



# Help Protect our Lakes From Aquatic Invasive Species!



Aquatic invasive species **found** in MPRB waterways include:

- Eurasian watermilfoil
- curly-leaf pondweed
- purple loosestrife
- zebra mussels (Minnehaha Creek; Lake Hiawatha)
- flowering rush (Minnehaha Creek)

Aquatic invasive **species of concern** (not yet known to exist in MPRB waterway) include:

- spiny water flea
- asian carp
- hydrilla
- rusty crayfish

**Zebra mussels were found in Lake Hiawatha and nearby sections of Minnehaha Creek in 2013.**

## What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

AIS are plants and animals that are not native to Minnesota and can disrupt lake ecosystems and cause harm to native species. Changes to lake ecosystems can cause significant recreation, aesthetic and economic issues. Once an aquatic invasive species has invaded a lake it is almost impossible to remove it—the best way to protect your lake from being infested by an AIS is to not allow it to get into the water body in the first place.



*Nature.org: zebra mussels on aquatic plants*



*MPRB: milfoil on motor*

## By Making Sure That Your Boat is CLEAN and DRAINED you can Help Prevent the Spread of AIS!

Day boats or those that spend only a few hours in the water are still at risk for picking up and transporting AIS that may be attached to aquatic weeds or in water pooled in the boat.

**CLEAN** aquatic plants and mud from watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting to and from any water access.

**DRAIN** all water from your boat and equipment and pull any plugs before leaving the water access or shoreline. When keeping live bait used on infested waters, you must replace water in bait containers with tap or spring water.

**DISPOSE** of unwanted minnows, leeches, fish parts, and worms in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait.

**Portage Alert:** If you have been in Lake Hiawatha or Minnehaha Creek please take extra care to drain your canoe or kayak of all water and inspect for aquatic plants and mud before entering Lake Nokomis.