

**The Connecticut
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CAES

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Pachaug Pond

Griswold, CT

Aquatic Vegetation Survey

Water Chemistry

Aquatic Plant Management Options

2022

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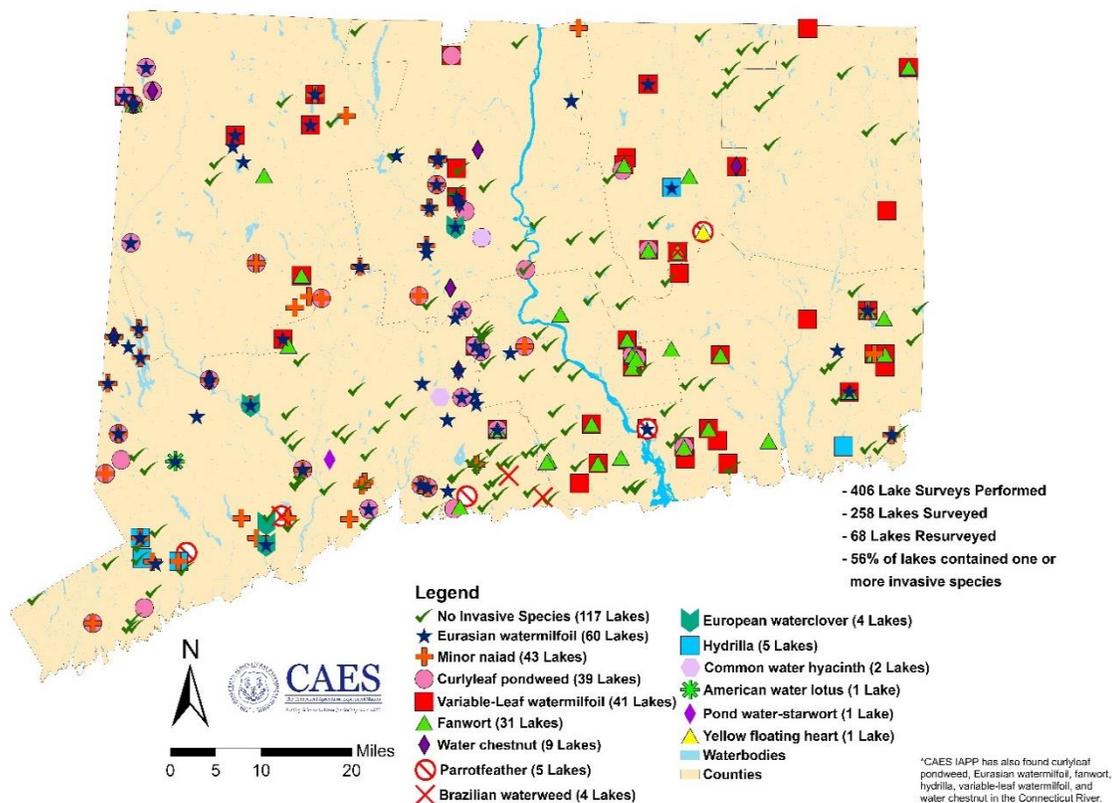


Figure 1. Locations of invasive aquatic plants found by CAES IAPP from 2004 – 2022.

Introduction:

Since 2004, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) Invasive Aquatic Plant Program (IAPP) has completed 406 surveys of aquatic vegetation and water chemistry in Connecticut lakes, ponds, and rivers. A total of 258 waterbodies have been mapped with many, such as Pachaug Pond, receiving multiple resurveys to monitor change (Figure 1). Of these lakes and ponds, 56% contain one or more invasive (non-native) plant species capable of causing rapid deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and recreational value. The presence of invasive species is related to water chemistry, public boat launches, random events, and climate change (Rahel and Olden, 2008). A CAES IAPP database is available online where stakeholders can view digitized vegetation maps, detailed transect data, temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles, and water test results for clarity, pH, alkalinity, conductivity, total phosphorus, and total nitrogen (portal.ct.gov/caes-iapp). In addition, the database

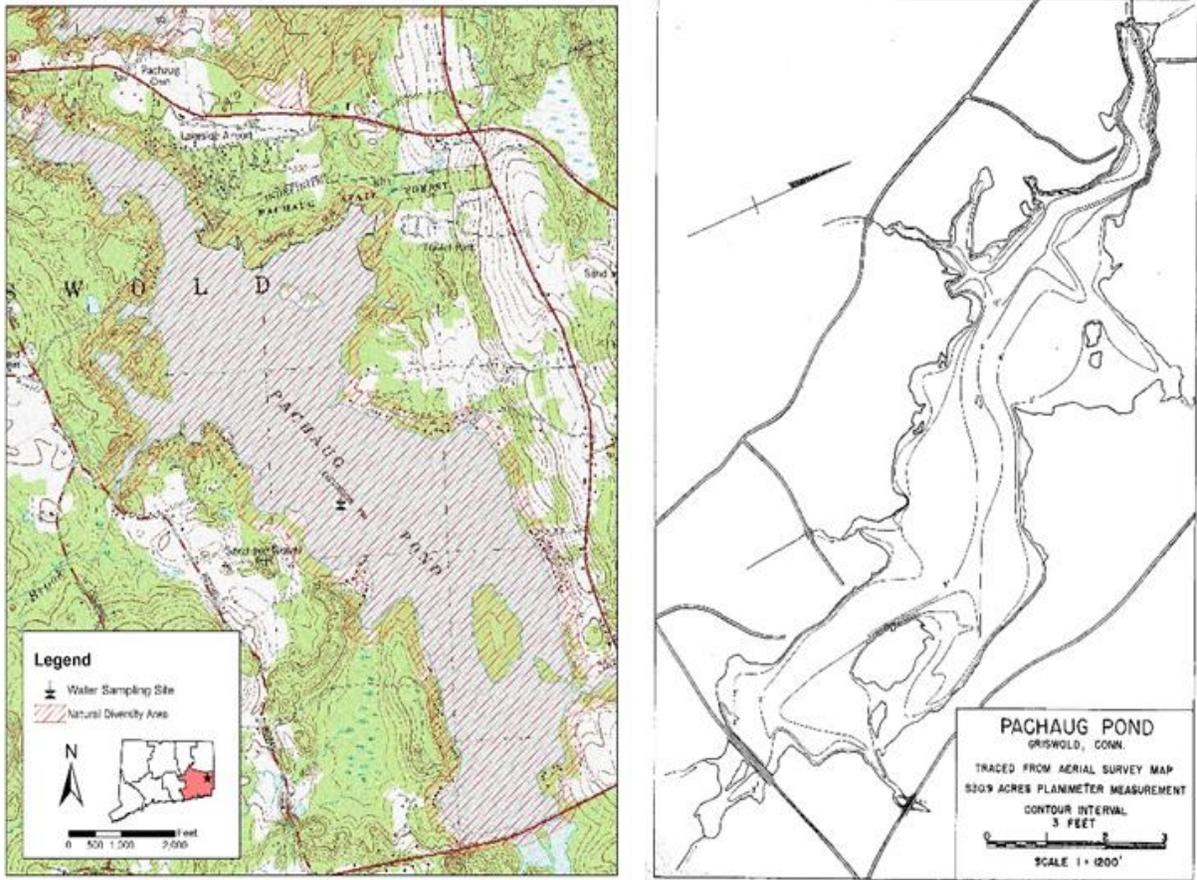


Figure 2. Topographic map of Pachaug Pond including location of state-listed species (Natural Diversity Area) and CAES IAPP water sampling site (left) and bathymetry map circa 1959 (right).

contains digitized herbarium mounts of each waterbodies plant species. This information allows citizens, government officials, and scientists to view past conditions, compare them with current conditions, and make educated management decisions.

Pachaug Pond is an 817-acre waterbody located in Griswold, CT. It is Connecticut’s largest body of freshwater east of the Connecticut River and offers important wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities such as fishing, swimming, boating, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. The pond is home to a marina, a campground, a state boat launch ramp, and a fish and game club. Stocked with northern pike, the pond is the site of many fishing derbies (PPWCA, 2022). It has a maximum depth of approximately 16 feet and an average depth of about six feet.

The shallow nature of the lake creates a large littoral zone that favors aquatic plant growth. State-listed species are present (Figure 2, left, CT DEEP, 2022). Protection of these species requires withholding details from the public without special request forms. Public access is via a state boat launch on the northern shore. There are no motor restrictions. Aquatic plant management is organized by the Pachaug Pond Weed Control Association (PPWCA).

Previous work on Pachaug Pond dates to the 1950's when the State Board of Fisheries and Game (1959) described the lake as being shallow and fertile with abundant emergent and submergent vegetation (Figure 2, right; see appendix for full description). The specific plant species were not mentioned, but the bottom was described as being mud, swampy ooze, and sand. A dense algal bloom was observed that reduced the water clarity to two feet. Bass fishing was described as excellent with fish over five pounds common. The 1959 description mentioned frequent severe summer drawdowns that may have been controlling aquatic vegetation. These drawdowns were stated as needed for "industrial" purposes, which was likely power generation (personal communication). Apparently, drawdowns were lessening as of 1959, and aquatic vegetation was increasing. CAES studied Pachaug Pond in 1979 as part of a statewide investigation into changes in lake water chemistry (Frink and Norvell, 1984). In addition to detailed water chemistry, the study mentions Pachaug Pond as having moderately dense aquatic weeds in shallow areas and watermilfoil near the boat launch (species not identified). Interestingly, pioneer infestations of invasive species might first be noticed at the boat launches if the plant arrived on a boat or trailer. The 1979 CAES water tests found a water clarity of 3.5 m (12 feet), an alkalinity of 15 mg/L CaCO₃ and a total phosphorus concentration of 16 µg/L at the surface and 13 µg/L at the bottom. These results suggest an oligo-mesotrophic condition where nutrients are not excessive.

In July 2020, the State Bond Commission passed a bonding package including \$4.9 million in funding for repairs to Pachaug Pond's dam. Work on the dam began in August of 2021 when the lake was lowered 4 feet in September. Repairs were

completed in 2022 and water levels were near normal by time of the survey in late July. The 2022 aquatic plant survey was the sixth consecutive survey of Pachaug Pond by CAES IAPP.

Objectives:

- Perform a sixth survey of Pachaug Pond for aquatic vegetation and test water to quantify water chemistry.
- Compare with previous surveys and add vegetation maps and water chemistry information to the CAES IAPP website. Special attention to possible changes caused by lowered water levels during dam repairs.
- Update aquatic plant management options.

Materials and Methods:

Aquatic Plant Surveys and Mapping:

We surveyed Pachaug Pond for aquatic vegetation on July 21, 26, & 27, 2022. The survey utilized methods established by CAES IAPP with the exception of fewer transects and less detail due to funding restrictions. Surveys were conducted from 16 and 18-foot motorized boats traveling over areas that supported aquatic plants. Plant species were recorded based on visual observation or collections with a long-handled rake or grapple. Lowrance® Hook 5 and HDS 5 sonar systems as well as ground truthing with occasional grapple tosses were used to identify vegetated areas in deep water. Quantitative information on plant abundance was obtained by resurveying 10 transects that were positioned perpendicular to the shoreline in 2017. Transect locations represented the variety of habitats occurring in the lake. Transects were located using Trimble® R1 GNSS and Trimble® ProXT global positioning systems with sub-meter accuracy. Sampling data points were taken along each transect at points 0, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 m from the shore. Depth was measured with a rake handle, drop line, or digital depth finder, and sediment type was estimated. Abundances of species

Table 1. Plants present in Pachaug Pond from 2017-2022. Present indicates the species presence in the lake while Frequency of Occurrence (FOQ) indicates presence of a species on transects.

