Hydrilla in Illinois

LakeCounty
Health Department and
Community Health Center

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Illinois Hydrilla Task Force

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

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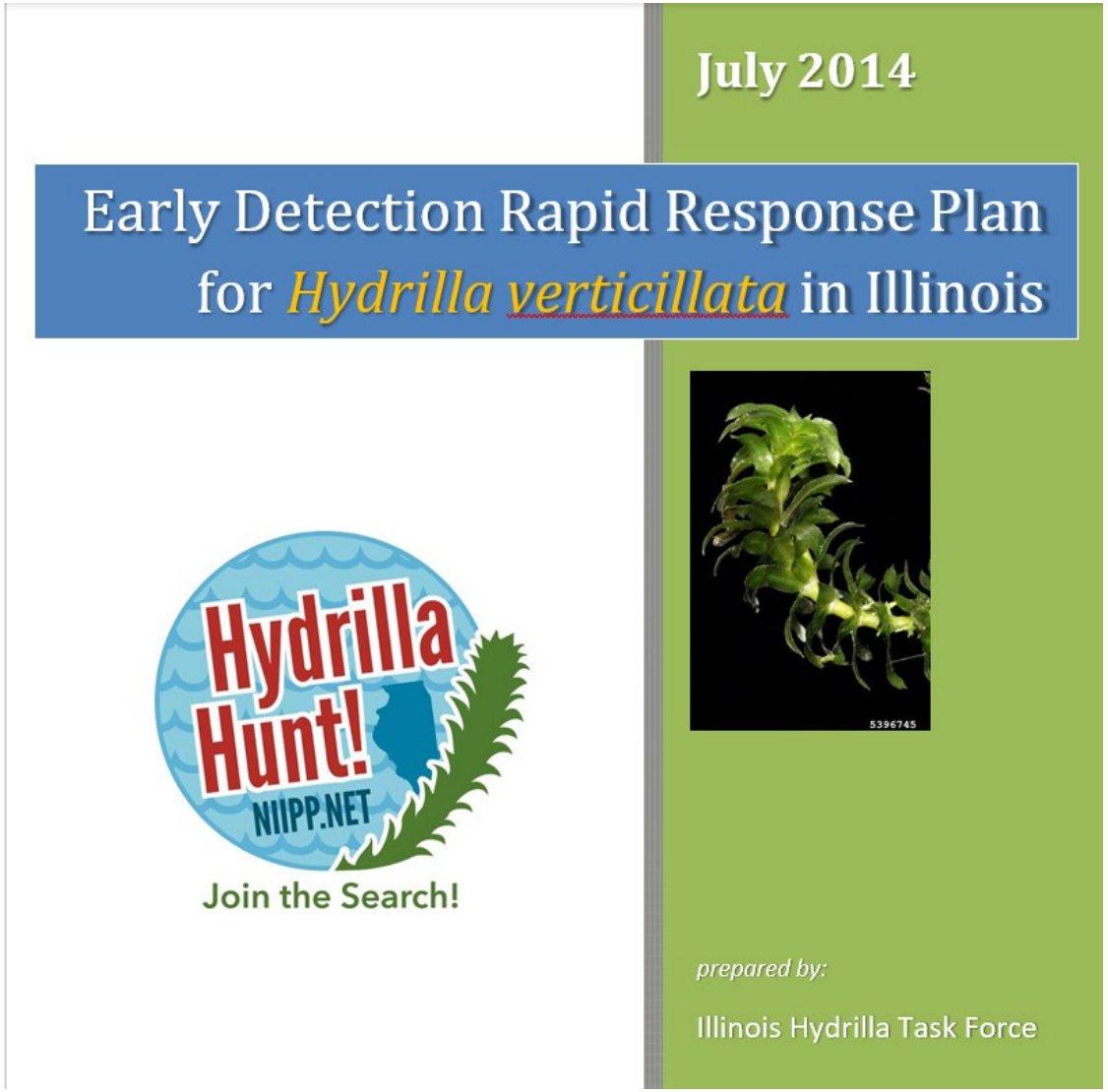
Hydrilla in Illinois

