

Eurasian watermilfoil confirmed in Lake Orono

On Tuesday, July 21st our aquatic plant contractor conducted a survey on Lake Orono and discovered a new infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil on Lake Orono.

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is a non-native plant that originates from Europe and Asia (see attached ID card). When introduced to a freshwater lake here, the invasive plant can have the ability to outcompete native lake vegetation and, in some cases, grow aggressively which impacts the ecology of the lake as well as its recreational use.

EWM was discovered in the river channel of the southern bay of the western upper portion of Lake Orono (Guardian Angels bay—see attached map). The infestation was beyond that which could be hand-removed efficiently.

Please DO NOT boat in this area and warn your neighbors. Fragments of Eurasian watermilfoil can reproduce exponentially and spread to other areas by hitchhiking on watercraft.

The DNR reminds boaters and anglers to follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- **Clean** aquatic plants and animals from boats, trailers and equipment.
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs, and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.

The City of Elk River, Lake Orono Improvement Association, Orono Lake Improvement District, Sherburne SWCD, our aquatic plant contractor and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been in immediate contact with each other on this matter and are developing plans to address the new infestation.

There are DNR-approved herbicides that can be used to control EWM. The partnership listed above is examining options for treatments in hope that an aggressive approach can greatly reduce the existing plants as well as control the area. The infestation could have happened within the last two months, as EWM was not found in our first spring survey. That is how quickly this new threat spreads and though the dredging project may eradicate some of the EWM, it will not eliminate it. All studies show that acting rapidly is best way to limit widespread outbreak and the most cost-effective approach.

EWM is rarely eradicated from a lake once introduced. Continued maintenance may be necessary in Lake Orono but addressing the population early is known to be a good strategy to maintain the plant at low, manageable levels in the lake. The DNR advises: “Early detection and rapid response is crucial for minimizing impacts of invasive species as there may be a greater likelihood of containment and/or control.”

Thanks,

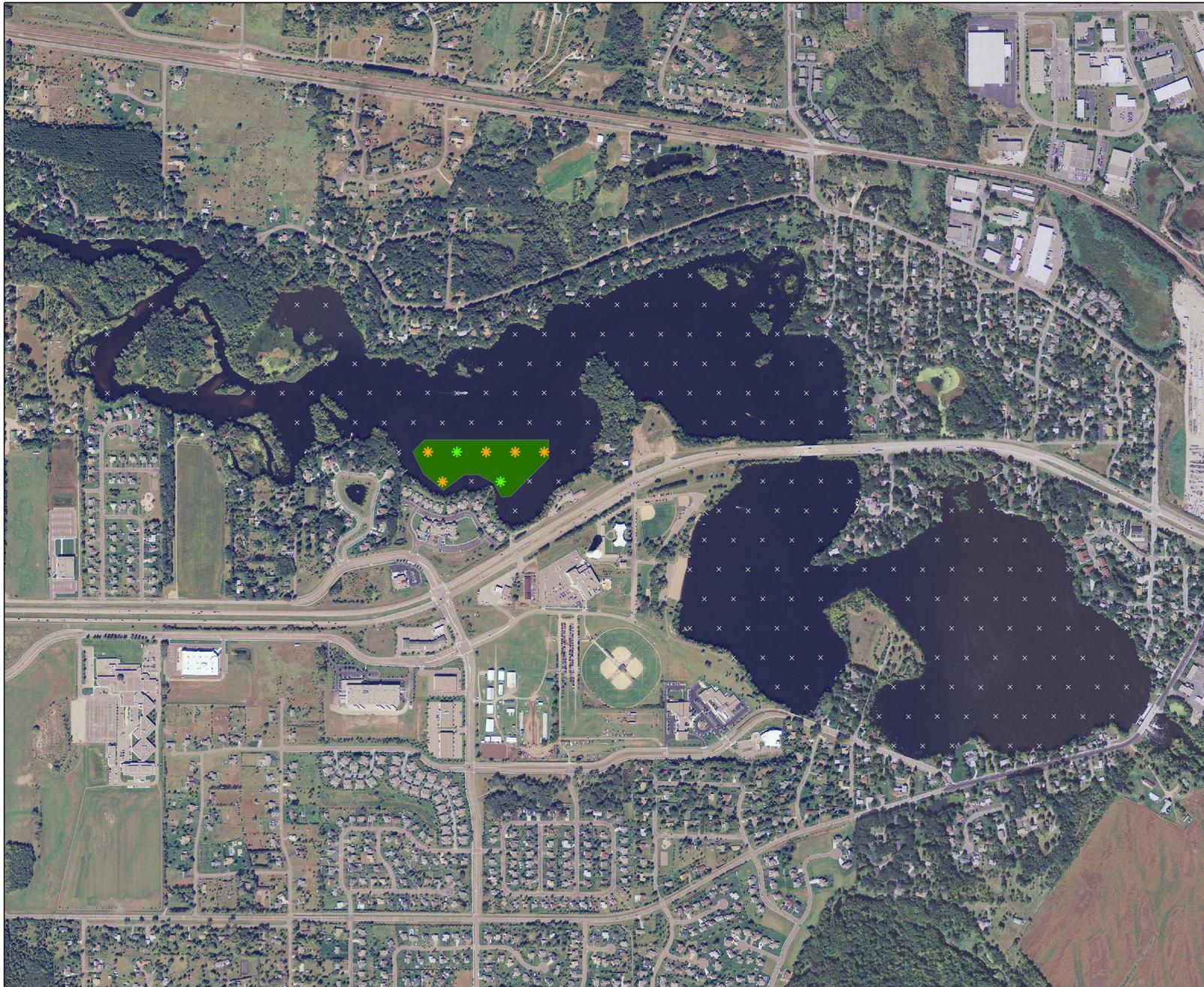


Lake Orono Water Quality Committee

Patrick Plant

patrick.plant@charter.net

763.441.6339



Rake Fullness Rating

- * Visual
- * 1
- * 2
- * 3
- × None Found

Aerial Imagery: Mn Geo



Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Point-intercept Macrophyte Survey
Lake Orono
Sherburne County, MN
July 21, 2020

INVASIVE SPECIES



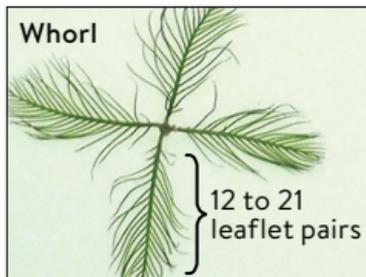
Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Characteristics:

- Submerged, limp aquatic plant
- Whorls (circles) of four delicate feather-like leaves around stem
- Usually 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf

To report invasive species:

Wrap plant in wet paper towel, place in sealed plastic bag, chill or refrigerate, and contact the Minnesota DNR at www.mndnr.gov/ais or 651-259-5100.



NATIVE SPECIES

Beneficial
to the
environment

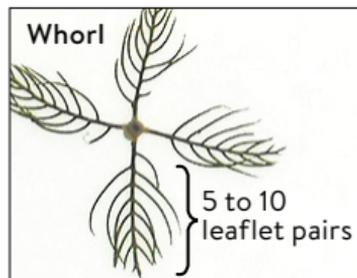


Northern Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*)

Northern Watermilfoil

Characteristics:

- Submerged, stiff aquatic plant
- Whorls (circles) of four rigid feather-like leaves around stem
- Usually 5 to 10 leaflet pairs per leaf



Prevent the spread of invasives:



- ✓ **Clean** aquatic plants and invasive species from watercraft.
- ✓ **Drain** lake/river water from all equipment. Keep drain plugs out during transport.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.