Species (invasives in bold)		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
Common Name	Scientific Name	Present	FOQ (%/point)										
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria</i> species	X	9	X	13	X	6	X	13	X	6	X	8
Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium</i> species	X	12			X	4	X	4	X	8	X	17
Cattail	<i>Typha</i> species	X	0	X	0	X	0	X	0	X	0	X	2
Clasping-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	X	2			X	1	X	1	X	1		
Common bladderwort	<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>	X	8	X	54	X	1					X	0
Common duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>					X	0			X	8	X	6
Coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	X	17	X	17	X	16	X	10	X	7	X	6
Eelgrass	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	X	65	X	59	X	53	X	72	X	53	X	46
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	X	31	X	45	X	28	X	26	X	45	X	33
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	X	48	X	42	X	42	X	39	X	68	X	10
Flat-leaf bladderwort	<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>									X	0		
Floating bladderwort	<i>Utricularia radiata</i>	X	48			X	32	X	1	X	10	X	4
Floating-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	X	3	X	1	X	0	X	2	X	1	X	5
Golden hedge-hyssop	<i>Gratiola aurea</i>	X	5	X	1					X	0	X	2
Great duckweed	<i>Spirodela polyrrhiza</i>			X	4	X	9	X	7	X	5		
Humped bladderwort	<i>Utricularia gibba</i>	X	1	X	8	X	9	X	16	X	21	X	0
Large-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	X	9	X	19	X	8	X	19	X	31	X	5
Leafy pondweed	<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>	X	1	X	3	X	1	X	2			X	4
Lesser bladderwort	<i>Utricularia minor</i>			X	1					X	0		
Little floating heart	<i>Nymphoides cordata</i>			X	9	X	10	X	6	X	10	X	3
Low watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum humile</i>	X	8	X	4			X	2	X	8	X	4
Minor naiad	<i>Najas minor</i>	X	4	X	20	X	3	X	30			X	35
Mudmat	<i>Glossostigma cleistanthum</i>	X	1	X	7	X	3	X	8	X	2	X	10
Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	X	1	X	2	X	0	X	3	X	1	X	3
Pickereelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	X	12	X	22	X	13	X	17	X	17	X	24
Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton</i> species							X	7				
Primrose-willow	<i>Ludwigia</i> species	X	2	X	5	X	4	X	1	X	3	X	32
Purple bladderwort	<i>Utricularia purpurea</i>	X	1	X	3	X	6	X	6	X	15	X	0
Quillwort	<i>Isoetes</i> species			X	3			X	0	X	0		
Ribbon-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	X	35	X	13	X	14	X	29	X	21	X	0
Robbins' pondweed	<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	X	35	X	41	X	40	X	32	X	38	X	18
Slender naiad	<i>Najas flexilis</i>	X	11	X	19	X	18	X	32	X	10	X	12
Small pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>							X	12	X	0	X	0
Small-leaved pond-lily	<i>Nuphar microphylla</i>	X	0										
Snailseed pondweed	<i>Potamogeton bicupulatus</i>	X	10	X	13	X	7	X	8	X	4		
Spikerush	<i>Eleocharis</i> species	X	8	X	11	X	14	X	16	X	19	X	23
Swollen bladderwort*	<i>Utricularia inflata</i>									X	43	X	3
Variable-leaf watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	X	8	X	9	X	20	X	29	X	47	X	6
Water smartweed	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	X	4	X	12	X	11	X	9	X	9	X	9
Water starwort	<i>Callitriche</i> species											X	0
Watermeal	<i>Wolffia</i> species	X	1							X	3		
Watershield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	X	31	X	30	X	32	X	35	X	32	X	8
Waterwort	<i>Elatine</i> species			X	7	X	1	X	3	X	0	X	1
Western waterweed	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>			X	1	X	1			X	5		
White water lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	X	18	X	22	X	26	X	24	X	27	X	14
Yellow water lily	<i>Nuphar variegata</i>	X	13	X	14	X	6	X	11	X	11	X	19
Total Species Richness	46	34	32	34	34	35	31	36	34	40	33	36	30
Total Native Species Richness	40	29	27	29	29	30	26	31	29	35	28	30	24
Total Invasive Species Richness	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	6	6

*Swollen bladderwort is easily confused with common bladderwort. DNA analysis will determine the identification. It is possible common bladderwort found in the past is also swollen bladderwort.

present at each point were ranked on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 = very sparse, 2 = sparse, 3 = moderately abundant, 4 = abundant, 5 = very abundant). When field identifications of plants were questionable, samples were brought back to the lab for review using the taxonomy of Crow and Hellquist (2000a, 2000b). One specimen of each species collected in the lake was dried and mounted in the CAES IAPP aquatic plant herbarium. Digitized mounts can be viewed online (portal.ct.gov/caes-iapp). Plant species are referred to by common name in the text



Figure 3. Water smartweed and water lilies in the southwestern cove of the lake.

of this report, however corresponding scientific names can be found in Table 1. Cattail and phragmites are wetland plants included in our survey at the request of the PPWCA. Phragmites is an invasive wetland species and is marked as such in our report. We post-processed the GPS data in Pathfinder® 5.85 (Trimble Navigation Limited, Sunnyvale, CA) and then imported it into ArcGIS® Pro 3.0.3 (ESRI Inc., Redlands, CA). Data were then overlaid onto recent high-resolution (1 m or better) aerial imagery for the continental United States made available by the USDA Farm Services Agency.

Water Analysis:

Water was analyzed from the deepest part of the lake. Water temperature and dissolved oxygen were measured 0.5 m beneath the surface and at 1 m intervals to the bottom. Water was tested for temperature and dissolved oxygen using an YSI 58° meter. Water clarity was measured by lowering a six-inch diameter black and white Secchi disk into the water and determining to what depth it could be viewed. Water samples (250 mL) for pH, alkalinity, conductivity, total phosphorus, and total



Figure 4. Terrestrial and wetland plants growing in one to three feet of water as a result of the drawdown for dam repairs.

nitrogen testing were obtained from 0.5 m beneath the surface and 0.5 m above the bottom. The samples were stored at 38°C until testing. A Fisher AR20® meter was used to determine pH and conductivity, and alkalinity (expressed as mg/L CaCO₃) was quantified by titration with 0.016 N H₂SO₄ to an end point of pH 4.5. We determined total phosphorus using the ascorbic acid method preceded by digestion with potassium persulfate (APHA, 1995). Phosphorus was quantified using a Milton Roy Spectronic 20D® spectrometer with a light path of 2 cm and a wavelength of 880 nm. Total Nitrogen was determined with a O-I Analytical 1080® Total Organic Carbon Analyzer (data pending).

Results and Discussion:

General Aquatic Plant Surveys and Transects:

We found 6 invasive and 30 native plant species in Pachaug Pond in 2022 (Table 1). This compares to 5 invasive and 35 native species found in 2021. The

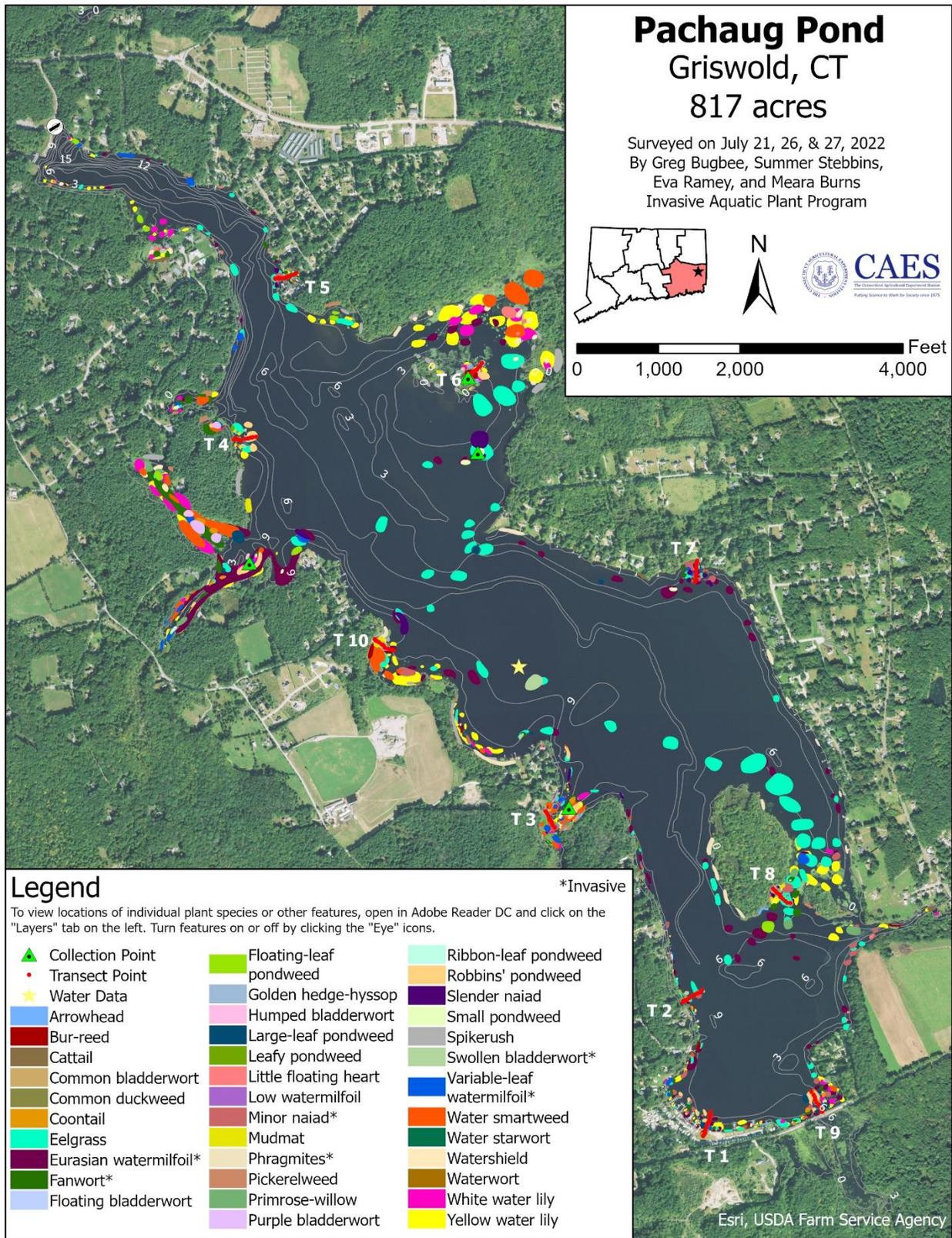


Figure 5. 2022 aquatic plant survey map of Pachaug Pond.

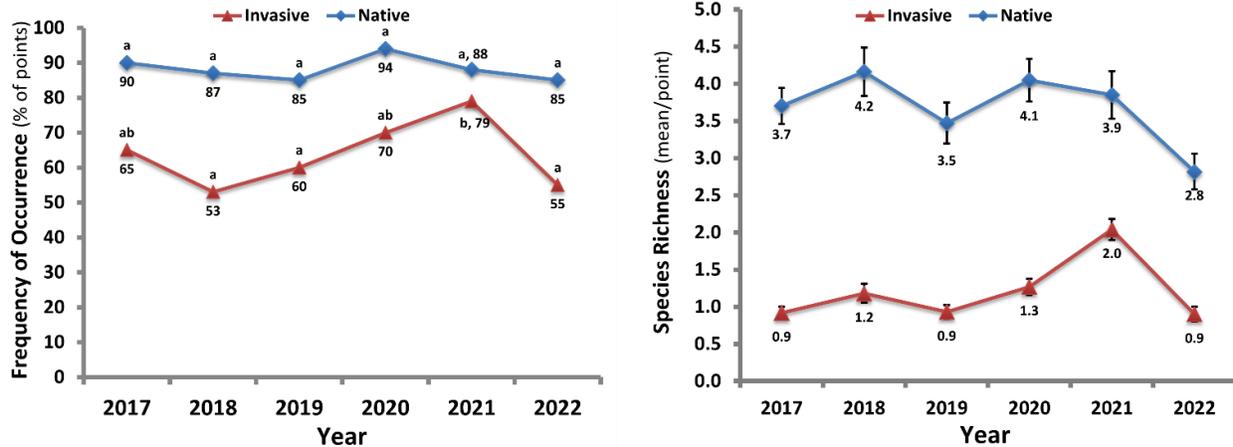


Figure 6a & 6b. Frequency of occurrence (FOQ, left) and species richness (right) and of native and invasive aquatic plants on transects in Pachaug Pond from 2017 – 2022.

reduction was likely caused by the 2021/22 drawdown for dam repairs. Still Pachaug Pond contains among the greatest number of plant species found in any waterbody surveyed by CAES IAPP (2023). Changes in native species included three species not observed in 2022 (common bladderwort, leafy pondweed, water starwort) and eight species found in 2021 but not in 2022 (clasping-leaf pondweed, flat-leaf bladderwort, great duckweed, lesser bladderwort, quillwort, snailseed pondweed, watermeal, western waterweed). Providing details on the specifics of the native plants is beyond the scope of this report, however information is available at the USDA “About PLANTS” website (<https://plants.usda.gov/home>). Eurasian watermilfoil, fanwort, minor naiad, phragmites, variable-leaf watermilfoil, and swollen bladderwort comprised the invasive species found in 2022 (see descriptions in appendix). Swollen bladderwort was the new addition to the invasive species in 2021. Because it is easily mistaken for other native bladderworts it may have been overlooked in previous years. CAES IAPP had the swollen bladderwort from Pachaug Pond tested using DNA analysis and the results were inconclusive. Additional samples from other waterbodies are needed to create a DNA database, which will help confirm this species. Minor naiad was found in 2022, after not being found in 2021 for the first time since surveys began in 2017. This was expected since minor naiad

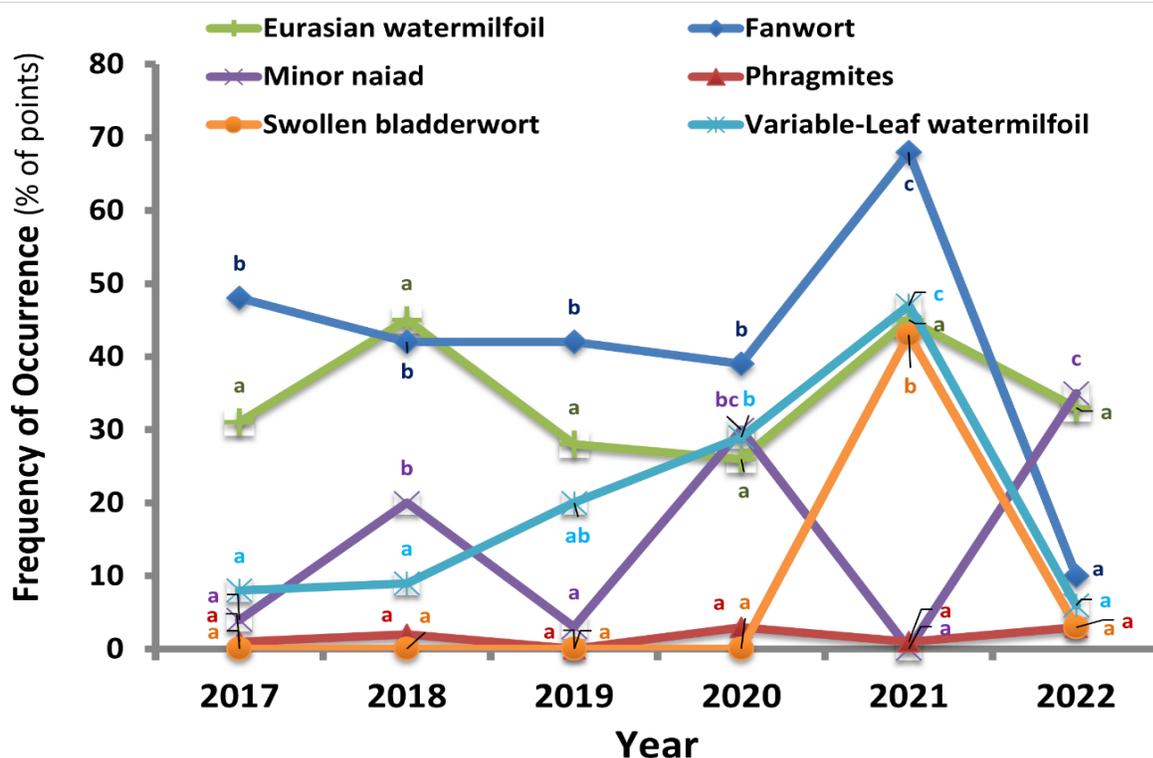


Figure 7. Frequency of occurrence (FOQ) of individual invasive aquatic plant species on transects in Pachaug Pond from 2017 - 2022.

propagates from seed each year. Although monostands of invasive species were found in a few areas of the lake, areas covered by native species or invasive species mixed with native species were more common. Many of the shallow coves contained nuisance vegetation such as fanwort, water smartweed, and various water lilies that reached the surface (Figure 3). Much of the lake, however, did not have problematic vegetation reaching the surface despite it being shallow enough to support luxuriant growth. In these areas, the bottom either did not support plant growth or was covered with native eelgrass and/or Robbins' pondweed. Reasons for this may include the brown water coloration that limits light, infertile substrate, and previous drawdowns.