2012 - Illinois Hydrilla Task Force awarded grant from Illinois DNR to produce Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan (completed 2014)

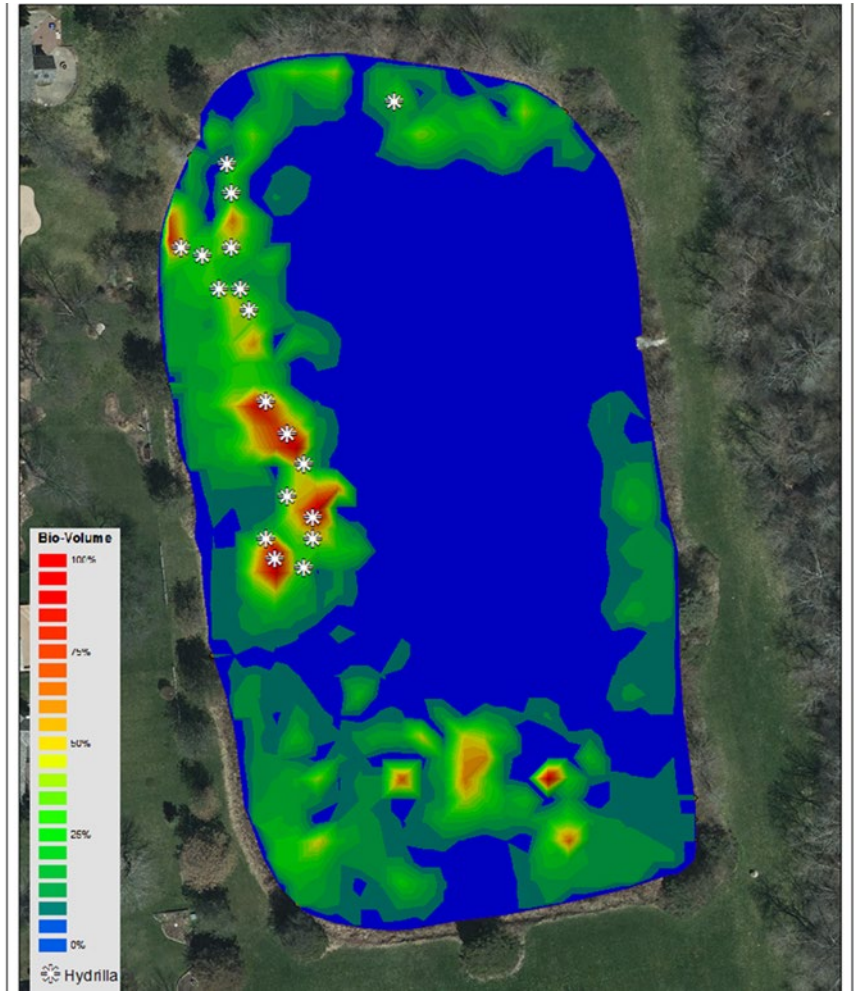
2019 - First infestation identified – small 3 acre detention pond – Lake County

2024 – Large infestation – Ginger Creek, DuPage Co.



Hydrilla Found – July 2019 – Lake County

- Commercial applicator – Identified
- Other non-natives (Lillies, Brazilian Elodea)
- Suspected Source: Aquarium/Water Garden
- 3 Acre Detention Pond – Outlet to Des Plaines River Backwaters (concern!)



Hydrilla Found – July 2019 – Lake County

- Multi Year Fluridone treatment
- Aquatic Plant Surveys in pond, nearby ponds, and river
- Outreach to residents (mailed letters and signage)

No Hydrilla has been re-observed.

Lucky circumstances.

