

Greeting Recreationalists to Empower And Train Boaters  
**GREAT Boaters Program - Volunteer Handbook**



*Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species*  
A Partnership of Save the Lakes & Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management



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**Appendix 1.** GREAT Boaters Survey form for Office of Water Resources

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This handbook was last updated June 2015. For the most up – to – date manual see:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/pdfs/greathand.pdf>

For the most up-to-date map with list of invasive species – see:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/pdfs/invasive.pdf>

## **1. Objective of the GREAT Boaters Program**

The objective of the GREAT (**G**reeting **R**ecreationalists to **E**mpower **A**nd **T**rain) Boaters Program is to engage volunteers in educating boaters at public boat access points about boat hygiene and aquatic invasive species (AIS) to prevent the spread of AIS from lake to lake. This manual will serve as a basis for training volunteers how to interact with the public and educate boaters about AIS.

In many states, volunteers positioned at boat ramps serve as a vital check point to prevent the introduction of invasive species via boats, trailers and equipment. Volunteers can motivate boaters to practice proper boat hygiene practices, such as the “check, clean, drain, dry” method, and remind boaters and remove invasive plants that otherwise would have entered the water body, or been transported out of the water body. Volunteers at boat ramps also provide a chance to educate boaters on the problem of invasive species, the ways in which they spread, and empower recreationalists to ensure they do not accidentally contribute to this spread by training them to check their boat and trailer.

Rhode Island has an interest in protecting its freshwater ecosystems, and volunteers stationed at boat ramps can play an important role. The Rhode Island GREAT Boaters Program is an effort to stage volunteers at boat ramps during periods of high activity, in order to educate boaters and prevent the transport of invasive species by boats, trailers and equipment. This handbook provides guidance to the volunteers how to best promote boat checks and train boaters to look for and remove plants. It provides information relevant to staging volunteers and boat ramps and promoting clean boat hygiene practices. We hope you find this handbook helpful, and we thank you for your efforts to protect Rhode Island waters.



## **2. Project Background**

Rhode Island's freshwater ecosystems are threatened by aquatic invasive species (AIS). Invasive species (generally non-native organisms) may be plants or animals that are introduced to an area where they out-compete native plants or animals and grow out of control, since they have no natural competition or predators.

In surveys conducted by RIDEM during 2007-2014, at least one invasive plant or animal species was found in 60% of lakes and many were infested with multiple species. Aquatic invasive species pose adverse ecological, economic and recreational consequences including:

### **Ecological Costs of Aquatic Invasive Species**

- Decreased biodiversity
- Loss of beneficial native species
- Changes in fish and wildlife habitat
- Disruption of local food web stability
- Degradation of water quality

### **Recreational Losses of Aquatic Invasive Species**

- Interference with recreational uses such as swimming, paddling, boating and fishing
- Alteration of sport fish habitat and reduced fishing opportunities due to stressed fish communities

### **Economic Impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species**

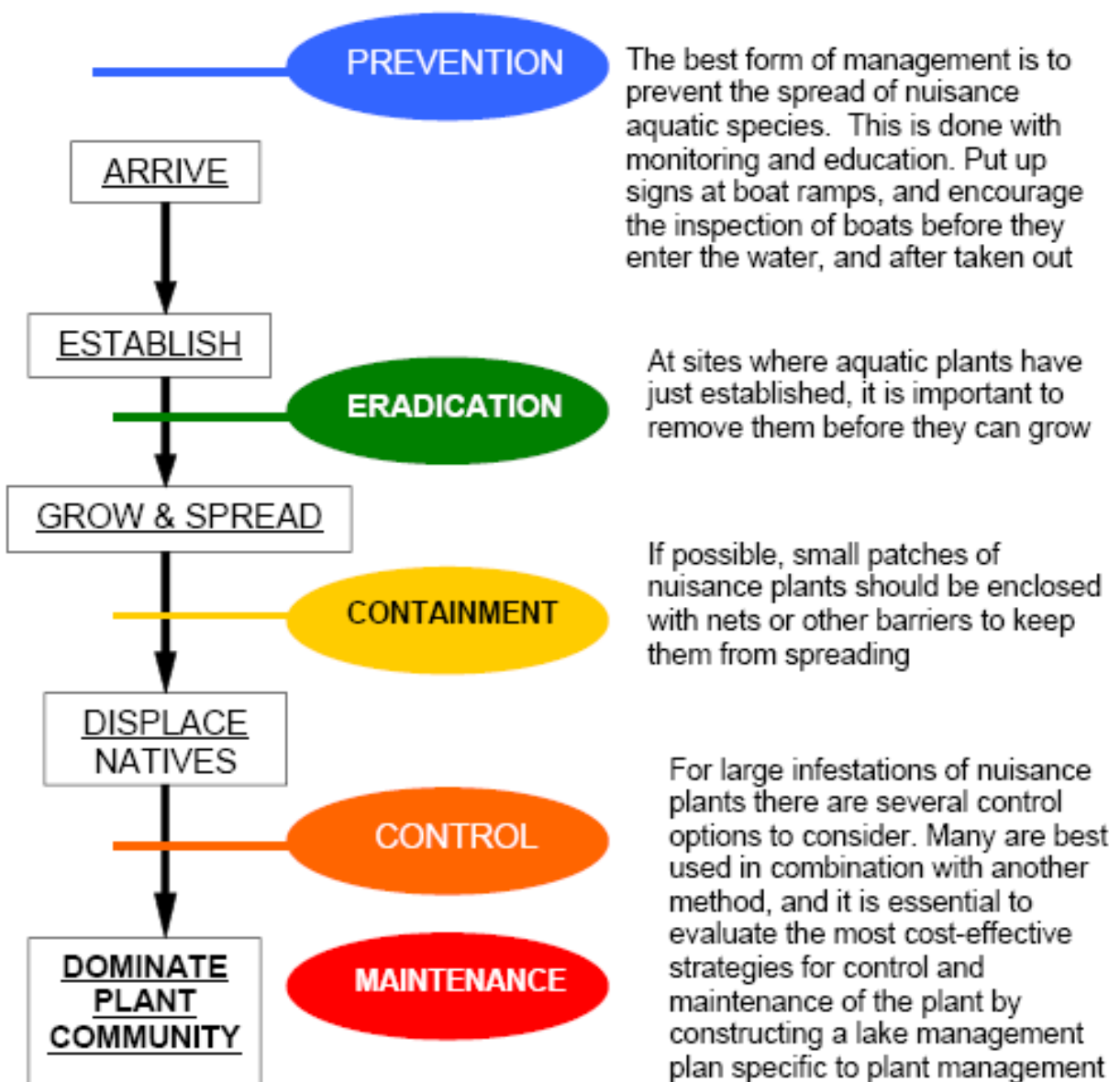
- Poor recreational experiences (boating, fishing, swimming) may impact tourism and affect businesses in the community by reducing traffic and local spending
- Nuisance conditions may reduce waterfront property values
- AIS management and plant control will cost substantial amounts of money
- Damage to infrastructure (such as clogging dam gates, canals and irrigation or other intake pipes)