Compared to 2018 - 2021, overall vegetation slightly decreased in area and abundance in 2022. This is likely caused by the lengthy drawdown during 2021 and 2022 for dam repairs. The lake was lowered in the fall of 2021 and did not

reach full capacity until just prior to our July 2022 survey. Since sediment was exposed for an extended period, wetland and terrestrial species such as phragmites, cattail, and tree saplings became established and were found frequently along the shoreline in up to three feet of water (Figure 4). Typically, these plants will return to less saturated shoreline locations with time. Aquatic vegetation abundance in 2022 was most like 2018 (Figure 5, see appendix for closeup maps and previous years' maps). Many coves had nuisance emergent vegetation such as white and yellow water lily, and water smartweed. The CAES IAPP website contains digitized survey maps where individual plant layers can be viewed separately (portal.ct.gov/caes-iapp). Water smartweed, fanwort, and water lilies often occurred in patches dense enough to restrict navigation, but fewer patches were found compared to previous years. Similar to 2021, the northwestern cove and the southwestern cove near Transect 3 each had a boat path through the vegetation. These paths seem to be actively managed.

Comparisons of our frequency of occurrence (FOQ) data from transects from 2017 – 2022, found little overall change in total native species. Invasive species FOQ however, significantly decreased (Tukey $p \leq 0.05$) from 79 percent in 2021 to 55 percent in 2022 (Figure 6a, see appendix for transect data). Statistically significant decreases in individual invasive species in 2022 were found with fanwort, swollen bladderwort, and variable-leaf watermilfoil (Figure 7, Table 1). There was a significant increase of minor naiad, from 0% in 2021 to 35% in 2022 (Figure 7, Table 1). The native plants found on the most transect points in 2022 (Table 1) were eelgrass (46%), primrose-willow (32%), pickerelweed (24%), and spikerush (23%). Compared to 2021, some native species were found significantly less frequently on transects in 2022 including humped bladderwort (0%), large-leaf pondweed (5%), purple bladderwort (0%), ribbon-leaf pondweed (0%), Robbins' pondweed (18%), watershield (8%), and white-water lily (14%). There was an overall significant decrease in invasive and native species richness on transect points in 2022 (Figure 6b).

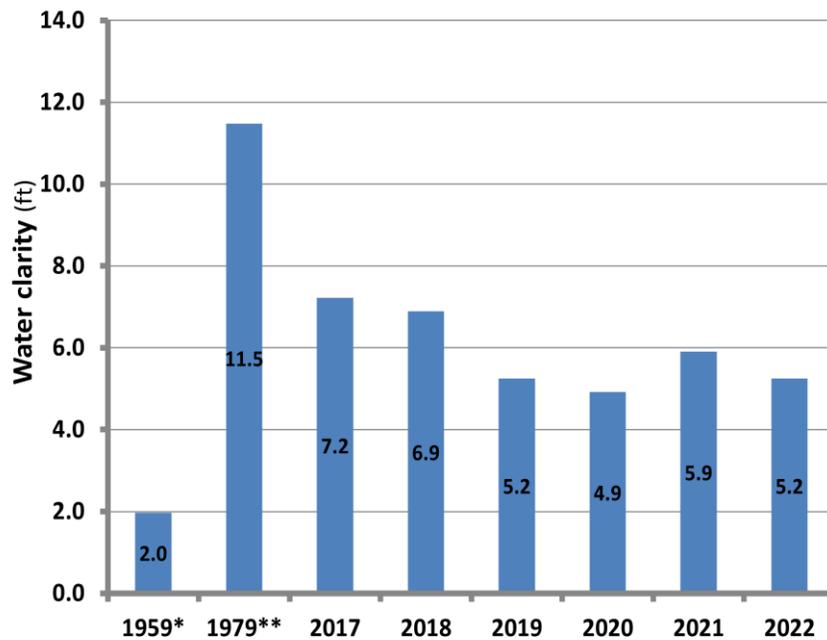


Figure 8. Water clarity in Pachaug Pond in 1959 (*State Board of Fisheries and Game), 1979 (**CAES), 2017 – 2022 (CAES IAPP).

Water Chemistry:

Water clarity in Connecticut’s lakes ranges from 0.3 - 10 m (1-33 feet) with an average of 2.3 m (7 feet) (CAES IAPP, 2023). Pachaug Pond had a water clarity of 1.6 m (5.2 feet) in our 2022 survey, which is slightly less than 2021, slightly more than 2020, and the same as 2019 (Figure 8). Measurements in 1979 found clarity to be 3.5 m (12 feet) (Frink and Norvell, 1984) while in the 1950’s it was only 0.6 m (2 feet) (State Board of Fisheries and Game, 1959). The poor water clarity in the 1950’s was attributed to an algal bloom. This could have been due to the reported industrial use of the water. Our 2022 observation was consistent with previous years with water clarity not reduced by algal blooms but rather the brown coloration caused by naturally occurring organic derivatives.

The shallow nature of Pachaug Pond resulted in little stratification of temperature in all years and the presence of anaerobic bottom water at depths below 2 m (Figure

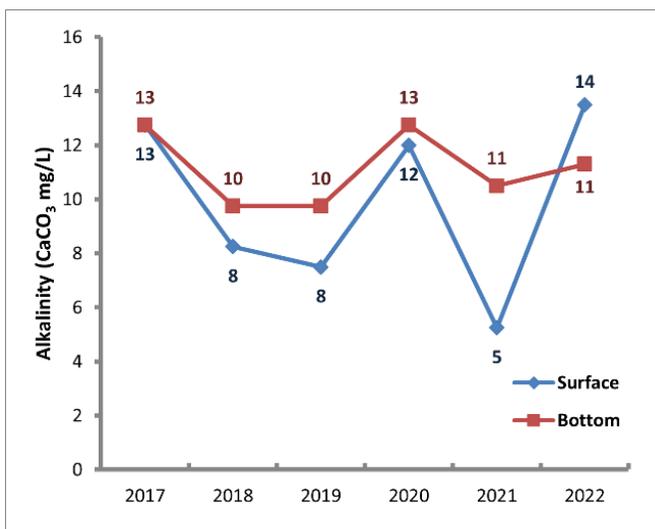
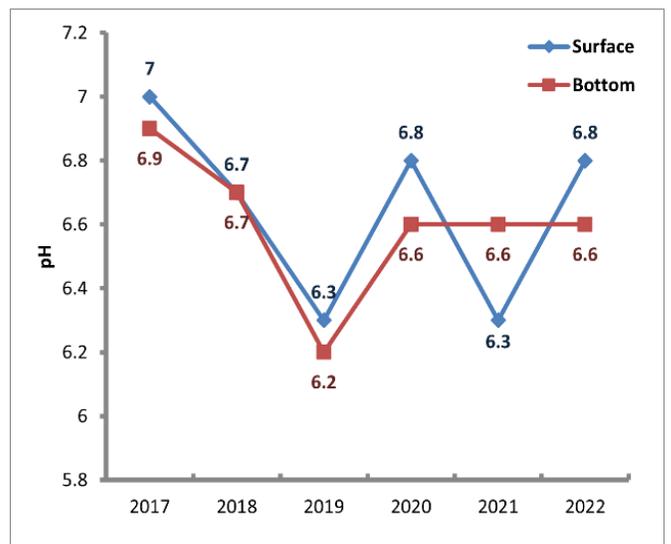
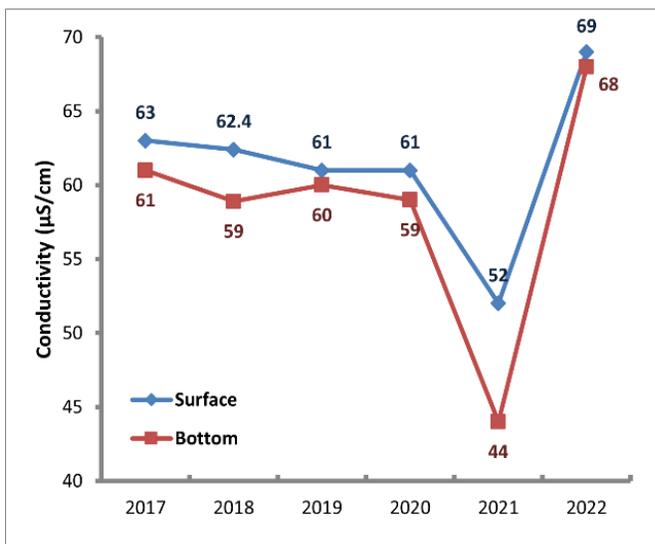
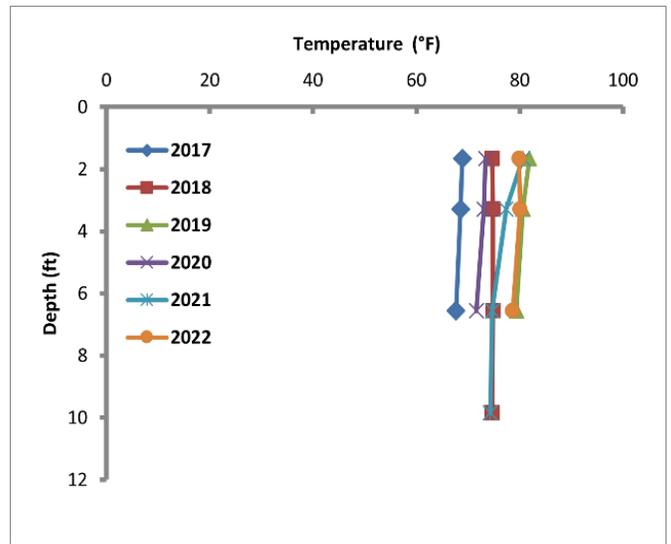
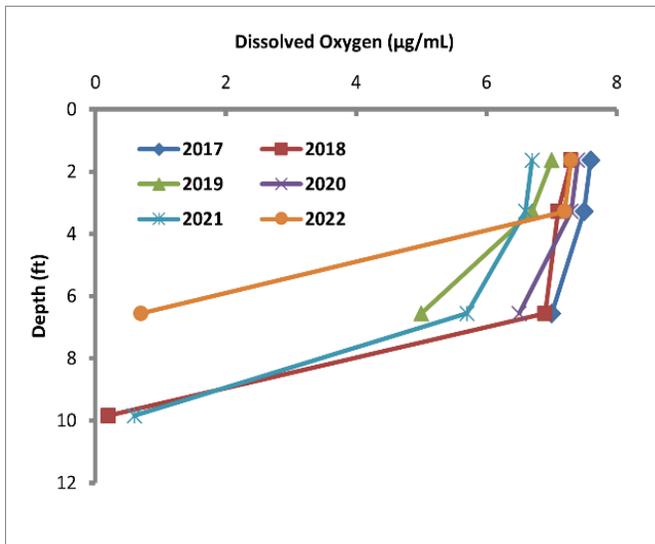


Figure 9. Water chemistry data for Pachaug Pond from 2017 - 2022.

