla: See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/hydrilla/>

Alligator Weed: See full description and images here - <https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/alligator-weed/>