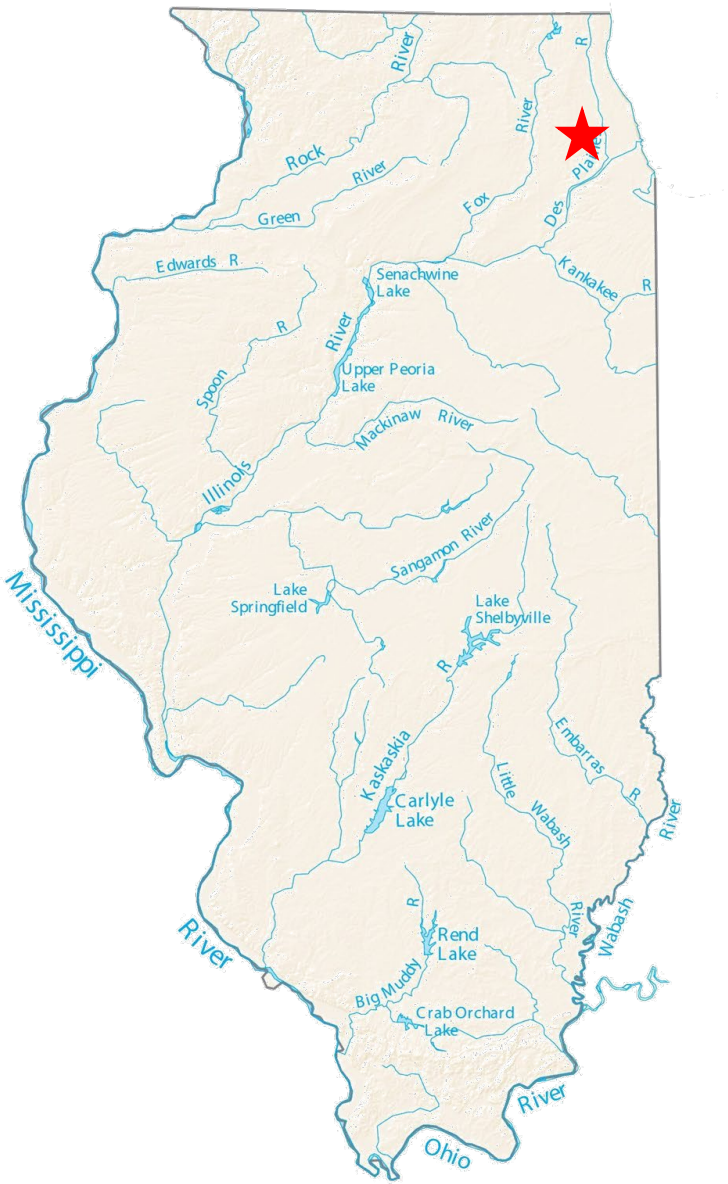
2024 – Hydrilla Found - Ginger Creek – DuPage County

First identified by private lake consultant October 2024.