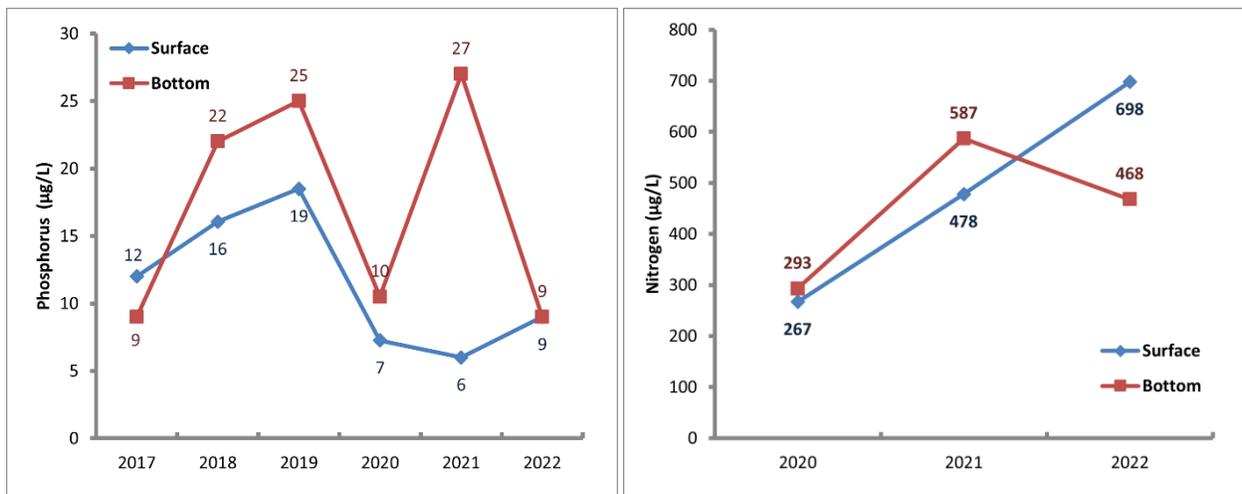


Figure 10. Phosphorus (left) and total nitrogen (TN, right) measurements for Pachaug Pond from 2017 - 2022. Note TN measurements were only collected from 2020 - 2022,

9). Water pH was near neutral (6.2 - 7.0) with an alkalinity of 5 - 14 mg/L CaCO₃ which is low for Connecticut lakes which range from near 0 to >170 (CAES IAPP, 2021). Low alkalinity waterbodies are more prone to pH change due to outside influences such as watershed activities and acid rain. Conductivity is an indicator of dissolved ions that come from natural and man-made sources (mineral weathering, organic matter decomposition, fertilizers, septic systems, road salts, etc.). Connecticut waterbodies have conductivities that range from 50 - 250 µS/cm. Pachaug Pond's conductivity of 69 µS/cm at the surface and 68 µS/cm at the bottom in 2022 was higher than in our previous surveys. This may be related to the concentration of ions during the drawdown, decreased uptake by vegetation, road salts, or other factors.

A key parameter used to categorize a lake's trophic state is phosphorus (P) in the water column. High levels of P can lead to nuisance or toxic algal blooms (Frink and Norvell, 1984, Wetzel, 2001). Rooted macrophytes are considered to be less dependent on P from the water column as they obtain a majority of their nutrients from the hydrosol (Bristow and Whitcombe, 1971). Lakes with P levels from 0 - 10 µg/L are considered nutrient-poor or oligotrophic. When P concentrations reach 15 - 25 µg/L, lakes are classified as moderately fertile or mesotrophic and when P reaches 30 - 50 µg/L they are considered fertile or eutrophic (Frink and Norvell, 1984). Lakes

with P concentrations $>50 \mu\text{g/L}$ are categorized as extremely fertile or hyper-eutrophic. Pachaug Pond's P concentration in 2022 was $9 \mu\text{g/L}$ at surface and $9 \mu\text{g/L}$ near the bottom, which classifies the lake as oligotrophic (Figure 9). Analysis of the water by CAES in 1979 (Frink and Norvell, 1984) found similar P concentrations of $16 \mu\text{g/L}$ at surface and $13 \mu\text{g/L}$ near the bottom. We tested total nitrogen (TN) for the first time in 2020 and found $267 \mu\text{g/L}$ the surface and $293 \mu\text{g/L}$ near the bottom (Figure 9). In 2021, TN was considerably higher both at the surface ($587 \mu\text{g/L}$) and at the bottom ($478 \mu\text{g/L}$). From 2021 to 2022, TN increased at the surface to $698 \mu\text{g/L}$ and decreased near the bottom to $468 \mu\text{g/L}$. Although nitrogen is likely less limiting to the growth of aquatic plants and algae compared to terrestrial plants, it may play a role in lake productivity. Frink and Norvell (1984) found TN in Connecticut lakes ranged from $193 - 1830 \mu\text{g/L}$ and averaged $554 \mu\text{g/L}$.

CAES IAPP has found that the occurrence of invasive plants in lakes can be attributed to specific water chemistries (June-Wells et al. 2013). For instance, lakes with higher alkalinities and conductivities are more likely to support Eurasian watermilfoil, minor naiad, and curlyleaf pondweed while lakes with lower values support fanwort and variable-leaf watermilfoil. Pachaug Pond's water chemistry appears to be an outlier to this trend as its low alkalinity and conductivity suggests Eurasian watermilfoil and minor naiad should be less abundant than observed.

Aquatic Vegetation Management Options:

Managing nuisance aquatic vegetation in Pachaug Pond will be challenging because the lake has extensive areas of desirable native vegetation, and state-listed species may need protection. In addition, large numbers of residents utilize the lake for recreational activities, particularly fishing, boating, and swimming. Options include water level drawdown, harvesting, herbicides, biological controls, and benthic barriers (Cooke et al., 2005). Dredging may also be employed but is usually impractical for large lakes like Pachaug.

Water level drawdown can be an effective and economical means of controlling nuisance vegetation in large shallow lakes like Pachaug Pond. The vegetation reductions reported here is likely a side effect of the drawdown need for the 2021/22 dam repairs (Grahn, 2021). Fortunately, the new dam has an outlet suitable for the technique and future utilization for weed management is possible.



Figure 10. Eco-Harvester arriving at Pachaug Pond in July 2022.

In July 2022, the eco-harvester purchased by the PPWCA arrived and was in full use through the rest of the season (Figure 10). The harvester arrived during our 2022 survey but was not utilized until after our survey was completed. Major benefits of mechanical harvesting include quick results, the ability to target areas and avoid damage to species needing protection, avoidance of aquatic herbicides, and removal of nutrients contained in the harvested vegetation. Drawbacks include the initial expense of the harvesting machine, maintenance costs, rapid regrowth, the need for follow-up work, and costs for vegetation removal and disposal. Results of the Pachaug Pond harvesting program will provide important information for others considering a similar weed management approach.

Herbicides can be effective in controlling unwanted aquatic vegetation. Aquatic herbicide use requires clearance from the CT DEEP Pesticides Unit and the Natural Diversity Database. Herbicides must be chosen carefully as some have efficacy on certain target species and not others. Also, any desirable plants, including state-listed species, may need to be tolerant. Specifics on the use of aquatic herbicides in Connecticut are found in the CT DEEP publication entitled “Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation Management: A Guidebook” (CTDEP, 2005). In 2018, CAES IAPP tested a new

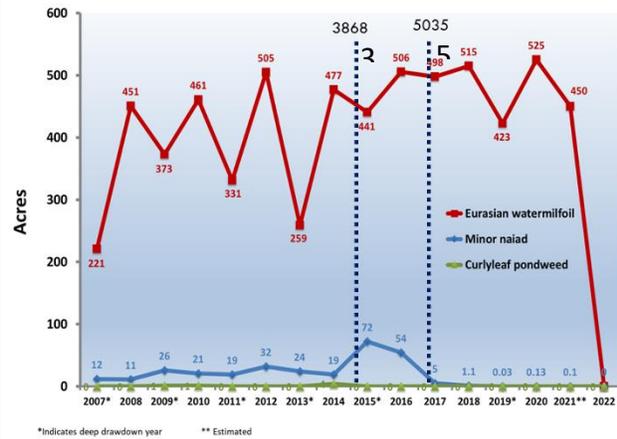


Figure 11. Grass carp introduction into Candlewood Lake in 2015 (left). Near complete elimination of invasive and native (not shown) in Candlewood Lake after seven years (right).

herbicide called ProcellaCOR to control variable-leaf watermilfoil in Bashan Lake with excellent results.

Although efforts are underway to find biological controls for nuisance aquatic vegetation, breakthroughs have been limited. To date the only biological control used in Connecticut is grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*, Figure 11 left). Grass carp are herbivorous fish that feed on most submersed aquatic plants. The introduction of grass carp into Connecticut lakes requires approval by CT DEEP. In Connecticut, only sterile (triploid) grass carp are permitted. Introducing grass carp in Pachaug Pond could cause damage to non-target plants necessary to maintain the current fishery. Grass carp primarily feed on submergent vegetation, so the water lilies and water smartweed impacting many of the coves will be unaffected. Overstocking in some waterbodies has led to an undesirable reduction in plants needed for fish and other wildlife (Figure 11 right). CAES has worked with officials from the United States Department of Agriculture to find new plant pathogens and insects that control nuisance aquatic plants with little success.

Benthic barriers or “bottom blankets” are effective at eliminating nuisance vegetation in small areas such as swim zones, around docks, and pioneer infestations.



Figure 12. CAES IAPP testing of short-term benthic barriers in Lake Beseck.

CAES IAPP has tested short-term placement (<30 days) of the barriers in Lake Quonipaug, Bashan Lake, and Lake Beseck (Figure 12). Season-long control for Eurasian watermilfoil and fanwort was achieved. Although labor intensive, benthic barriers may be able to be moved from place to place during a season for effective control. They can also be used over multiple years, reducing cost of materials.

Conclusions:

Our 2022 survey of Pachaug Pond found a small decrease in aquatic vegetation from previous years likely because of the drawdown needed for dam repairs. A total of 36 plant species were documented of which six were invasive placing Pachaug Pond among the most plant species rich lakes in Connecticut. The invasive species found were Eurasian watermilfoil, fanwort, minor naiad, swollen bladderwort, and variable-leaf watermilfoil, which are the same species found in previous years. Swollen bladderwort identification lacks confidence pending additional genetic testing. Many of the coves contained nuisance vegetation such as fanwort, water smartweed, and/or water lilies that reached the surface. Much of the remainder of the pond, in areas less than six feet deep, contained a mixture of invasive and native species not reaching the surface which could become problematic

should conditions such as light limitation, infertile substrate, water level, and control from previous drawdowns change. Aquatic plant management and monitoring is critical to assure a potential rapid decline in the quality of Pachaug Pond is avoided. A mechanical harvester was commissioned into service in Pachaug Pond just after our 2022 survey and documenting its effectiveness will provide valuable information. Water level drawdowns via the new dam's outlet have potential to be a cost-effective means of aquatic plant control. Other management practices with potential include herbicides, benthic barriers, and grass carp. Our water tests found Pachaug Pond to be relatively low in alkalinity with minimal stratification. Water clarity was limited by the water's brown coloration.

Acknowledgments:

The technical assistance of Meara Burns, Matthew Latella, Amanda Massa, Michael Modica, Adam Pakalnis, Deanna Rackie, Eva Ramey, Maylani Velazquez, Sunayna Wah, and Abigail Wiegand is gratefully acknowledged.

Funding:

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Appendix

Narrative from State Board of Fisheries and Game Lake and Pond Survey Unit – 1959

PACHAUG POND

Pachaug Pond is a large, artificial impoundment located in New London County in the township of Griswold. This shallow, fertile pond was formed by impounding the Pachaug River. It has a surface area of 830.9 acres, a maximum depth of 18 feet and an average depth of 6.1 feet. Much of the well-wooded shoreline is in the Pachaug State Forest. Submerged and emergent vegetation is abundant, particularly in the shoal areas and shallow areas. The pond bottom is of mud, swampy ooze and sand. A dense algal bloom reduces transparency to two feet. The waters of this pond are not thermally stratified.

Shoreline development is very light and there are only a few cottages present. Boats are available for rental at a livery at the southern end of the pond. There is a state-owned right-of-way present, but this is poorly developed and is unuseable.

Pachaug Pond has been stocked with smallmouth bass and yellow perch.

Largemouth bass are common in abundance and exhibit excellent growth. Yellow perch are common in abundance. This species grows at a rate equal to the state average. Bluegill sunfish are abundant and grow at a rate well above the state average. Chain pickerel are scarce and exhibit an above-average growth rate. Calico bass are common in abundance. The growth rate of this species is equal to the state average. Bullheads are common in abundance and golden shiners are abundant.

This pond has the reputation of producing excellent bass fishing. Bass over five pounds are relatively common. Fishing for panfish such as perch, bluegill sunfish, calico bass and bullheads should be excellent.

In the past, this body of water was subject to severe drawdown during late June, July and August. This drawdown took place after the game species had reproduced and did not destroy their nests or young. As a result of the drawdown, the game fish and panfish were crowded into a smaller area and the panfish were more readily available to the game fish as forage. The resultant increase in predation aided in controlling the numbers of panfish and helped to keep these fish within the limits of the food supply and, at the same time, helped to provide numerous fast-growing game fish. The drawdown process also helped to control aquatic vegetation and this resulted in considerable open water relatively free from water weeds. For the past several years, the water has not been used for industrial purposes and, as a result, the water level has remained fairly stable. Aquatic vegetation is becoming more abundant and the amount of open water more restricted. This increase in the abundance of "water weeds" may provide excessive escape cover for panfish and can well result in stunted populations of yellow perch and bluegill sunfish.

The drawdown and exposure of considerable areas of the pond bottom also allowed smartweed and other semi-terrestrial plants to grow on the exposed shoals. These terrestrial plants furnished excellent food for waterfowl and attracted large numbers of ducks during the fall shooting season.

It is recommended that a control structure be installed in the dam so that the pond can be lowered three to four feet every summer. Such a drawdown should be started in June and the reduced water level should be held until the end of August.

No special regulations are recommended at this time.

