

Resources

Contact the following organizations for more information about invasive aquatic plants in our watershed and beyond.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Lakes & Ponds Program

Site includes information about identifying and removing invasive aquatic plants.

www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/lakepond.htm

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Six-state project coordinated by the University of Connecticut.

www.ipane.org

National Invasive Species Info Center

Gateway to news and information about invasive aquatic plants and animals; covers federal, state and international sources.

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov

Protect Your Waters

Information about how recreational users can help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

www.protectyourwaters.net

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Information about preventing invasive species associated with aquariums and water gardens.

www.mass.gov/czm/invasives/prevent.htm

Saugus River Watershed Council

Resources and updates about ongoing efforts to address aquatic invasive plants in the Saugus River watershed.

www.saugusriver.org

About the Watershed

The Saugus River watershed stretches from Lake Quannapowitt to the Lynn Harbor/Saugus River estuary, encompassing all or part of eleven communities.

Saugus River Watershed Council

The Saugus River Watershed Council is a non-profit organization founded in 1991 to protect the natural resources of the watershed. Our priorities include restoring water quality, expanding public access, restoring habitat for anadromous fish and other wildlife, and protecting critical resource areas such as Rumney Marsh and Reedy Meadow.

About this Publication

This brochure was developed by the Saugus River Watershed Council with funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. Through proceeds from the 'Preserve the Trust' license plate, MET funds projects aimed at protecting and restoring water resources throughout the Commonwealth.



Contact MET today to find out how you can get a conservation license plate.

Saugus River Watershed Council

P.O. Box 1092, Saugus, MA 01906
781-233-5046

www.saugusriver.org

Massachusetts Environmental Trust

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Aquatic Invasive Plants in the Saugus River Watershed



Inside this Brochure:

- About Aquatic Invasive Plants
- Impact on the Watershed
- Ongoing Efforts
- How You Can Help
- Resources



www.saugusriver.org

Controlling Aquatic Invasive Plants in the Watershed

What are Aquatic Invasives?

Invasive species are non-native plants and animals introduced into new environments where - free from predators and competitors that kept them in check on their home turf - they can wreak havoc on native plant and animal communities. Often crowding out native species, invasive species are difficult enough to manage on land. Controlling them in lakes, ponds, rivers and wetlands can be even more problematic. These invaders can degrade water quality, limit recreational opportunities, and harm native plants and wildlife.

Impact on the Watershed

Several of the invasive and nuisance aquatic plants that afflict waterways throughout Massachusetts are also found in the Saugus River watershed. Many tidal and brackish areas of the Saugus River and Rumney Marsh are plagued by *Phragmites australis*, the pervasive common reed. Upstream areas such as Griswold Pond in Saugus and Pillings Pond in Lynnfield are affected by freshwater species such as variable milfoil, fanwort, and water chestnut. Algal blooms are also contributing the water quality problems in the upper



watershed. Recent monitoring at Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield identified high levels of *microcystis*, a form of algae that can be toxic to people and animals.

Efforts to Address the Problem



Through generous funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, the Saugus River Watershed Council is working in partnership with local communities to address the

environmental problem of aquatic invasive species in the watershed through scientific research, education and outreach activities, and field projects.

Our efforts have ranged from working in partnership with the National Park Service to remove phragmites from areas adjacent to the Saugus River, and conducting research to identify the presence and extent of aquatic invasive plants in ponds of the upper watershed, to assessing levels of toxic algae in Lake Quannapowitt.

During 2008, the Council will finalize an Action Plan to address this major environmental problem. The plan will include short and long-term strategies for continued monitoring, prevention, and removal of invasive species.

Information and resources about the Council's Aquatic Invasive Plant Project can be found at www.saugusriver.org.

How You Can Help!

Experts agree that it is easier and less expensive to prevent new incursions of invasive species than it is to remove them once they're established. Some ways that you can help include:

Gardening

Choose native flowers and shrubs for your yard and gardens. Do not dump contents of exotic water gardens into wetlands or ponds.

Boating

Clean motor boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddles thoroughly before using them in a different water body.

Aquariums

Do not dump contents of aquariums into wetlands or ponds. Fish and plants from aquariums are often non-native species.

Volunteer

Take action - become an aquatic invasive volunteer monitor. Contact the Saugus River Watershed Council at srw@shore.net or 781-233-5046 to find out more about how you can help identify, prevent and remove aquatic invasive plants from the watershed.