Generally the stages of an aquatic plant invasion or infestation are: the plants' arrival to the site; establishment at the site; growth and spread in the waterbody; displacement of the native species; and eventual domination of the plant community (reducing biodiversity; Figure 1). Depending which stage of the plant invasion, different strategies may be employed to manage the problem. However, as the plant invasion advances in its stages, the harder, and more costly it is to manage.

Preventing the arrival and introduction of an invasive species to a site is the first (and most cost-effective) strategy to stop the spread of invasive species. Although methods exist to control established populations of invasive species, complete eradication is rarely possible once it has been introduced. Thus, once the plant has arrived, the invasive management often involves repeated treatments at substantial cost in an effort to suppress invasive growth to a level that avoids detrimental impacts.

Therefore, to reduce costs and difficulty of invasive management, prevention is the preferred approach in efforts to address invasive species, embodying the popular idiom “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. This GREAT Boaters Program seeks to target high-use public boat launches at RI lakes to prevent the introduction of new invasives into those lakes, as well as prevent the spread of invasives from currently infested lakes to other water bodies.

Figure 1. Stages of plant invasion are given in boxes on the left, and the preferred strategies for managing invasive populations are given in colored ovals on the right. It is important to use the appropriate strategy for the stage of invasion before the plant continues to grow to the next stage.



Boats are viewed as a significant player in rapid transit of invasive species. Many invasive plants, especially those in the submergent plant community, spread by fragmentation. Fragmentation is a simple form of reproduction in which a plant may be chopped into small bits (by a propeller or otherwise), and each bit of the stem can then develop into a whole new plant (it does not need to be rooted in soil). This means that plant fragments caught on a boat motor or hull, trailer or other equipment can be transported to new waterbodies and spread. Further, some invasive animals, such as zebra mussels, have microscopic larval stages that live in the water. Water from an infested lake in a boat's bilge water, live wells or motor may transport invasive animals from one lake to another. Zebra mussels may also attach directly to a boat, and fall off after being transported to another water body. Efforts focused on decreasing invasive translocation by boats can prevent the spread of invasive species and reduce the number of new infestations.

### **3. GREAT Boater Volunteer Duties**

1. Attend an annual GREAT Boater Volunteer training; sign the release of liability form; return form to RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife;
2. Greet visitors both entering and leaving the boat launch area;
  - introduce yourself and
  - identify yourself as a volunteer with the GREAT Boaters Program
3. Kindly remind the boat owner to check their boat for plants, gladly offer help if the boater gives you permission to assist him/her with a boat and trailer plant check. If they do not give you permission, do not check their boat or trailer!
4. Complete the Boater Survey (Appendix 1) by talking with boater and return forms to  
RIDEM Office of Water;
5. If given permission, help the boater to remove all vegetation found and properly dispose to ensure plants do not enter (or leave) the water body; engage the boater by asking questions or if they are unfamiliar with checking the boat and trailer for plants, explain where to look for them;
6. Encourage boater to drain all standing water from the vessel away and from the water body;
7. Thank the boat owner when finished, and encourage him/her to conduct his/her own plant check every time upon entering and leaving a water body; if they are entering a lake known to have invasives, remind them of the importance to do a check after leaving the lake;
8. Distribute brochures and other educational materials when available.

## 4. Materials



When volunteering at a boat launch, it is useful to keep with you the following materials:

- Trash bags for plants removed from trailers and vessels
- Hard writing surface (such as a clipboard/binder) w/ pen or pencil
- GREAT Boaters Survey forms (Appendix 1)
- Copy of vessel check points list (Appendix 2)
- Plant Identification guide or key
- Educational materials
- If you have a cell phone, bring it with you to the boat launch site in case of an emergency.
- Sun protection (hat or visor, sunglasses and sunscreen), first aid kits, or other safety equipment you have available.
- Copy of script and potential questions and responses (Appendix 3)

## **5. How to Greet GREAT Boaters**

Follow these Boat Volunteer guidelines to ensure you and boaters will be comfortable:



- Wait for boaters in a visible location
  - If possible, approach the boater before he/she is backing down the ramp, to prevent delays and a backup of boaters wanting to launch.
  - Volunteers should always introduce themselves, identify which organization they are working for and why they are at the launch site.
- 
- Do not just approach a boater and begin asking questions immediately, as they might be confused about who you are and why they should give you their time.
  - Remind boaters to please check for plants and offer assistance to help them. If the boater is reluctant to take the time, remind them if the lake currently has any invasives, and explain that taking a few minutes to check for plants can help avoid adding any plants to the list. If they are still in a rush to get on the water without checking for plants, ask that they take the time at the end of the visit to check for plants and make sure any invasive plants at this lake are not spread to any other waterbodies.
  - Always ask if boaters would mind answering a few questions. Stress that the data will be helpful in identifying potentially vulnerable lakes, etc., so they realize the survey is a worthwhile endeavor and is confidential – they are not asked to identify themselves;
  - Maintain a positive attitude, be polite and courteous and genuinely wish all boaters a good time on the water, no matter how irritable or rushed they may seem;
  - Try to get answers to all the questions on the survey form (Appendix 1). If the boater is in a rush, make a note to approach this same boater again as he/she is leaving the launch; and let them know you'll try to check in with them later.
  - Remember, the goal of GREAT Boater volunteers is to encourage good boater behaviors, and not enforce and intimidate. If a boater does not wish to speak with you, then you should offer a brochure or educational material and let them go on their way.
  - Listen to a boater's concern(s). Although you may be in a hurry to move on to another boat, remember that we want boaters to display interest in invasives, and by asking questions they will develop their own knowledge base and perhaps offer you valuable insight as well.
  - Make sure boaters know they can make a difference. Never speak down to a boater, make assumptions, accusations, alienate, infuriate or embarrass a boater. That would be counter to our goals. Your mission is to promote good habits and educate, using positive reinforcement to create behavior change in boaters by empowering them to check their own boats since volunteers will not always be around to check.