Invasive Plant Descriptions

Cabomba caroliniana

Common names:

Fanwort

Carolina fanwort

Origin:

Southeast United States

South America

Key features:

Plants are submersed

Stems: Can be 6 feet (2 m) long

Leaves: Dissected, opposite leaves 0.8-2 inches (2-5 cm) are fan-like and made up of forked leaflets attached to the stem by a petiole. Floating leaves 0.2-0.8 inches (6-20 mm) wide are oblong and produced on flower shoots

Flowers: Small, solitary flowers are usually white to pinkish

Fruits/Seeds: Flask shaped

Reproduction: Seed and fragmentation

Easily confused species:

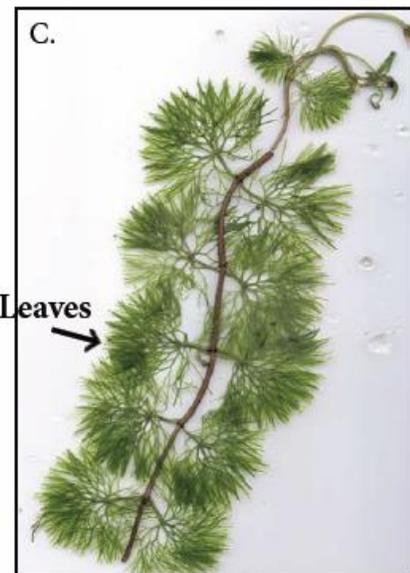
Watermilfoils: *Myriophyllum* spp.

White water crowfoot: *Ranunculus longirostris*

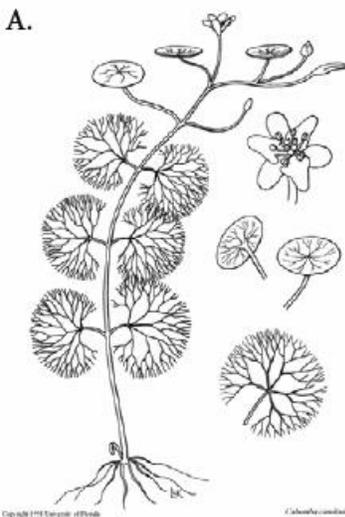
Water marigold: *Megalodonta beckii*



Photo by CAES IAPP



Opposite Leaves



Copyright 1991 University of Florida
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Cabomba caroliniana
Barnard



A. Copyright 1991 Univ. of Florida,
Center for Aquatic and Invasive
Plants

B. Copyright 2002 Univ. of Florida,
Photo by A. Murray

C. Photo by A. Smagula



★ CAES
■ IPANE



Myriophyllum heterophyllum

Common names:

Variable-leaf watermilfoil
Variable watermilfoil
Two-leaf watermilfoil

Origin:

Southern United States

Key features:

Plants are submersed

Stems: Dark brown stems extend to the water's surface and spread to form large mats

Leaves: Triangular with ≤ 11 pairs of leaflets. Leaves are dissected and whorled (4-6 leaves/whorl) resulting in a feathery appearance with leaf whorls < 1 inch apart giving it a ropy appearance

Flowers: Inflorescence spike 2-14 inches (5-35 cm) long extend beyond the water's surface with flowers in whorls of four with reddish petals

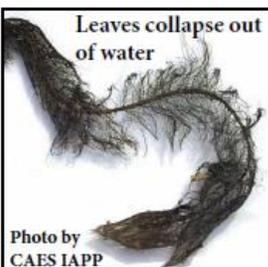
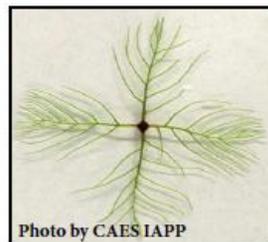
Fruits/Seeds: Fruits are almost round, with a rough surface

Reproduction: Fragmentation and seeds

Easily confused species:

Eurasian watermilfoil: *Myriophyllum spicatum*

Low watermilfoil: *Myriophyllum humile*



Myriophyllum spicatum

Common name:
Eurasian watermilfoil

Origin:
Europe and Asia

Key features:
Plants are submersed

Stems: Stem diameter below the inflorescence is greater with reddish stem tips

Leaves: Leaves are rectangular with ≥ 12 pairs of leaf-lets per leaf and are dissected giving a feathery appearance, arranged in a whorl, whorls are 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart

Flowers: Small pinkish male flowers that occur on reddish spikes, female flowers lack petals and sepals and have 4 lobed pistil

Fruits/Seeds: Fruit are round 0.08-0.12 inches (2-3 mm) and contain 4 seeds

Reproduction: Fragmentation and seeds

Easily confused species:

Variable-leaf watermilfoil: *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*

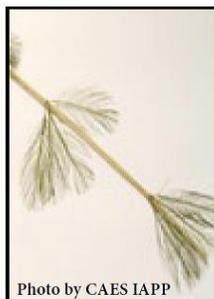
Low watermilfoil: *Myriophyllum humile*

Northern watermilfoil: *Myriophyllum sibiricum*

Whorled watermilfoil: *Myriophyllum verticillatum*



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Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Myriophyllum spicatum
Eurasian watermilfoil



Najas minor

Common names:

Minor naiad
Brittle water nymph
Spiny leaf naiad
Eutrophic water nymph

Origin:

Europe

Key features:

Plants are submersed

Stems: Branched stems can grow up to 4-8 inches (10-20 cm) long

Leaves: Opposite and lance shaped on branched stems with easily visible toothed leaf edges and leaves appear curled under, basal lobes of leaf are also serrated, 0.01-0.02 inches (0.3-0.5 mm)

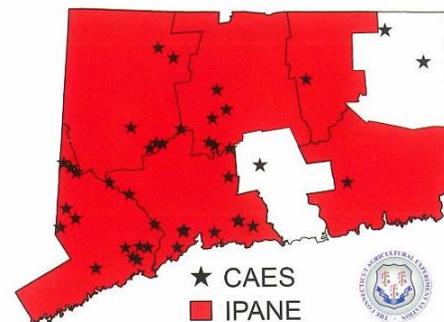
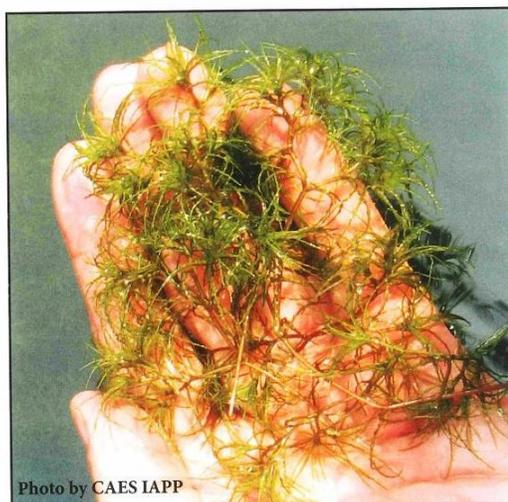
Flowers: Monoecious (male and female flowers on same plant)

Fruits/Seeds: Fruits are purple-tinged and seeds measure 0.03-0.06 inches (1.5-3 mm)

Reproduction: Seeds and fragmentation

Easily confused species:

Other naiads (native): *Najas* spp.



Utricularia inflata

Common names:

Swollen bladderwort

Origin:

Southern and Eastern North America

Key features:

Plants floating in water, sometimes appearing anchored

Stems: Stem is submersed, slender and elongated

Leaves: Submersed leaves (<18 cm) are alternate, bushy, repeatedly forked with bladders along the sides. Uppermost leaves are whorled and inflated, floating on the water's surface (3-8 cm).

Flowers: Flowers located at the center of inflated leaves and have five bright yellow petals

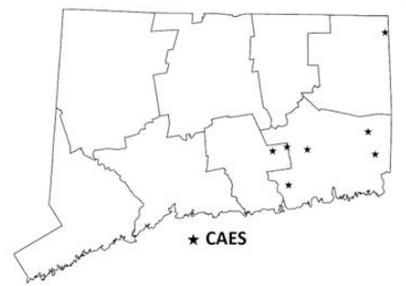
Fruits/Seeds: Fruit is dry and splits open when dry (3-6 mm)

Reproduction: Fragmentation and Tubers

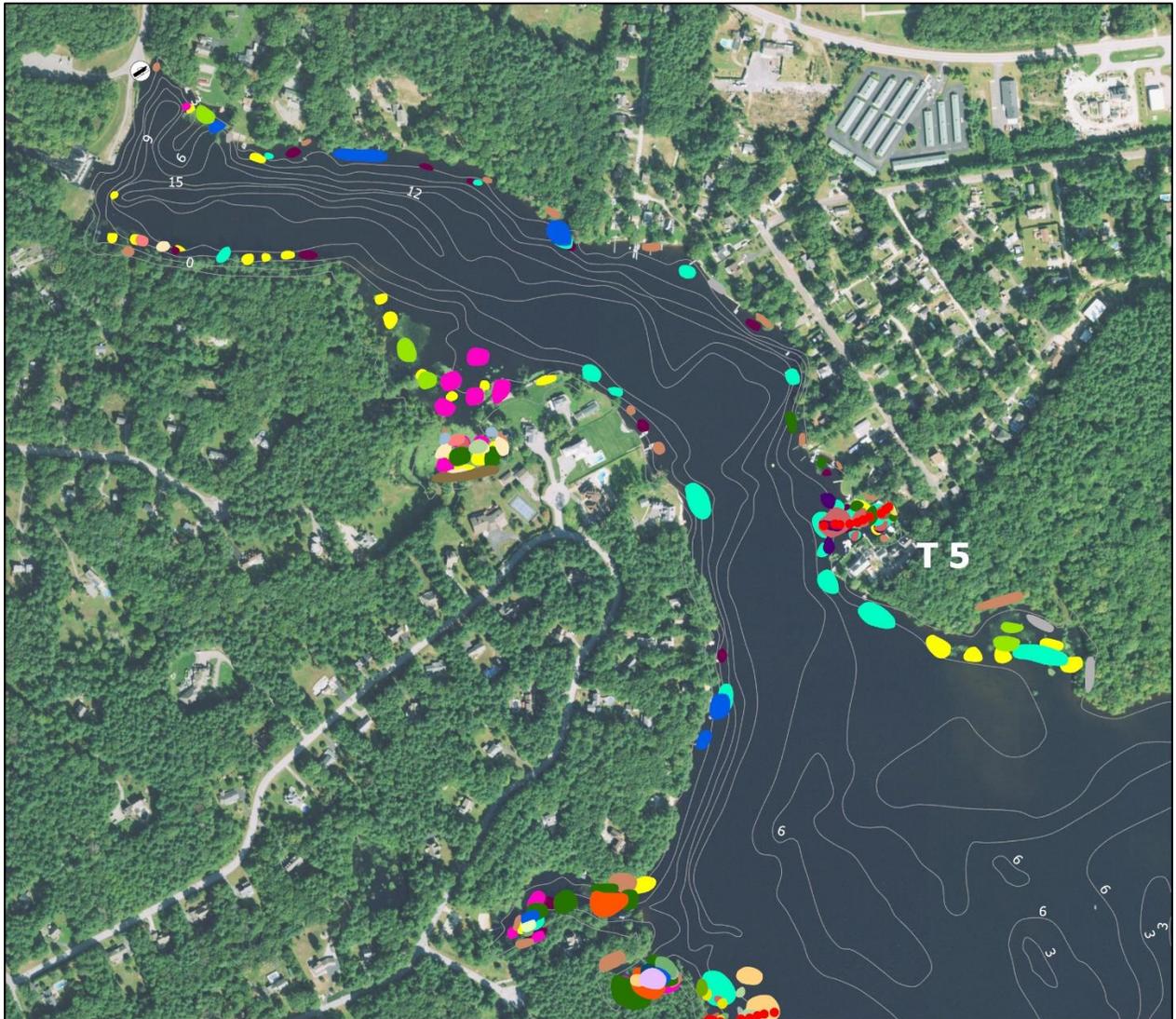
Easily confused species:

Common bladderwort: *Utricularia macrorhiza*

Floating bladderwort: *Utricularia radiata*

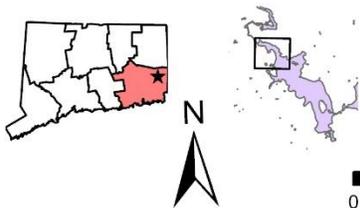


Aquatic Plant Survey Maps by Section



Map 1 of 5
Pachaug Pond
Griswold, CT
817 acres

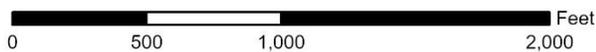
Surveyed on July 21, 26, & 27, 2022
 By Greg Bugbee, Summer Stebbins,
 Eva Ramey, and Meara Burns
 Invasive Aquatic Plant Program