10.5 acres Hydrilla out of 26 acre lake

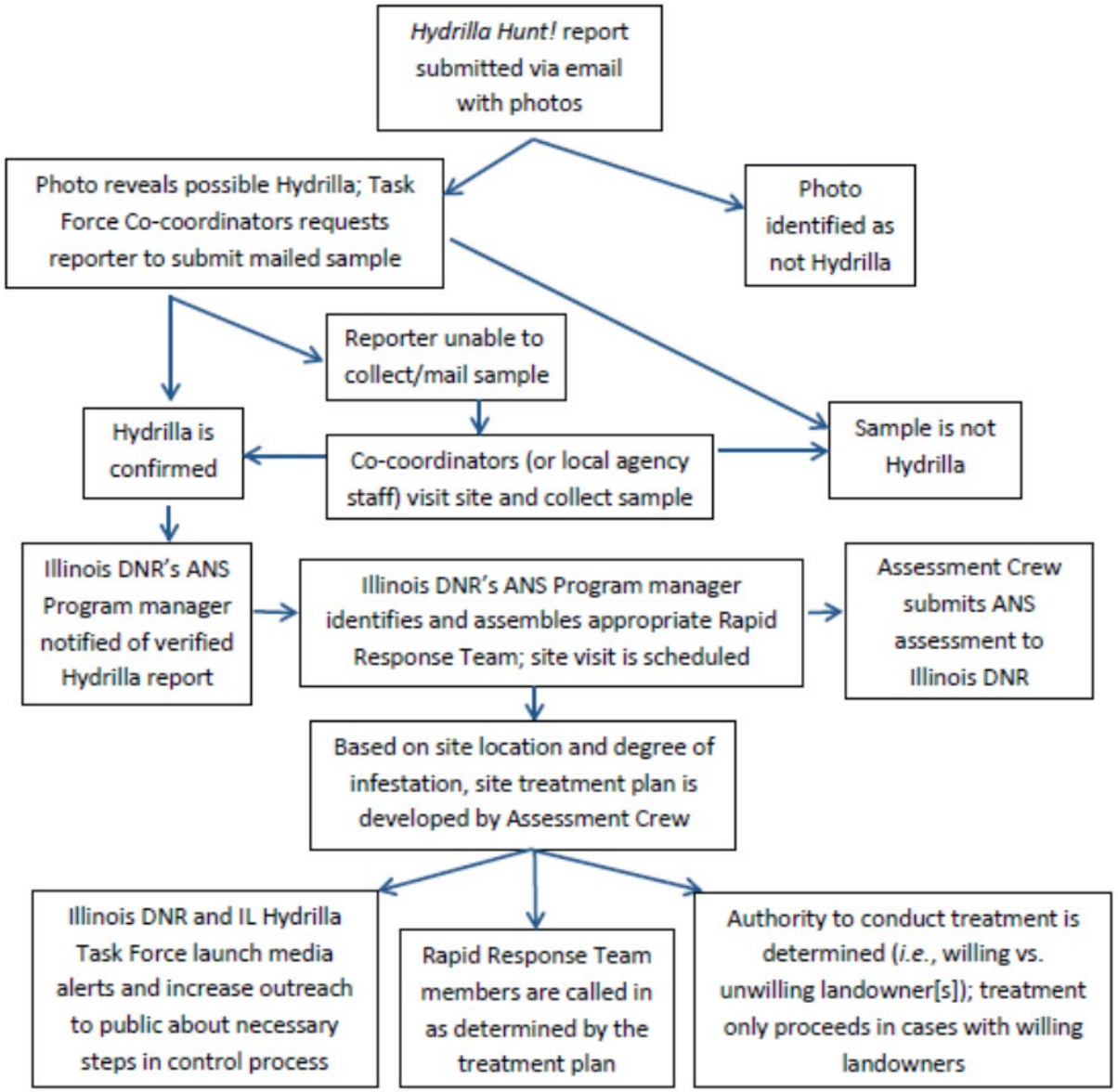
Sample verified by IDNR

2024 – Hydrilla Found - Ginger Creek – DuPage County



Illinois Hydrilla Task Force: Early Detection and Rapid Response

- ✓ Hydrilla reported and confirmed
- ✓ IDNR ANS notified and Site Visits Scheduled
- ✓ Currently continuing on: Media Alerts and Treatment Plan Determination