## **6. Encouraging boaters to check for plants**

Remind boaters to thoroughly check and remove plants – even small pieces before launching at boat ramps and after hauling the boats out. Encourage them to follow the “Check, Clean, Drain and Dry--or Decontaminate” protocol in the future to prevent the spread of invasive species (see below).

**CHECK:** Remind boaters to check their boat, trailer and equipment for visible plants, animals or mud – hand them a Vessel Check Points list to prompt them. Offer to help the boater if they would like assistance or if they are unfamiliar with where to check for plants. If you are assisting a boater be sure to talk aloud as you look things over so they know what areas you are checking.

**CLEAN:** Remind boaters to remove ALL visible plants, animals or mud. All plants— invasive or not (since its hard to tell) should be removed and disposed of (composted or put in the trash). Boaters should take precautions to ensure plants do not go back into the waterbody.

**DRAIN:** Boaters to drain any standing water, including any in the motor, live well, bait well, bait bucket, bilge and transom wells because invasives can be moved from lake to lake in small amounts of water. Explain to boaters that microscopic zebra mussel larvae are often transported between lakes in these areas, and stress the importance of draining all water from the boat after leaving every water body. Drain water away from water body.

**DRY:** Dry vessel and equipment for a minimum of 1 week during hot/dry weather or 4 weeks during cool weather. If drying isn’t possible, decontaminate the vessel:

**DECONTAMINATE:** there are several techniques that can be used to decontaminate boats and equipment that came into contact with the water: Flush non-checkable surfaces with solution to ensure decontamination. When decontaminating with bleach, detergents or other chemicals, make sure water does not accidentally enter a water body via direct flow or storm drains.

- Wash boat with hot, pressurized water and soak equipment in hot water
- Wash with 1% salt solution (2/3 cup to 5 gallons of water)
- Wash with bleach solution (1oz to 1 gallon water)
- Wash with dish detergent

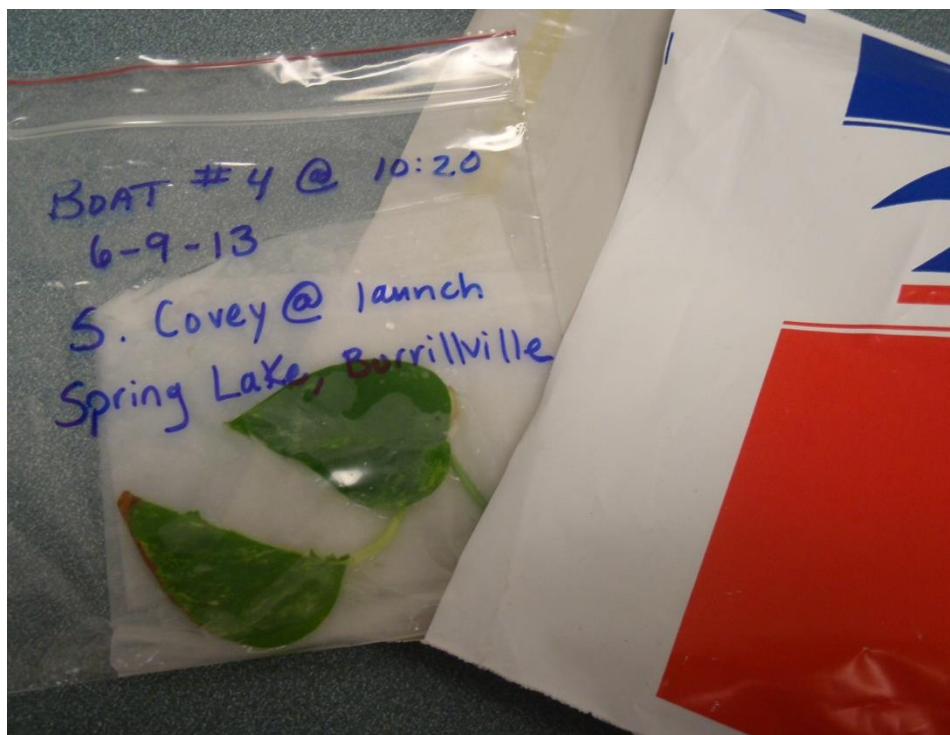
**Remember, boat checks are not mandatory. If the boater does not give you permission to check their boat or trailer with them, do not pursue or hound them. Our purpose is not to enable boaters to rely on volunteers to check their boat for them, but rather to empower and encourage boaters to check their own boats. Training boaters to do a thorough check should not be misconstrued as any type of official inspection. Continued pursuit of a boater who does not wish to participate may be perceived as intimidation or harassment and further unauthorized inspection of their trailer may be mistaken for tampering with or damaging property. Please be courteous and respectful to all boaters.**

## **7. If you find a plant you suspect is a new invasive in the area**

If you remove any plants from boats or trailers, note it on the survey form (Appendix 1: Circle Y for “Found Plant or Animal Material” and if you can identify the plant, name it in the “comments” column.) **Then put the vegetation in the plastic trash bag to dispose or compost (away from the lake or any other waterbody).**

If you see a suspicious, possibly invasive plant that you cannot identify, put it in a separate bag to be identified later if you have time and label the bag with the boater number and time using a permanent marker. Do not make the boat owner wait while you identify any plant material. When/if you have time during any “down time”, try to identify the plants.

If you suspect that a plant is a **new** invasive but you are unsure, label the sample with the boater number, time, date, your name and launch site where it was discovered. The sample can be brought to or mailed in a padded envelope to Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for identification (Office of Water Resources, Lake/AIS identification-Room 200; 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI). If you remove suspicious vegetation from more than one vessel during your “watch,” you will need to keep the plants in separate bags, and label the bags with their respective boater numbers. Alternatively, you could take a digital picture, and email the pictures to RIDEM (email directly to [katie.degoosh@dem.ri.gov](mailto:katie.degoosh@dem.ri.gov)).