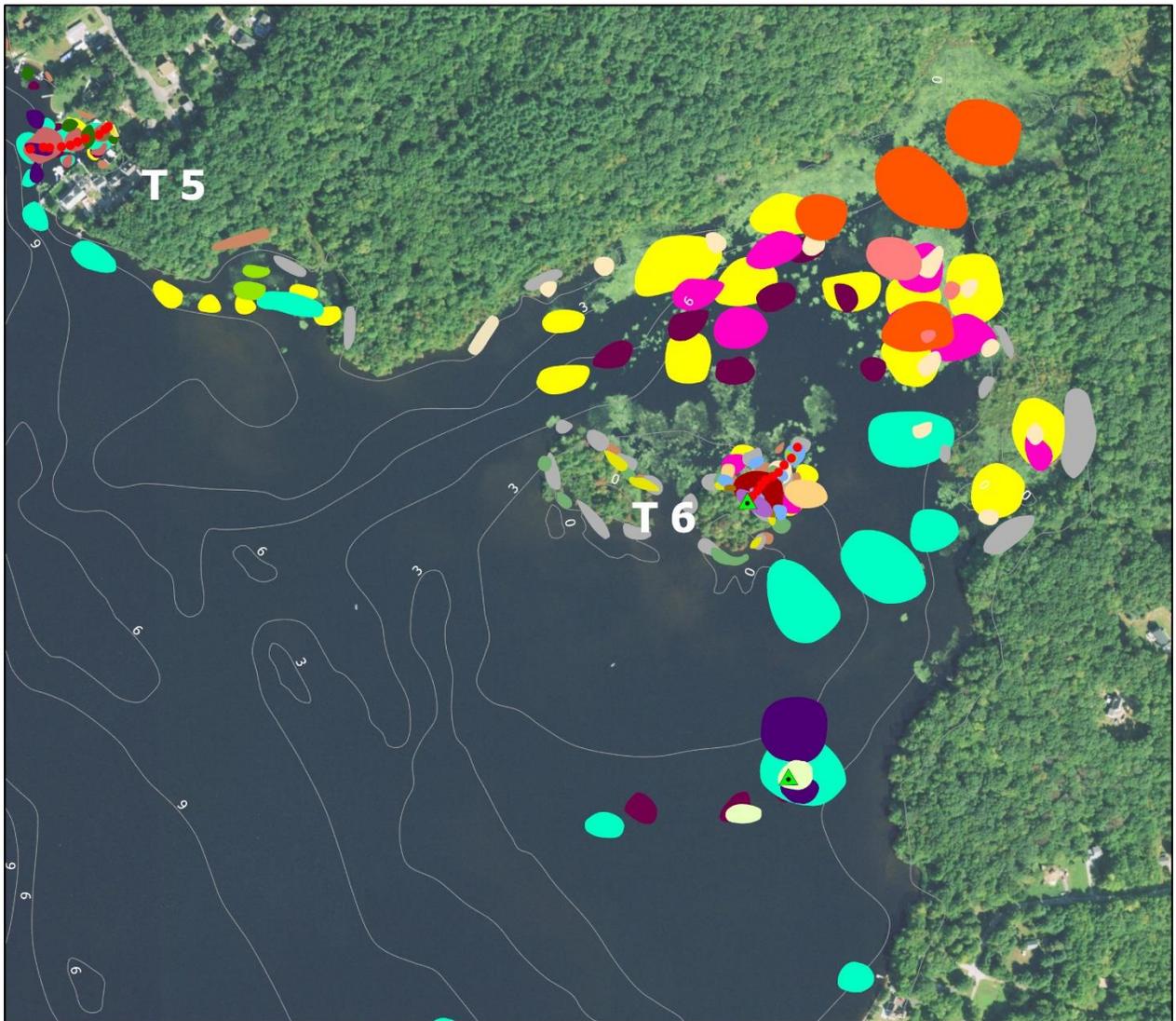


Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collection Point | Floating bladderwort | Ribbon-leaf pondweed |
| State Boat Launch | Floating-leaf pondweed | Robbins' pondweed |
| Transect Point | Golden hedge-hyssop | Slender naiad |
| Water Data | Humped bladderwort | Small pondweed |
| Bathymetry (ft) | Large-leaf pondweed | Spikerush |
| Arrowhead | Leafy pondweed | Swollen bladderwort* |
| Bur-reed | Little floating heart | Variable-leaf watermilfoil* |
| Cattail | Low watermilfoil | Water smartweed |
| Common bladderwort | Minor naiad* | Water starwort |
| Common duckweed | Mudmat | Watershield |
| Coontail | Phragmites* | Waterwort |
| Eelgrass | Pickerelweed | White water lily |
| Eurasian watermilfoil* | Primrose-willow | Yellow water lily |
| Fanwort* | Purple bladderwort | |

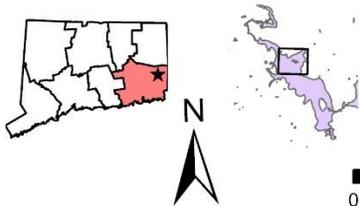
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Map 2 of 5
Pachaug Pond
Griswold, CT
817 acres

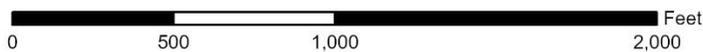
Surveyed on July 21, 26, & 27, 2022
 By Greg Bugbee, Summer Stebbins,
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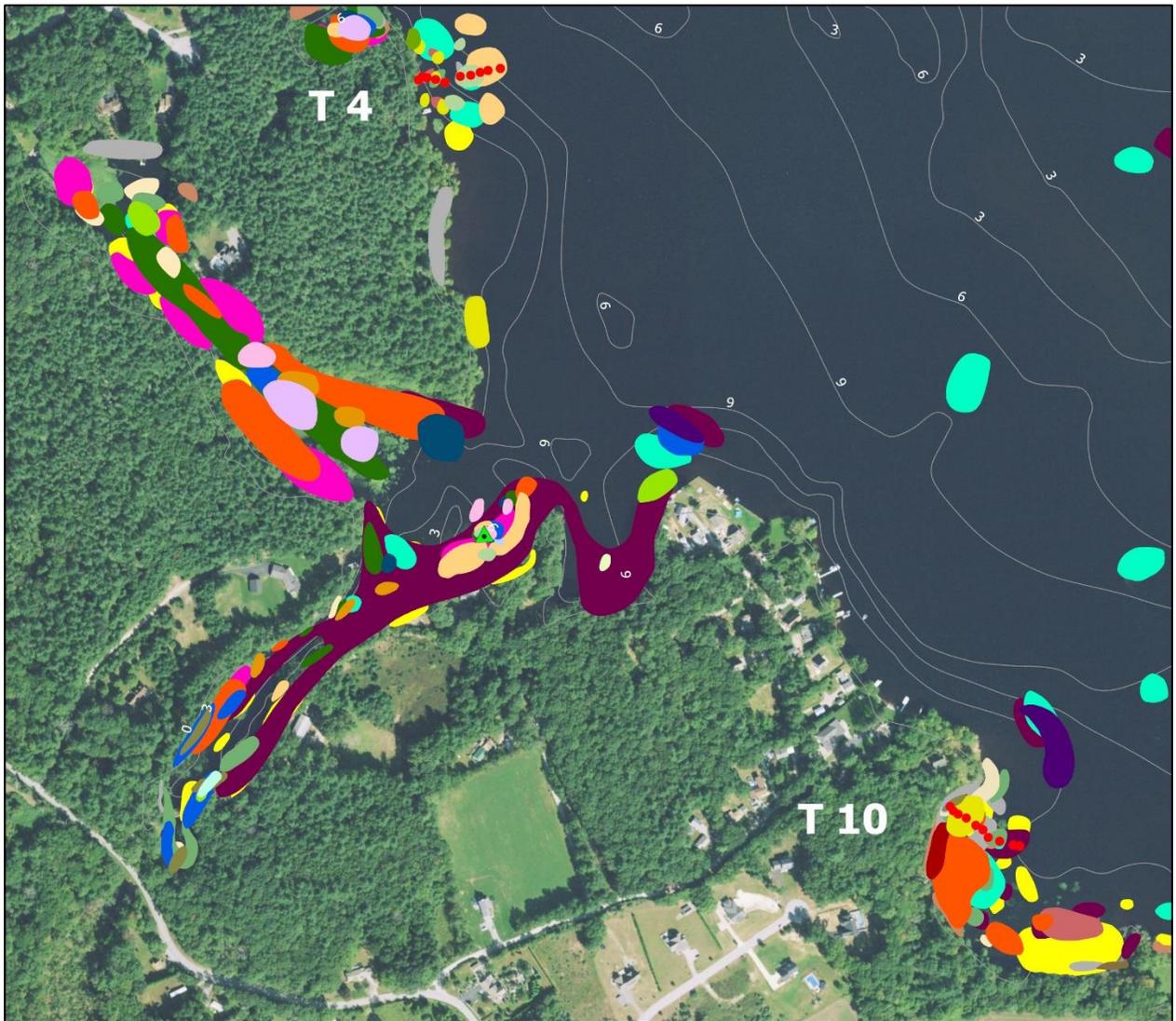


Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collection Point | Floating bladderwort | Ribbon-leaf pondweed |
| State Boat Launch | Floating-leaf pondweed | Robbins' pondweed |
| Transect Point | Golden hedge-hyssop | Slender naiad |
| Water Data | Humped bladderwort | Small pondweed |
| Bathymetry (ft) | Large-leaf pondweed | Spikerush |
| Arrowhead | Leafy pondweed | Swollen bladderwort* |
| Bur-reed | Little floating heart | Variable-leaf watermilfoil* |
| Cattail | Low watermilfoil | Water smartweed |
| Common bladderwort | Minor naiad* | Water starwort |
| Common duckweed | Mudmat | Watershield |
| Coontail | Phragmites* | Waterwort |
| Eelgrass | Pickerelweed | White water lily |
| Eurasian watermilfoil* | Primrose-willow | Yellow water lily |
| Fanwort* | Purple bladderwort | |

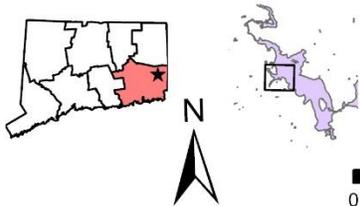
*Invasive





Map 3 of 5 Pachaug Pond Griswold, CT 817 acres

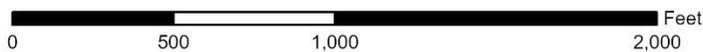
Surveyed on July 21, 26, & 27, 2022
By Greg Bugbee, Summer Stebbins,
Eva Ramey, and Meara Burns
Invasive Aquatic Plant Program

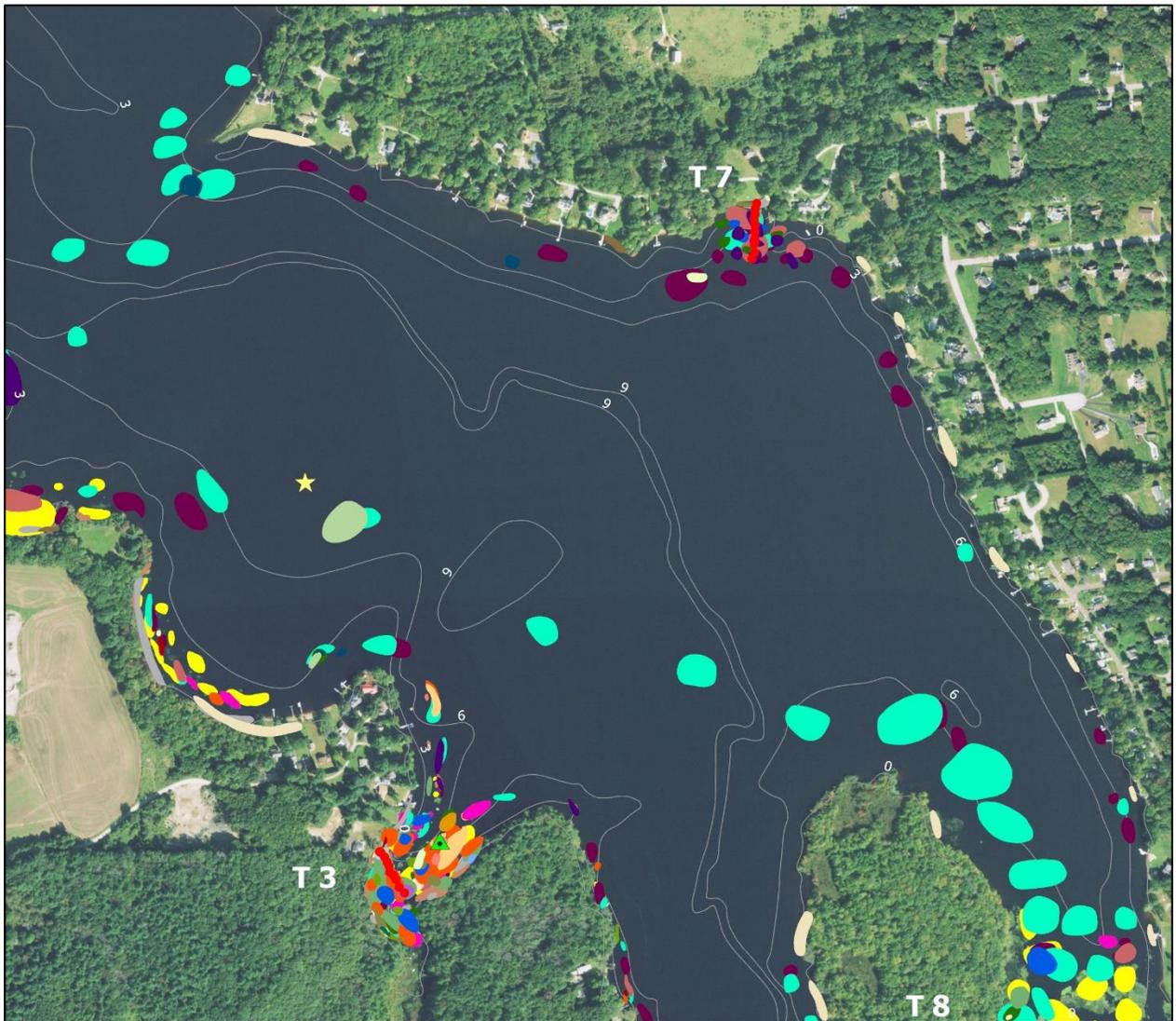


Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collection Point | Floating bladderwort | Ribbon-leaf pondweed |
| State Boat Launch | Floating-leaf pondweed | Robbins' pondweed |
| Transect Point | Golden hedge-hyssop | Slender naiad |
| Water Data | Humped bladderwort | Small pondweed |
| Bathymetry (ft) | Large-leaf pondweed | Spikerush |
| Arrowhead | Leafy pondweed | Swollen bladderwort* |
| Bur-reed | Little floating heart | Variable-leaf watermilfoil* |
| Cattail | Low watermilfoil | Water smartweed |
| Common bladderwort | Minor naiad* | Water starwort |
| Common duckweed | Mudmat | Watershield |
| Coontail | Phragmites* | Waterwort |
| Eelgrass | Pickerelweed | White water lily |
| Eurasian watermilfoil* | Primrose-willow | Yellow water lily |
| Fanwort* | Purple bladderwort | |

