

Subject: FW: June Natural Resources News: Unwelcome Aquatic Guests

From: City of Minnetonka <CityofMinnetonka@public.govdelivery.com>

Date: June 1, 2021 at 9:50:58 AM CDT

To: cris@christinepetersen.com

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Reply-To: CityofMinnetonka@public.govdelivery.com

City of Minnetonka

Unwelcome Aquatic Guests

Minnetonka contains 13 lakes and ponds, four major streams and hundreds of wetlands. These watery habitats are home to a variety of native species, along with a growing number of 'invasives', or species introduced accidentally or intentionally from other parts of the world. Invasive species cause environmental and economic damage and may pose risks to human health.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) often spread through three ways: aquarium water, watercraft, and bait. Here are a few invaders and tips for reducing their spread.

Common Carp are native to Europe. These bottom-feeding fish have plate-like scales that look metallic. Common carp disrupt aquatic food webs by uprooting vegetation as they feed at the bottom of shallow lakes and wetlands.

The Solution: Don't dump bait into lakes, streams and wetlands. Bait may contain baby carp, also called fry. Goldfish have similar damaging behaviors. Instead of releasing them in natural areas, contact the [Minnesota Aquarium Society](#) for options.



Mystery Snails include several types of large snails that were introduced from Asia for the home aquarium industry. Mystery snails can spread parasites to native mussels and sometimes invade largemouth bass nests, killing the eggs.

The Solution: Don't dump aquarium water into lakes, streams or wetlands, or down storm sewers.



Curlyleaf pondweed is a wavy-leafed plant that grows rooted to the bottom of waterways. It looks similar to native pondweeds but usually grows earlier in spring. Curlyleaf pondweed can form dense mats that interfere with aquatic recreation.

The solution: Make sure all vegetation is cleared before moving a watercraft between bodies of water. Proper cleaning also reduces the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil.



Hennepin County is installing an AIS cleaning station at Gray's Bay Marina. Stop by to clean, drain and dry your watercraft after boating on Lake Minnetonka.

Want to help volunteer to stop the spread of aquatic invasives?
Check out this [AIS training course](#) from the University of Minnesota.

Images courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Upcoming Natural Resources Events

Rain garden maintenance workshop

Thursday, June 3

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Learn the best strategies to ensure rain gardens retain their function and beauty over time. This workshop includes two components: a video emailed to you in advance, and a virtual meeting with local experts and staff from Minnetonka and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Advance registration is required.

[Click here to learn more](#)

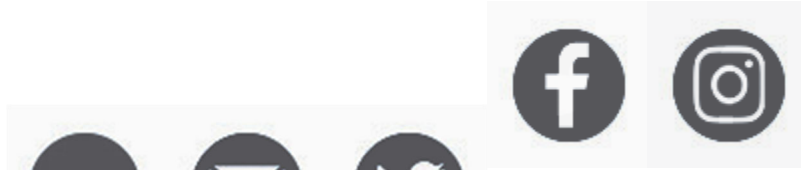
Volunteer habitat restoration

Ongoing

Help remove invasive garlic mustard in city parks and learn how to safely compost plants on-site. Visit our NR events pages for dates, locations and registration forms. Additional information on what to wear and bring will be emailed to registrants. All participants must sign release forms.

[Click here to learn more](#)





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