

Virgin Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil Harvest w/ Aquatic Plant Management

August 10, 2022

Oneida County Staff in Attendance: Aubrey Nycz and Madeline Hetland

Report by: Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

The Three Lakes Waterfront Association hired Aquatic Plant Management to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil from Virgin Lake. This lake is on the Three Lakes Chain, but does not have its own public landing. Aquatic Plant Management did not want a crew of volunteers getting in their way, so Aubrey and Madeline met them out on the water to help pick up any floating EWM fragments left behind while harvesting. APM is scheduled to work August 10, 11, and 12 due to the extent of the milfoil. Today, they focused on part of north end of the lake where there was a large bed of EWM mixed in with a patch of soft-stem bulrush. Aubrey and I stayed downwind of the boat and caught any loose fragments in a net so the plant could not spread. A few fragments were already growing adventitious roots. About a third of the patch was removed by the time Aubrey and I left the site. The majority of the patch is still there and will be removed in the following days. APM also plans on removing plants from around the western and southern parts of the island. We observed some surface matting at that location. That bed will take some time to remove. We did not pick up alarming amounts of fragments, but enough that our presence was still worthwhile and beneficial. Aubrey stated that APM's practices were much cleaner and thorough than how it had been in previous years.

August 11, 2022

Oneida County Staff in Attendance: Stephanie Boismenu, Aubrey Nycz, and Madeline Hetland

Report by: Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

Today was day 2 of Aquatic Plant Managements EWM harvest on Virgin Lake. Stephanie, Aubrey, and Madeline met them at the site and picked up any floating fragments. Aquatic Plant Management was pretty thorough with their EWM harvesting. We still collected fragments but there were less floating around than yesterday. Stephanie paddled around the northeastern shoreline and collected fragments that were washed up on shore while Aubrey and Madeline stayed around the main harvesting site. We also made our way down along the eastern shoreline and picked up fragments that were floating downwind, caught in emergent weeds, or washed up on shore already. Stephanie and Aubrey also pulled up a few rooted plants in places where it wasn't too deep or dense. We ended up at the outlet of Julia Creek. We observed many mussels while slowly meandering through, so we decided to do a quick, 20-minute mussel monitoring session. Altogether, we collected about 110 mussels and 3 different species. We ended the day there.