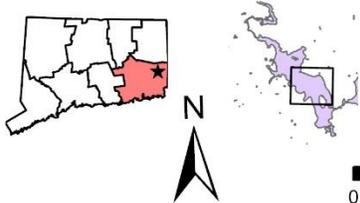
*Invasive





Map 4 of 5
Pachaug Pond
 Griswold, CT
 817 acres

Surveyed on July 21, 26, & 27, 2022
 By Greg Bugbee, Summer Stebbins,
 Eva Ramey, and Meara Burns
 Invasive Aquatic Plant Program

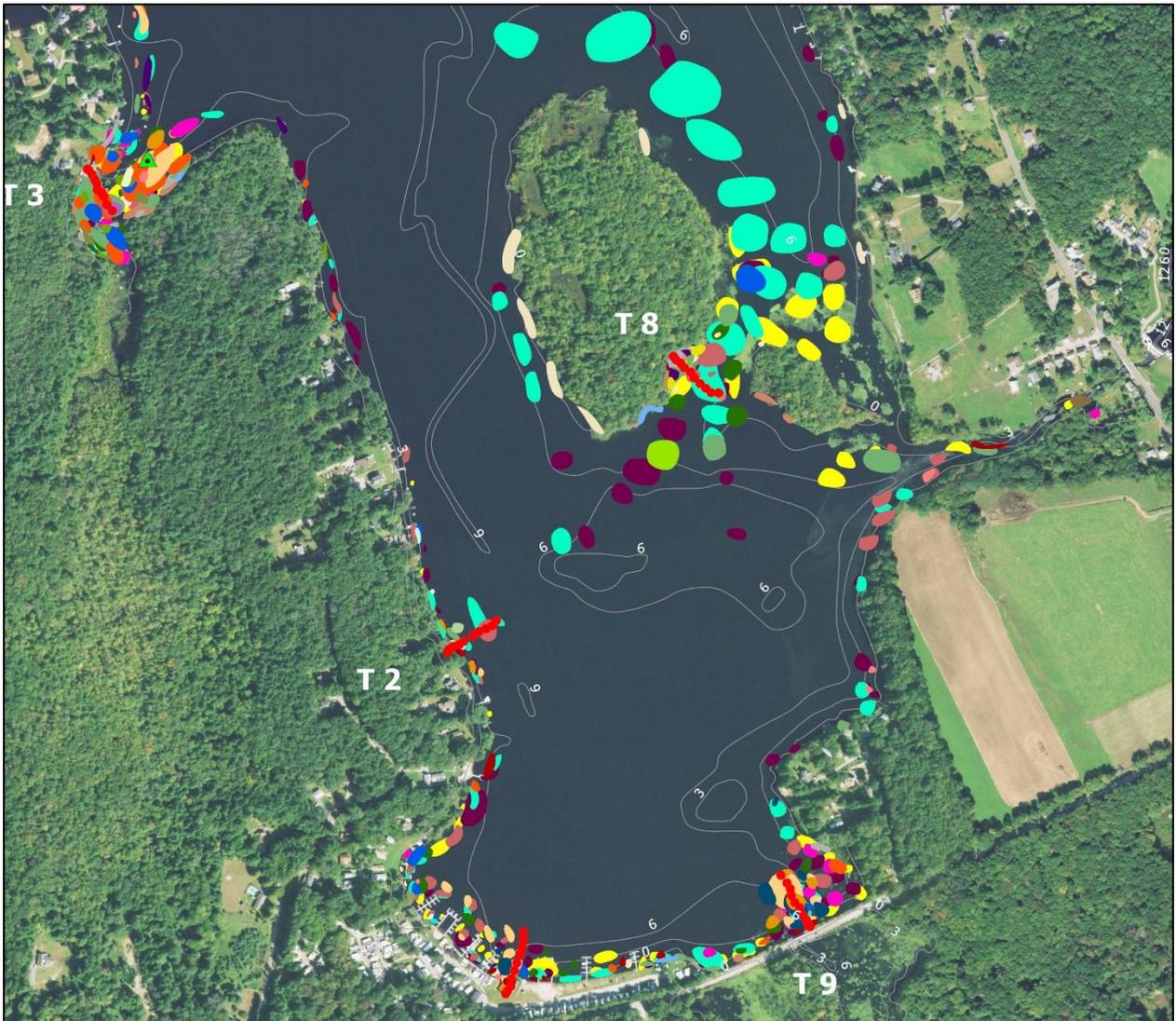


Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collection Point | Floating bladderwort | Ribbon-leaf pondweed |
| State Boat Launch | Floating-leaf pondweed | Robbins' pondweed |
| Transect Point | Golden hedge-hyssop | Slender naiad |
| Water Data | Humped bladderwort | Small pondweed |
| Bathymetry (ft) | Large-leaf pondweed | Spikerush |
| Arrowhead | Leafy pondweed | Swollen bladderwort* |
| Bur-reed | Little floating heart | Variable-leaf watermilfoil* |
| Cattail | Low watermilfoil | Water smartweed |
| Common bladderwort | Minor naiad* | Water starwort |
| Common duckweed | Mudmat | Watershield |
| Coontail | Phragmites* | Waterwort |
| Eelgrass | Pickerelweed | White water lily |
| Eurasian watermilfoil* | Primrose-willow | Yellow water lily |
| Fanwort* | Purple bladderwort | |

*Invasive





Map 5 of 5 Pachaug Pond Griswold, CT 817 acres

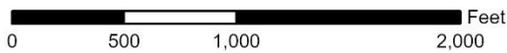
Surveyed on July 21, 26, & 27, 2022
By Greg Bugbee, Summer Stebbins,
Eva Ramey, and Meara Burns
Invasive Aquatic Plant Program



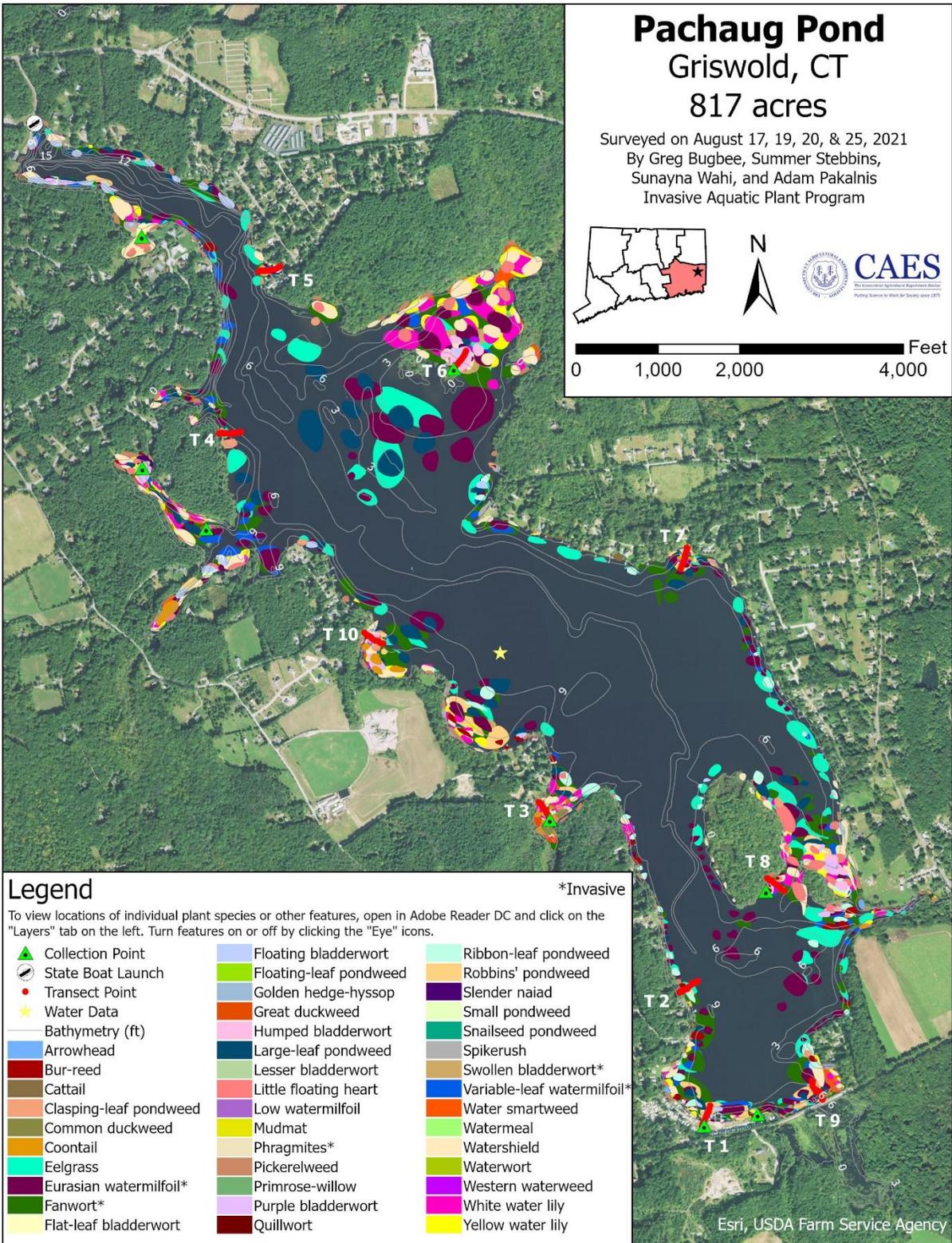
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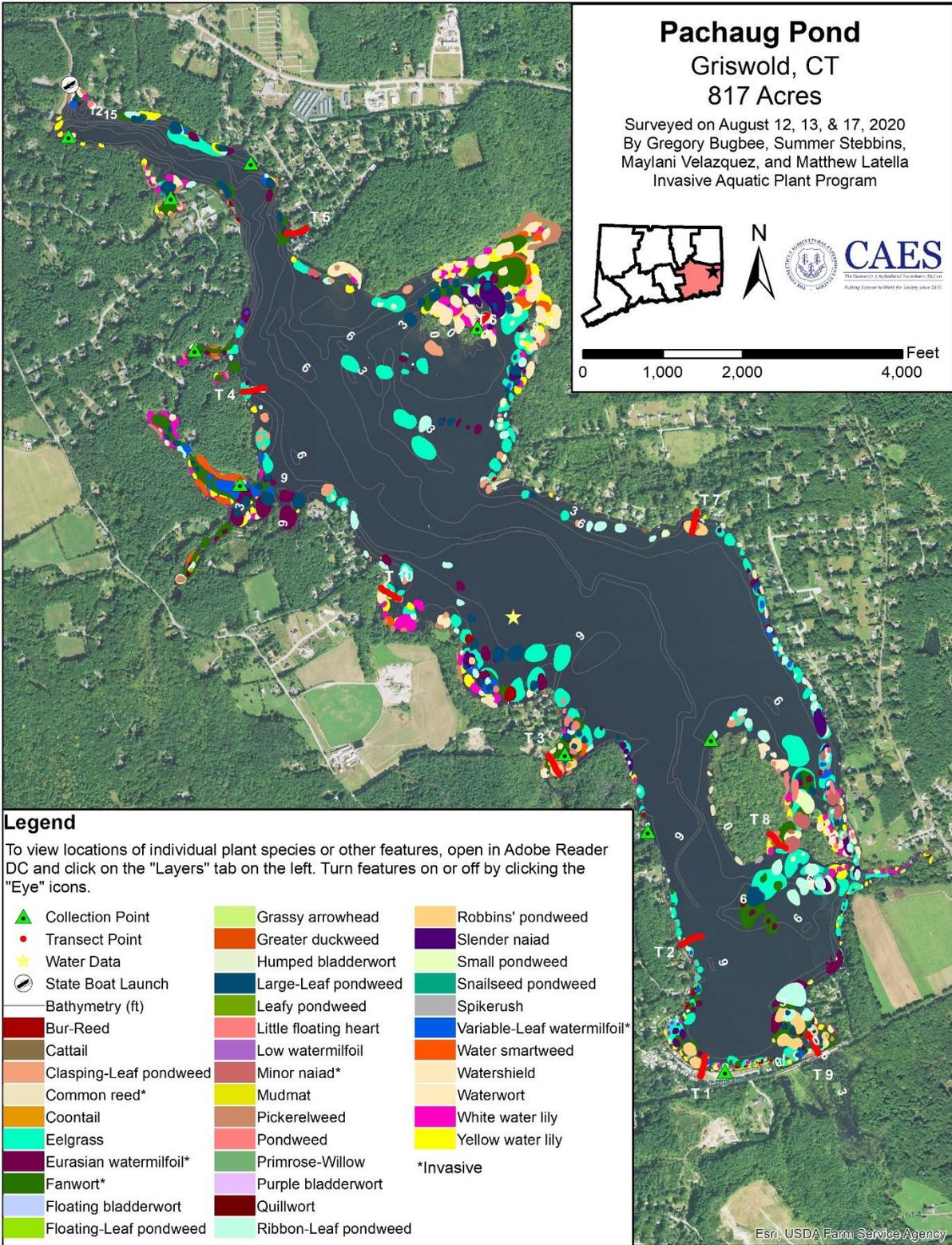
- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Collection Point | Floating bladderwort | Ribbon-leaf pondweed |
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| Eelgrass | Pickerelweed | White water lily |
| Eurasian watermilfoil* | Primrose-willow | Yellow water lily |
| Fanwort* | Purple bladderwort | |

