



2026 Plant Survey and Recommendations for NPJA

On June 24th, the entire littoral zone (area of the lake where sunlight can penetrate to the bottom to support plant growth) of Upper Narrows Pond was surveyed by the Watershed Friends' (WF) Roaming Plant Survey Team via kayaks. This is considered a Level 3 survey by the state of Maine. Only native plants were found. The on-water survey (not including prep, clean-up, or survey data submission time) took about 3 hours for four trained WF surveyors.

On July 1st, the entire littoral zone (Level 3 survey) of Lower Narrows Pond was surveyed by the WF Roaming Plant Survey Team via kayaks. Only native plants were found. The on-water survey time (not including prep, clean-up, or survey data submission time) took about 2 hours for five trained WF surveyors.

While Watershed Friends strongly recommends continuing full littoral zone (Level 3) surveys of both Upper and Lower Narrows Ponds with trained WF surveyors again next season, WF also encourages any members of the Narrows Pond Improvement Association or any interested individuals who live or recreate on or near the Narrows Ponds to get involved in the Adopt-a-Shoreline volunteer survey program. This program allows individuals to assist with survey efforts in any of these three capacities: 1) sending in photos or samples of a suspicious plant via the "See it. Snap it. Send it." program 2) surveying an area(s) of the waterbody and filling out a WF volunteer survey log (available at the WF office and to be turned in by the end of the season, early-November at the latest), or 3) surveying an area(s) of the waterbody and submitting Survey123 data (recommended for IPP-certified volunteers only).

The "See it. Snap it. Send it." program is the easiest way for individuals to get involved with volunteer survey efforts. Any shorefront property owners or individuals recreating on a waterbody within the Cobbossee Watershed are encouraged to email a photo of any suspicious-looking plants and their location to ais@watershedfriends.org. If suspicious fragments are found, they are encouraged to bring those into the WF office for identification. Any fragment or plant sample brought in should be stored in a Ziplock bag with a little bit of water to keep the plant hydrated. The bag should be labeled with the individual's name, contact information, location of the fragment or sample found (coordinates preferred), and date. This level of survey requires no plant Identification training, though we encourage anyone interested in plant ID to attend plant identification workshops hosted by Watershed Friends.

Survey logs are a way that WF can keep track of volunteer efforts in an informal manner to report volunteer hours to the state within final grant reports. Volunteer hours are considered an in-kind match and may result in more state grant money being awarded to WF for prevention (boat inspections), early detection (survey), and control work within the Cobbossee Watershed. This can also help reduce costs for all Lake Associations. We highly recommend that all volunteers filling out survey logs attend at least one Adopt-a-Shoreline and plant identification course with Watershed Friends.

Survey123 is an official way to digitally document survey efforts. WF surveyors submit Survey123 data after each survey (viewable on a state survey dashboard here: [Maine Plant Survey Dashboard](#)). We encourage that only volunteers who have received identification training from Lake Stewards of Maine use Survey123 to record survey data. Lake Stewards of Maine provides workshops throughout the season where attendees can become Tier 1 or Tier 2 IPP-certified.

Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) can help reduce the chance of an aquatic invasive plant introduction. Since paid CBI coverage throughout the season is more expensive than survey work, WF encourages NPIA to consider recruiting volunteers to help cover launches during high traffic times. These days may include holidays and holiday weekends to begin and may expand from there to weekend coverage. According to CBI data provided by the state of Maine, the hours of highest boat traffic tend to be between 7-8 am and 2-3 pm on average. WF provides CBI training for all CBI staff and volunteers.

Any additional questions regarding prevention, early detection, and mitigation work or known Aquatic Invasive Plant infestations within the Cobbossee Watershed can be directed to the WF Director of Aquatic Programs (caroline@watershedfriends.org).