## **8. Fill out the GREAT Boater Survey form to Return Information to DEM**

Volunteers should fill out the GREAT Boater Survey form (Appendix 1) to the most complete extent possible. The form is designed to be used at one boat launch for one day (or more forms may be used in one day if there is heavy boat traffic at the ramp). A brief description of each question on the form is given on the back of the form.

When asking which lake the boater last visited, it may help to reference Appendix 7 (AIS Distribution Map and List). Here you can find out if the lake previously visited had invasives, and recommend a more thorough check of a boat if the last lake visited is known to host invasive plants.

All completed forms should be submitted to DEM, along with any samples of suspected invasives, in a timely matter. Ways to submit the form are described on the form (email, fax or US post). Be sure to keep suspect plant samples with the appropriate form if multiple forms were used.

## **9. Fill out Volunteer Time and Activity Report for ARE Program**

The GREAT Boaters Program is sponsored in part by RIDEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife through the Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) Program. The goal of the ARE Program is to create environmental stewards and a well-informed public willing to appreciate and conserve their aquatic resources. The ARE Program offers opportunities to people of all ages to become engaged in their waterways through a variety of ecological and conservation focused workshops, trainings, classes and events. The ARE Programs are fully funded by the Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service Sportfish Restoration Program.

To receive this Federal funding, the ARE program relies on documenting in-kind volunteer hours to match federal grant funds. Therefore, each volunteer is responsible for filling out and signing the ARE Volunteer Time and Activity Report (Appendix 5). This form records the number of hours worked, travel time to and from the event and preparation time involved. This is an essential component to complete at the end of a volunteer shift to ensure the ARE program continues to receive funding to support the GREAT Boaters Program. The ARE Coordinator is responsible for the collection and processing of all volunteer forms.

Once completed, please send the forms to the following address. You may keep a copy for tax purposes if you plan to deduct mileage or other volunteer expenses incurred.

ARE Coordinator  
RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Great Swamp Field Headquarters  
Great Neck Rd.,  
West Kingston, RI 02892

## **10. Safety Considerations & Liability**

- It is recommended that Boat Volunteers work in pairs.
- Always back away from an uncomfortable, or potentially dangerous, situation. **Boat Volunteers are not enforcers of rules and should never jeopardize their own safety.**
- If you are ever suspicious of someone (i.e., a loiterer or someone who is not intending on boating, someone who keeps driving by the launch, someone who asks if you have a cell phone or other odd question), leave the launch.
- Never confront an angry or uncooperative boater.
- If a boater asks you not to record their information, comply with the boater's request.
- Do not help boaters launch or take their boats out of the water and do not direct traffic at the ramp.

## **11. Volunteer Release forms**

Prior to their service, volunteers are required to sign a Volunteer Release Form (Appendix 6) precluding indemnification claims against the State of Rhode Island arising from injury or damage resulting from actions while participating in the Lake Volunteer project. This form must be signed and returned to:

Christine Dudley  
RIDEM Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Great Swamp Field Headquarters  
Great Neck Rd.,  
West Kingston, RI 02892

## **12. Handling Possible Violations**

Remember that you are there to greet boaters and encourage them to practice good boat hygiene. You are not there to enforce environmental laws.

If while on the lake you see something you believe violates environmental law contact:

**RIDEM Office of Compliance and Inspection**

**401-222-1360**

If you see a more pressing violation or emergency, contact:

**RIDEM Division of Law Enforcement**

**24-hour hotline at 401-222-3070**

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## GREAT Boater Survey

**Instructions:** Complete one row for each boater greeted, including non-motorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks. Please print legibly. Surveys may be scanned and emailed (katie.degoosh@dem.ri.gov), or mailed or dropped off to address below. For NEW suspected invasive plants, take a picture and email to Katie or place sample in a Ziploc bag with a wet paper towel to prevent drying and mail or drop off to Katie DeGoosh, RI DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

Lake Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Contact info (Phone or email): \_\_\_\_\_

	Time Greeted	Arriving or leaving? (A or L)	Last water body Visited (name, state)	Date of that visit	Boater familiar with invasives?		Accepted Help with Boat Check?		Found Plant or Animal Material?		Suspected invasive found?		Sample submitted to DEM?		Comments: (ex: found & removed variable milfoil; suspicious weed on trailer; boater saw invasives in last lake visited)
					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
1					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
2					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
3					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
4					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
5					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
6					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
7					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	
8					Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	

Comments : Use this space for any general comments. If there are a number of boats or trailers that do not participate answering survey questions that have visible weeds, tally them here, do not use a line above. Note that all data will remain anonymous, and information will only be used to help characterize data about boat traffic at this particular ramp.

Time volunteer started: \_\_\_\_\_

Time volunteer left: \_\_\_\_\_

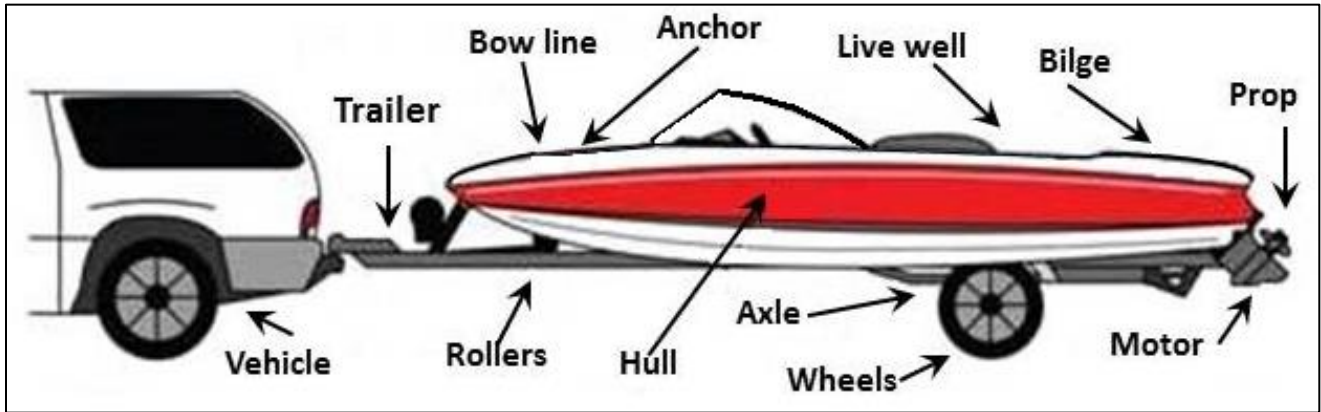
Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Any special event occurring? (Named fishing tournament? Holiday weekend?) \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions for filling out the Boat Greeter form