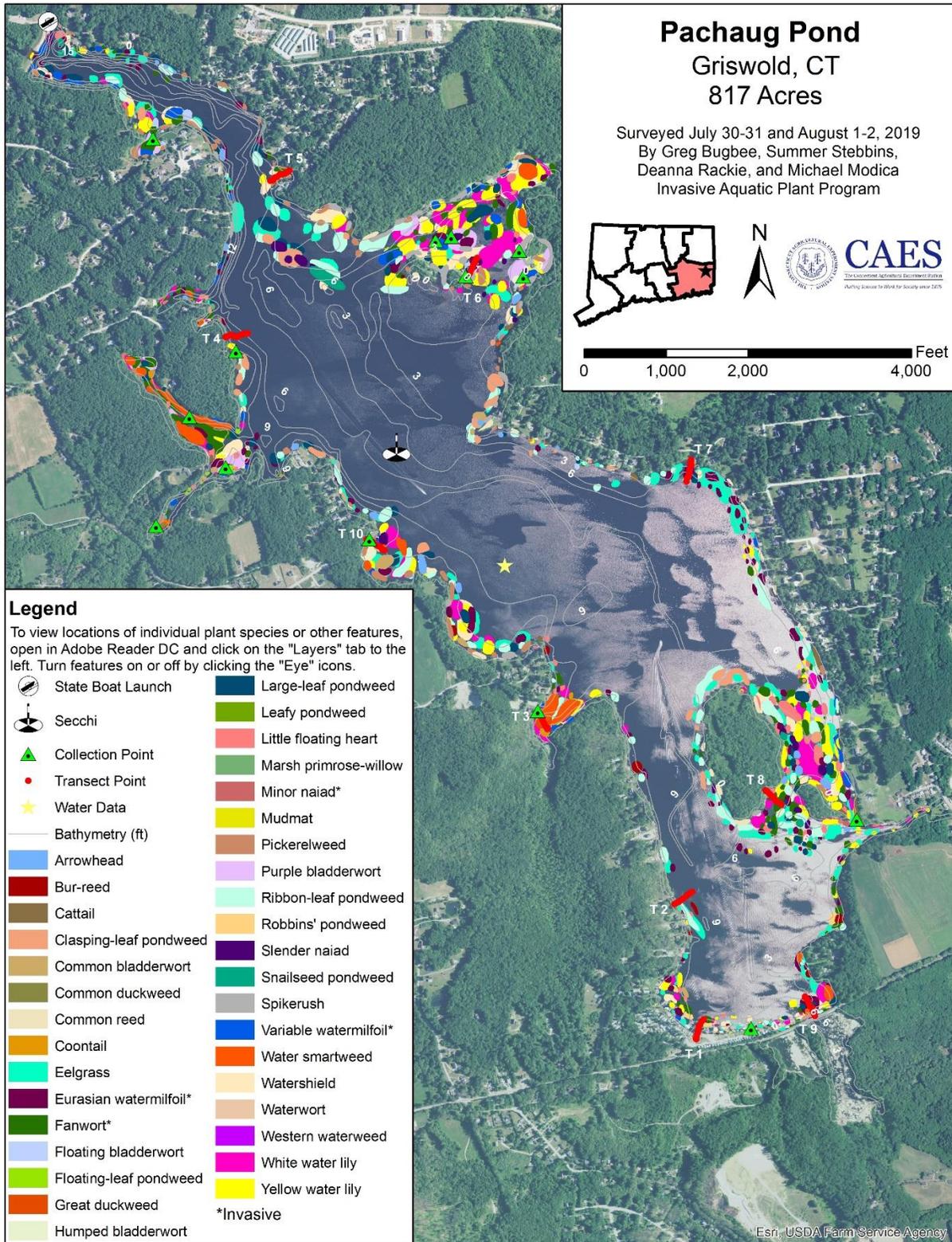
*Invasive

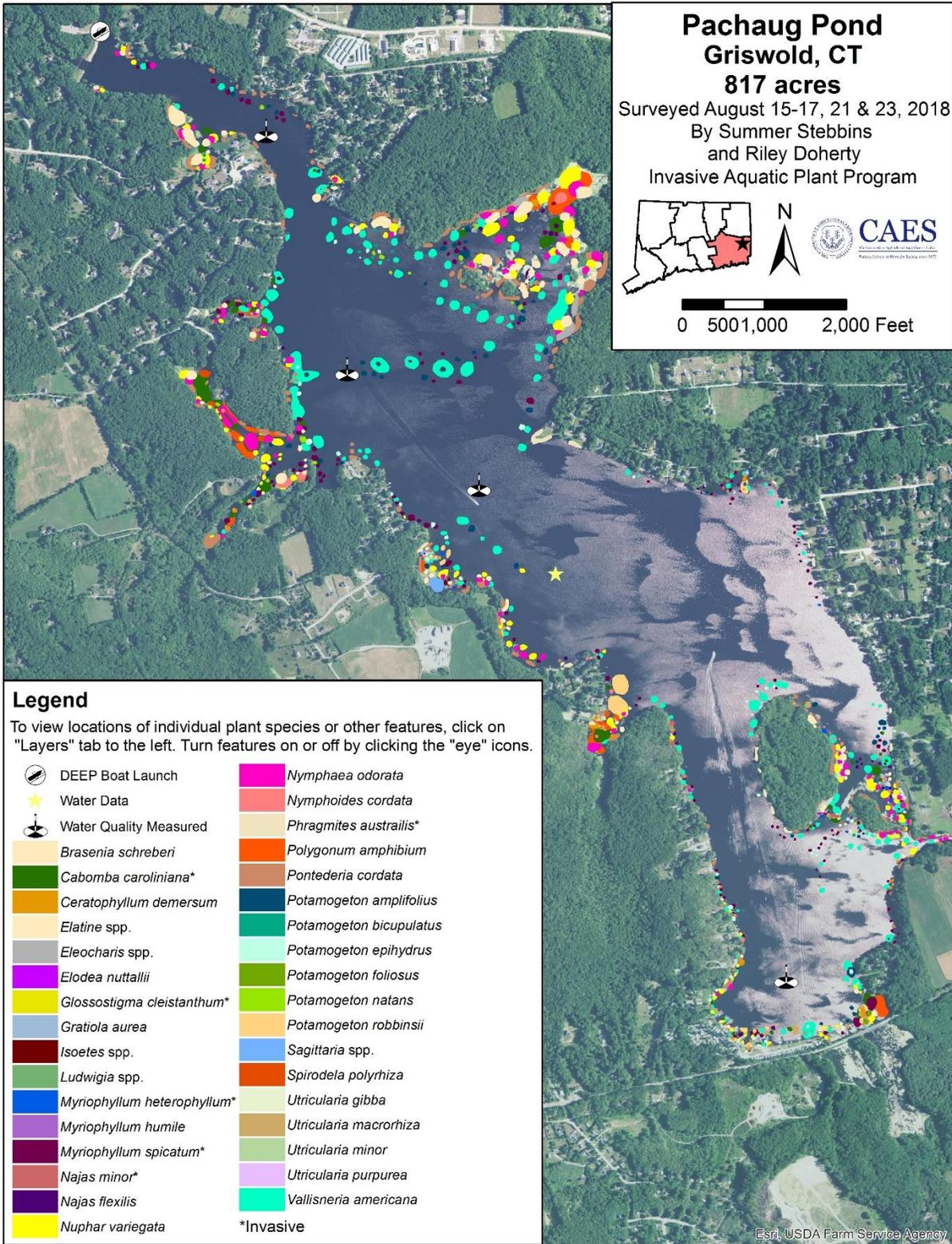


Previous Years Aquatic Plant Survey Maps









Pachaug Pond Griswold, CT

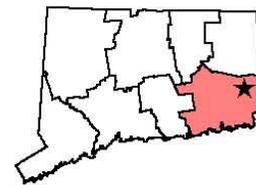
817 acres

Surveyed September 7-9, 2017
by Gregory Bugbee,
Amanda Massa and Abigail Wiegand
Invasive Aquatic Plant Program

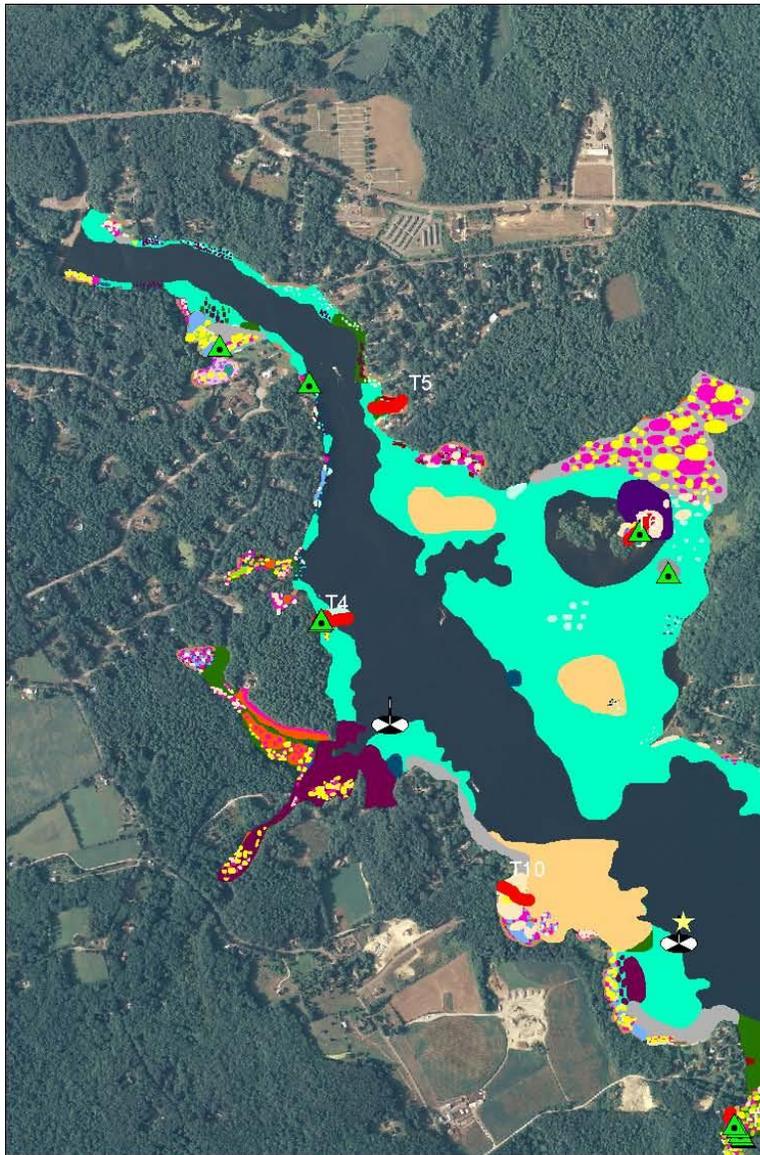


CAES

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0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Kilometers

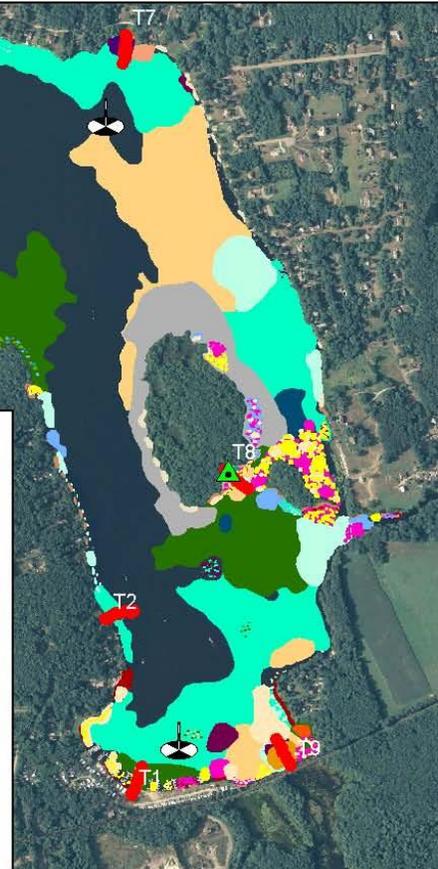


Legend

To view locations of individual plant species or other features, click on "Layers" tab to the left. Turn features on or off by clicking the "eye" icons.

Plant Collection	<i>Myriophyllum humile</i>	<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>
Transect Points	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> *	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>
Secchi Measurement	<i>Najas flexilis</i>	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>
Water Data	<i>Najas minor</i> *	<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	<i>Nuphar microphylla</i>	<i>Sagittaria species</i>
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> *	<i>Nuphar variegata</i>	<i>Sparganium species</i>
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	<i>Typha species</i>
<i>Eleocharis species</i>	<i>Phragmites australis</i> *	<i>Utricularia gibba</i>
<i>Glossostigma cleistanthum</i> *	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i>
<i>Gratiola aurea</i>	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	<i>Utricularia purpurea</i>
<i>Ludwigia palustris</i>	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>
<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> *	<i>Potamogeton bicupulatus</i>	<i>Wolffia brasiliensis</i>
	<i>Potamogeton ephedrus</i>	

*invasive



Transect Data