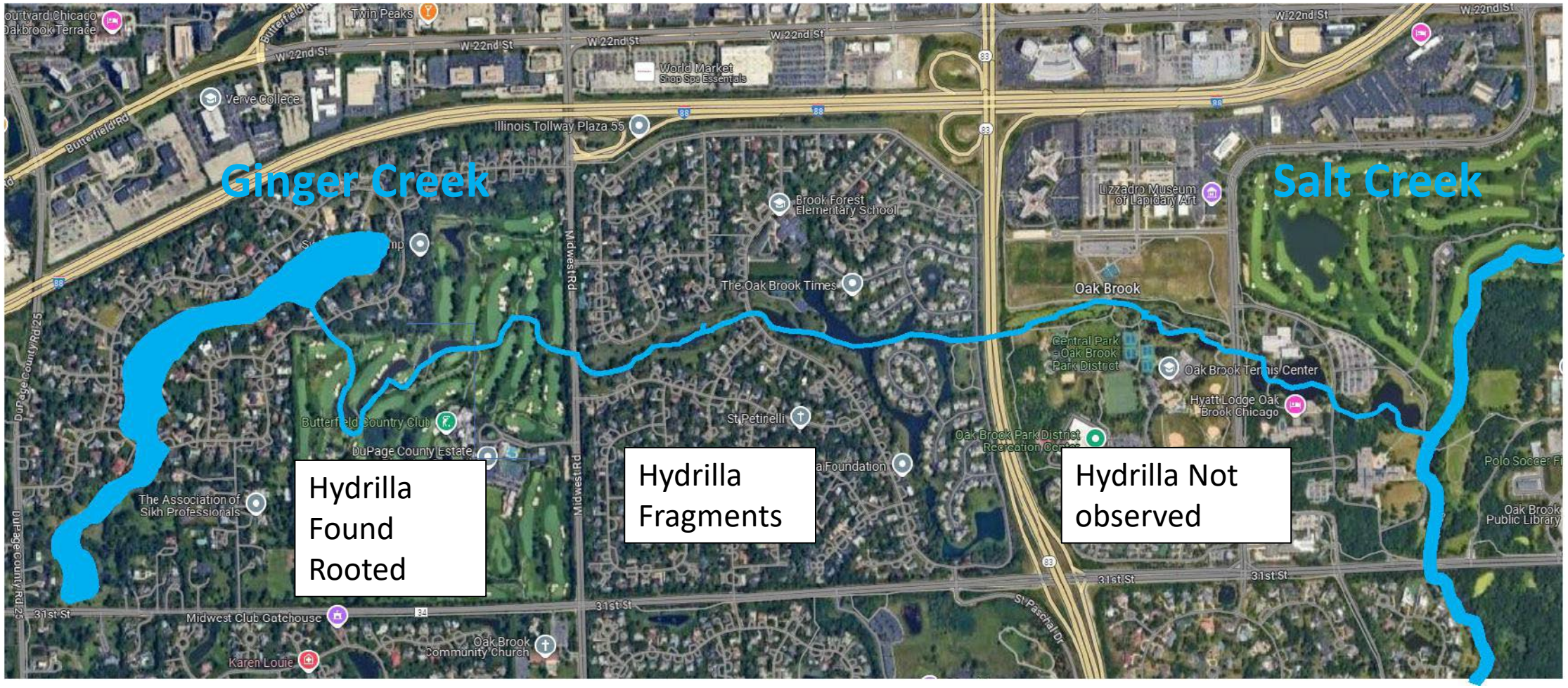
2024 – Hydrilla Found - Ginger Creek – DuPage County

Local agencies monitored downstream on Ginger Creek.

- DRSCW/Conservation Foundation
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Lake County Health Department
- IDNR
- Illinois EPA

Hydrilla observed downstream of initial lake – spread is larger than suspected originally