<b>Time Greeted</b>	Record the time at which you first approach the boater/time that boat arrived.
<b>Arriving or leaving? (A or L)</b>	Record A=arrival or L=leaving to note when you greeted the boater: on their <u>arrival</u> to launch at the boat access location or when they were <u>leaving</u> the site after hauling out their boat.
<b>Last water body visited (name, state)</b>	Record the <u>name</u> (and state) of the last water body where the vessel was launched (for a day trip -- or where hauled out if kept in the same water body for a period of time).
<b>Date of that visit</b>	Record the <u>date</u> when the vessel was last removed from the water body listed in the previous column.
<b>Boater familiar with invasives?</b>	Y = yes N= no. Use your best judgment based on your interaction with the boater to determine if the boater is familiar with the issue of aquatic invasive species. If you directly ask if the boater is familiar with the issue of aquatic invasive species, record the response given by boater. If boater reports YES, record Y (if you disagree, note in comments).
<b>Accepted Help with Boat Check?</b>	Y = yes N = no. Record if the boater accepted your help to assist them with their boat check.
<b>Found Plant or Animal material?</b>	Y = yes N = no. Record if the inspection yielded visible plant and/or animal material on the boat or trailer. You may wish to note under Comments where on the boat material was found, and if you are able to identify the plant, note which plant was found.
<b>Suspected invasive found?</b>	Y = yes N= no. Record Y if you can identify the invasive plant or animal species, or if you suspect it is an invasive plant/animal.
<b>Sample submitted to DEM?</b>	Y = yes N = no. Record Y if you would like RIDEM to identify the plant, or verify your identification. Send the plant to RIDEM (address on the front of the form) in a sealed ziplock bag with a wet paper towel to avoid drying out the plant. Label the bag with the date collected, location of the collection, and name of collector.
<b>Comments:</b>	Record any comments you think are relevant or important (name of plant found, comments from the boater etc...)

# Vessel Check Points



*Before launching AND before leaving*

## **Check Everything!**

### **TRAILER**

- Axle
- Frame
- Rollers
- License Plate
- Break lights
- Wiring
- Winch Rope

### **MOTOR**

- Intake Pipe
- Prop
- Lower Unit

### **BOAT ACCESSORIES**

- Anchor
- Bow Line
- Ladder
- Tow Rope
- Transducer

### **TOWING VEHICLE**

- Hitch
- Bumper
- Wheel
- Wheel Wells
- Axle

### **BOAT**

- Floor
- Hull
- Live well
- Transom Well

### **OTHER GEAR**

- Bait bucket
- Fishing Line
- Landing Net
- Tackle
- Waders
- Dog



# **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

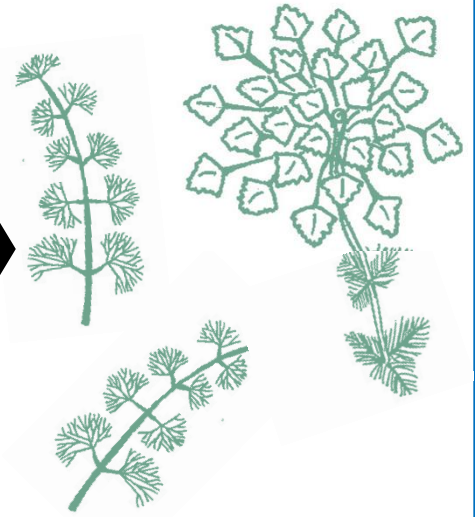




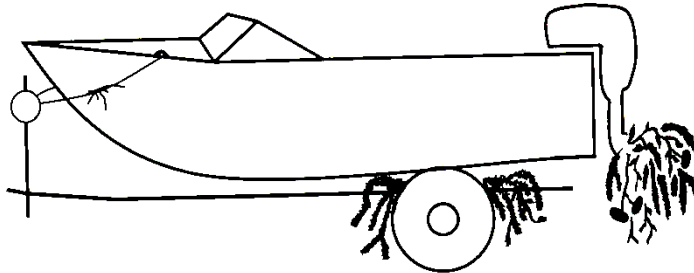
# STOP

human transport of

# INVASIVE PLANTS



60% of all lakes monitored in Rhode Island have at least one type of invasive plant--Do your part to stop the transport of plants between lakes!



## **BOATERS: CHECK YOUR VESSEL CAREFULLY!**

- Clean ALL plant fragments from boat, paddles, gear and trailer
- Drain boats far from lake, Dry between trips
- Rinse boats, paddles and gear with water
- Do NOT release bait, pet fish, shellfish or plants into lakes, ponds or rivers



For more information about invasive species, visit our website:  
RI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
Office of Water Resources  
[www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/aisindex.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/aisindex.htm)



### **Appendix 3. Sample Scripts and Potential Questions and Responses**

A Volunteer can — and should — do much more than hand out brochures and perform courtesy boat checks. Each interaction is an opportunity to create a change in boater behavior, so that he or she automatically conducts a plant check without relying on a volunteer. It is also a chance to educate the boater about why plant checks are so important. It offers a moment in which a boater might be convinced to support state, local and non-profit efforts to prevent invasive plants from damaging Rhode Island's waters. It's important to encourage boaters to ask questions. Below are some questions that can help "break the ice" and establish a dialogue with boaters. They are designed to provide an idea of how well a person understands the invasive aquatic plant problem and how well they grasp and implement the plant check process.

- "Did you notice any weed beds as you were boating?"
- "Did you notice fragments floating on the surface of the water?"
- "Have you ever seen milfoil growing?"
- "Do you travel to a number of lakes or stick to one or two?"
- "Do you boat out of state (if Rhode Island registered)?"

You will be more effective at engaging boaters if you use your own voice. The sample scripts below should give you an idea of ways you can approach and talk to boaters, but you are encouraged to find your own style that you feel comfortable with and that you can adapt to different situations as they arise.

#### **Sample 1:**

*"Good Morning / Afternoon. I am a volunteer from the GREAT Boater Program. We are trying to prevent the spread of invasive plants such as milfoil and water chestnut so we are reminding boaters to check for plants. The plants are spread from lake to lake when they become lodged on boats, gear and trailers so it's important to make sure you thoroughly check for plants before and after launching today. This lake already has invasive milfoil, and we don't want it to spread to other places, and we want to make sure we don't get any more invasive plants. May I have just a few minutes of your time to ask you a few questions? We are collecting data on how much traffic this boat ramp gets and where people are traveling from. We have plastic garbage bags to collect any plant fragments and are happy to help you check for plants or show you how to check for plant fragments if you're not used to it."*

### **Appendix 3 (cont'd)**

#### **Sample 2:**

*“Good Morning/Afternoon. I am a volunteer from the GREAT Boater Program. Are you aware of the problem of invasive species in Rhode Island lakes?”*

- Wait for an answer.

*“We are working to survey boaters about invasive plants and remind boaters to check their boats and trailer to remove any vegetation to prevent plants from spreading and taking over our lakes. The plants are spread from lake to lake when they become lodged on boats, gear, and trailers. May I ask you a about four questions ? It will only take a few minutes, and we’d be happy to help you check your boat afterward.”*

- Ask the survey questions.

*“Thanks! All of our data will be used to garner information on traffic at this boat ramp, and is completely anonymous. Now, can we help you or train you how to check your boat and trailer? We encourage boaters to help prevent the spread of invasive species by checking their boats every time upon entering and leaving the water.”*

- Help the owner check their boat and trailer for any attached plants. State outloud where you are looking, and

- Thank the boat owner for his/her time. Wish them a pleasant day on the lake, and indicate that you will see them when they bring their boat back out of the water for another, very brief check for any plants they may have picked on the lake.

#### **Sample 3**

*“Hello. I am here from \_\_\_\_\_ to let you know that Rhode Island’s lakes (or you can mention the particular water body you are on) are threatened by invasive species and that your actions can help. I have a few quick questions I would like to ask you, and then I would like to help you check your boat to point out a few places where invasive plants and animals can attach.”*

### **Appendix 3 (cont'd)**

#### **Sample Scripts and Potential Questions and Responses**

**Q: “Why are you out here wasting resources when the plant is going to come anyway?”**

R: “Even if we cannot keep the plants out completely, we can prevent a lot of widespread damage. Prevention gives us time to adopt new control methods as they are developed. Also, the longer we keep invasives out of a lake the longer we put off the enormous costs of management and property devaluation.”

**Q: “Aren’t all plants bad anyway?”**

R: It is important to clear up this misconception! Native plants are essential elements of an aquatic ecosystem, providing critical habitat and food resources for fish and wildlife (turtles, frogs). The problem with invasive (non-native) plants is that they out-compete native plants and grow out of control, since they have no natural competition or predators.

**Q: “I don’t have time for this . . . I know all about it already!”**

R: This is a fairly common remark. If the boater does not wish to help you with the survey, you must respect their rights and let them be. Just offer them a brochure and wish them a nice day.

**Q: “Why do I have to take these prevention steps when I only use my boat in one lake?”**

R: “We encourage boaters to dedicate a boat to recreate on a contaminated water body. It is still useful for you to take these prevention steps every time you boat. Repeating these steps helps the actions become a regular part of your boating behavior, so that if you ever do decide to take your boat on another lake you will remember to take the prevention steps.”

## **Appendix 4. Related Aquatic Invasive Species Laws**

**§ 20-11-6 Stocking of streams and ponds.** – No person shall stock any fresh water stream or pond within this state with any species of fish or place or liberate any fish in any fresh water stream or pond within this state, without having first obtained a permit from the department of environmental management. No person shall place, operate, or superintend any device intended for the purpose of taking or catching fish in any private pond, brook, stream, or reserve, or any other place made, constructed, or used for the purpose of breeding or growing fish, without the consent of the proprietor or lessee.

*<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE20/20-11/20-11-6.HTM>*

### ***Legislation Pending Authorization:***

*The following legislation has been passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly, but do not take effect until the rules and regulations are issued by RIDEM.*

**§ 20-1-26 Freshwater invasive aquatic plants – Prohibition on importation and possession.** – (a) No person shall import, transport, disperse, distribute, introduce, sell, purchase, or possess in the state any species of non-native (exotic) freshwater invasive aquatic plants, as defined by the director. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability. The prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective until the rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability take effect.

(b) Violations of this section shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or both.

*<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE20/20-1/20-1-26.HTM>*

**§ 20-1-28. Regulation of exotic baitfish—Prohibition on importation, sale and transport of exotic baitfish species.** – (a) No person shall import, transport, culture or sell exotic species of baitfish, as specified by the director, in Rhode Island. The director shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability. The regulations shall include a list of approved native baitfish and a list of prohibited non-native or exotic species. The prohibition and its enforcement shall not become effective until the rules and regulations governing the prohibition and its applicability take effect.

(b) Violations of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

*<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE20/20-1/20-1-28.HTM>*



## VOLUNTEER TIME AND ACTIVITY REPORT

**Please Read.** Individuals must FILL OUT, SIGN and RETURN completed form to the Aquatic Resource Education program. Please be sure to fill in the date and YEAR. The form cannot be faxed or sent via email. Thank you.

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (mm/dd/yy)	Description of Work	Work Time	Travel Time	Miles Traveled	Total Time

**TOTAL MILES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **HOURS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Program, Group or Organization**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Volunteer**

F-42-E / 1547  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Federal Aid Project & Segment**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of ARE Coordinator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Job Description**

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO RIDEM DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE'S AQUATIC RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM!**

\*\*\*\*\* FOR OFFICE USE ONLY \*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ (TTL HRS) X \_\_\_\_\_ (VALUATION RATE) + \_\_\_\_\_ (TTL MIL) X \_\_\_\_\_ (RATE) = \_\_\_\_\_



## RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability

*Please be sure you have read through the Release below and agree to all terms before signing.*

This Release and Waiver of Liability (the “Release”) is executed by \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Volunteer”) in favor of the State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“RIDEM”), including but not limited to its directors, affiliates, managers, members, agents, attorneys, employees, volunteers, heirs, representatives, predecessors, successors, and assigns. The Volunteer desires to become a volunteer for RIDEM and engage in activities related to being a volunteer (the “Activities”). The Volunteer understands that the Activities may include but are not limited to the use of hand tools, power tools, equipment, motor vehicles, and machinery, as well as working indoors and/or outdoors. The Volunteer further acknowledges that there is a risk of danger and the potential for bodily injury as a result of participating in the Activities.

Volunteer understands that the scope of Volunteer’s relationship with RIDEM is limited to a volunteer position and that no compensation is expected in return for services provided by Volunteer. Volunteer further understands that RIDEM will not provide any benefits traditionally associated with employment to Volunteer, including but not limited to, medical, health, disability benefits, worker’s compensation, or insurance of any nature. Volunteer agrees to abide by all RIDEM authorities, including but not limited to, rules, procedures, protocols, directives and regulations.

**The Volunteer hereby freely, voluntarily, and without duress executes this Release for the Volunteer’s self, spouse, heirs, children, executors, administrators, assigns, successors, legal representatives, personal representatives, and next of kin under the following terms:**

**Release and Waiver:** Volunteer does hereby release, forever discharge, covenant not to sue, and hold harmless RIDEM, including but not limited to, its directors, affiliates, managers, members, agents, attorneys, employees, volunteers, heirs, representatives, predecessors, successors, and assigns (herein referred to as the “Releasees”) from any and all rights, liability, claims, demands, and causes of actions of any kind whatsoever, known or unknown, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereafter arise from Volunteer’s Activities on behalf of RIDEM. Volunteer understands that this Release discharges the Releasees from any and all liability or claim of any kind or nature that the Volunteer may have against the Releasees for any claims, including but not limited to, physical or psychological injury, illness, paralysis, pain, sufferings, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability, economic or emotional loss, and/or death, that Volunteer may suffer as a direct or indirect result of Volunteer’s participation in the Activities, including traveling to, from, and during the Activities, whether or not caused by the negligence of the Releasees. Volunteer also understands that RIDEM does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to, medical, health, or disability insurance in the event of injury or illness.

**Medical Treatment:** Volunteer does hereby release and forever discharge the Releasees, from any and all rights, liability, claims, demands, and causes of actions of any kind whatsoever, known or unknown, either in law or in equity, which arises or may hereafter arise on account of any first aid, treatment, or service rendered in connection with the Volunteer’s participation in the Activities.

**Assumption of the Risk:** The Volunteer understands that the Activities may include work that may be hazardous to the Volunteer, including but not limited to, construction, loading and unloading, and transportation to and from the activity sites. Volunteer is aware of the risks involved and hereby expressly assumes the risk of injury or harm from participating in the Activities. Volunteer agrees to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The Volunteer acknowledges that RIDEM shall not be deemed liable, and shall not be deemed to have any duty to provide training to Volunteer. The Volunteer understands that he/she always has the right to refuse to perform any Activity that the Volunteer feels he/she is unqualified to perform or that the Volunteer deems to be unsafe. Volunteer acknowledges that they are responsible for their safety, and that the Activities in which they become involved are at their sole risk.

**VOLUNTEER HEREBY EXPRESSLY AND SPECIFICALLY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RISK OF BODILY INJURY, HARM, OR DEATH WHETHER OR NOT SUCH RISKS ARE KNOWN OR UNKNOWN IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES HE/SHE MAY PERFORM, AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASES THE RELEASEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR INJURY, ILLNESS, DEATH, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE ARISING OUT OF, OR RESULTING FROM, THE ACTIVITIES.**

**Insurance:** Volunteer is responsible and expected to obtain his/her own insurance coverage.

**Photographic Release:** Volunteer does hereby grant and convey unto RIDEM all right, title, and interest in any and all photographic images and video or audio recordings made by RIDEM during the Volunteer's Activities with RIDEM, including but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds, or other benefits derived from such photographs or recordings, and hereby consents to the use of such media by RIDEM for any purpose RIDEM deems reasonable and appropriate.

**Other:** Volunteer expressly agrees that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Rhode Island, and that this Release shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Rhode Island. Volunteer agrees that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release which shall continue to be in full force and effect. Any and all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Release shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of the State of Rhode Island.

I/We state that I/we have carefully read all of the above, that I/we understand it, and that this document is signed of my/our own free will.

**INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOLUNTEER WITHOUT COMPLETING A RELEASE AND WAIVER FORM.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of parent/guardian  
(Parent/Guardian must **also** sign if  
Volunteer is under the age of 18)

Printed Name of Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_



**Emergency Contacts:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship








\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

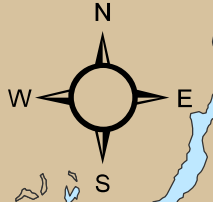
\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number

# Aquatic Invasive Species: (AIS) Plants Documented in RI Freshwaters

-  AIS documented (Surveyed)
-  No AIS observed (Surveyed)
-  Unsurveyed Waterbody
-  Streams and Rivers
-  AIS observed in stream
-  Spot-checked; AIS present
-  Spot-checked; no AIS

Updated 4/29/2015



Note: Documentation based on surveys performed 2007-2014 by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Office of Water Resources. AIS refers only to those plant species present in the floating and submergent plant communities. More information available online: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/aisindex.htm>





# RI Lakes With Aquatic Invasive Animals



listed alphabetically by city or town

<u>Town</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
	Pawtuxet River South Branch	Asian clam
<u>Coventry</u>	Tiogou Lake	Asian clam
	Upper Dam Pond	Asian clam
<u>Cumberland</u>	Happy Hollow Pond	Asian clam
<u>East Providence</u>	Turner Reservoir	Asian clam
<u>North Providence</u>	Wenscott Reservoir (Twin Rivers)	Asian clam
<u>South Kingstown</u>	Peace Dale Reservoir	Asian clam
	Worden Pond	Asian clam
<u>Tiverton</u>	Stafford Pond	Asian clam
<u>Warwick</u>	Warwick Pond	Asian clam
<u>West Greenwich</u>	Mishnock Lake	Asian clam



# RI Lakes With Aquatic Invasive Plants



listed alphabetically by city or town

<u>Town</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<u>Barrington</u>	Brickyard Pond	curly-leaf pondweed
	Echo Lake	fanwort
<u>Burrillville</u>	Echo Lake (Pascoag Reservoir)	fanwort variable milfoil
	Round Top State Pond	variable milfoil
	Spring Lake (Herring Pond)	fanwort inflated bladderwort variable milfoil
	Sucker Pond	fanwort
	Wakefield Pond	fanwort
	Wilson Reservoir	inflated bladderwort
<u>Charlestown</u>	Watchaug Pond	inflated bladderwort
<u>Coventry</u>	Arnold Pond	Brazilian elodea
	Carbuncle Pond	fanwort mudmat variable milfoil

**Town**

**Waterbody**

**Common Name**

Coventry Reservoir (Stump Pond)	variable milfoil
Flat River Reservoir (Johnson Pond)	fanwort inflated bladderwort variable milfoil
Tiogue Lake	fanwort variable milfoil
Upper Dam Pond	spiny naiad

**Cranston**

Print Works Pond	fanwort
Randall Pond	fanwort mudmat
Spectacle Pond	Brazilian elodea

**Cumberland**

Arnold Mills Reservoir (Pawtucket Reservoir)	variable milfoil
Happy Hollow Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
Robin Hollow Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
Sneech Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
Sylvan's Pond (Sylvan's Brook Pond)	fanwort variable milfoil water hyacinth

<u>Town</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<u>East Providence</u>		
	Turner Reservoir	curly-leaf pondweed fanwort variable milfoil water chestnut
	Willet Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
<u>Exeter</u>		
	Boone Lake	variable milfoil
	Breakheart Pond	variable milfoil
	The Reservoir	fanwort
<u>Foster</u>		
	Porters Pond	water chestnut
	Shippee Saw Mill Pond	variable milfoil
<u>Glocester</u>		
	Bowdish Reservoir	fanwort variable milfoil
	Clarksville Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
	Keech Pond	variable milfoil
	Lake Washington	mudmat variable milfoil
	Sawmill Pond	fanwort variable milfoil

**Town**

**Waterbody**

**Common Name**

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Smith & Sayles Reservoir	variable milfoil
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Spring Grove Pond	fanwort
	variable milfoil

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Waterman Reservoir	fanwort
	spiny naiad
	variable milfoil

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**Hopkinton**

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Alton Pond	variable milfoil
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Ashville Pond	variable milfoil
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Locustville Pond	variable milfoil
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Wincheck Pond	variable milfoil
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Wyoming Pond	variable milfoil
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**Johnston**

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Pocassett Pond	parrot feather
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Slack Reservoir	fanwort
	mudmat
	spiny naiad
	variable milfoil

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**Lincoln**

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Barney Pond	curly-leaf pondweed
	Eurasian milfoil

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Olney Pond	curly-leaf pondweed
	Eurasian milfoil

<u>Town</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
	Olney Pond	fanwort spiny naiad variable milfoil
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<u>Little Compton</u>	Peckham Rd. Pond	yellow floating heart
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<u>North Kingstown</u>	Belleville Ponds	fanwort variable milfoil water chestnut
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	Carr Pond (N. Kingstown)	fanwort variable milfoil
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	Potowomut Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
<hr/>		
	Secret Lake	fanwort variable milfoil
<hr/>		
	Silver Spring Lake	fanwort variable milfoil
<hr/>		
<u>North Providence</u>	Geneva Pond	fanwort
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	Wenscott Reservoir (Twin Rivers)	curly-leaf pondweed fanwort spiny naiad variable milfoil
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<u>North Smithfield</u>	Slatersville Reservoir	fanwort



<u>Town</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
	Slatersville Reservoir	spiny naiad variable milfoil
	Tarkiln Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
<u>Pawtucket</u>	Slater Park Pond	curly-leaf pondweed variable milfoil
<u>Providence</u>	Roger Williams Park Ponds	curly-leaf pondweed fanwort
<u>Richmond</u>	Carolina Trout Pond	variable milfoil water hyacinth
	Meadowbrook Pond (Sandy Pond)	variable milfoil
<u>Scituate</u>	Dexter Road Pond	yellow floating heart
	PeepToad Pond	fanwort variable milfoil
	Regulating Reservoir	curly-leaf pondweed fanwort variable milfoil
	Scituate Reservoir	fanwort variable milfoil
<u>Smithfield</u>		

**Town**

**Waterbody**

**Common Name**

Georgiaville Pond  
fanwort  
spiny naiad  
variable milfoil

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Hawkins Pond  
fanwort

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Woonasquatucket Reservoir (Stump Pond)  
fanwort  
variable milfoil

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**South Kingstown**

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Barber Pond  
fanwort  
variable milfoil

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Glen Rock Reservoir  
variable milfoil

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Hundred Acre Pond  
Brazilian elodea  
fanwort  
variable milfoil

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Indian Lake  
American lotus  
water hyacinth

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Peace Dale Reservoir  
variable milfoil

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Rocky Brook Reservoir  
variable milfoil

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Thirty Acre Pond  
fanwort  
variable milfoil

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Worden Pond  
fanwort  
variable milfoil  
water hyacinth

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Yawgoo Pond  
mudmat

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<u>Town</u>	<u>Waterbody</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<u>Tiverton</u>	Stafford Pond	mudmat
<u>Warwick</u>	Gorton Pond	Eurasian milfoil fanwort mudmat
	Sand Pond (N. of Airport)	mudmat
	Sandy Pond (S. of Airport) (Little Pond)	mudmat
	Three Ponds	fanwort
	<u>West Greenwich</u>	Mishnock Lake
Reynolds Pond		fanwort variable milfoil
Tarbox Pond		fanwort variable milfoil
<u>West Warwick</u>	Juniper Drive Pond	Eurasian milfoil
<u>Westerly</u>	Chapman Pond	American lotus curly-leaf pondweed Eurasian milfoil spiny naiad water chestnut
<u>Woonsocket</u>		

**Town**

**Waterbody**

**Common Name**

Sylvestre Pond

fanwort

water chestnut

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