Hydrilla Assessments Downstream



2.5 miles from Ginger Creek HOA Lake to Salt Creek

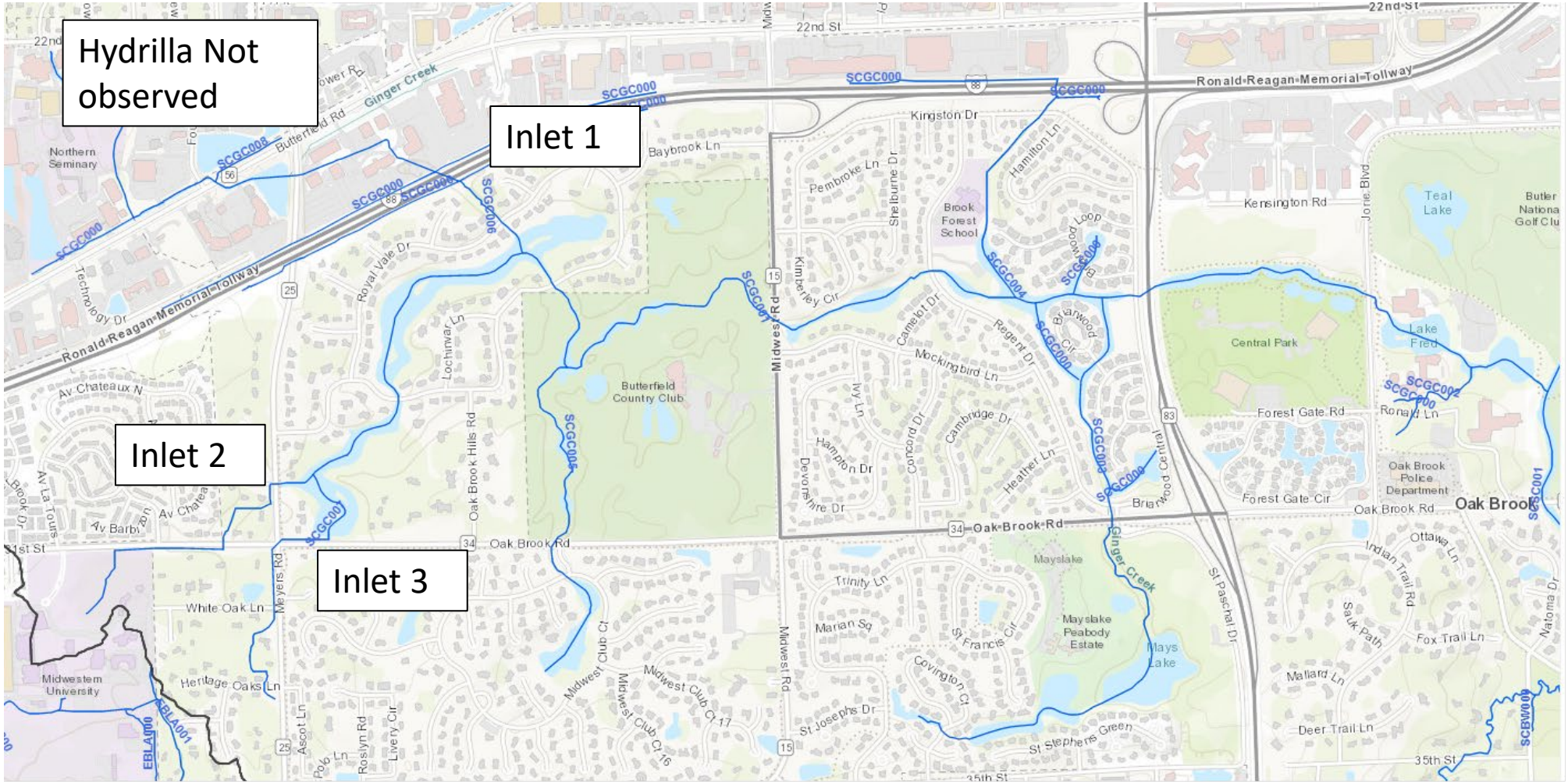
Hydrilla Assessments

- IDNR monitored upstream on Ginger Creek
- Sampling took place at the detention basin north of the I-88 inlet
- No hydrilla was found
- Additional upstream sampling may be warranted in 2025 when temperatures are more suitable for growth

Plant rake used in sampling finds naiad but no hydrilla

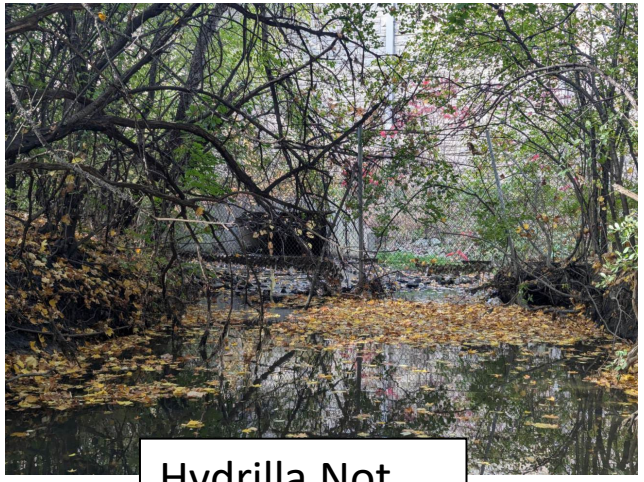
Sampling Nov 2024

Hydrilla Assessments Upstream



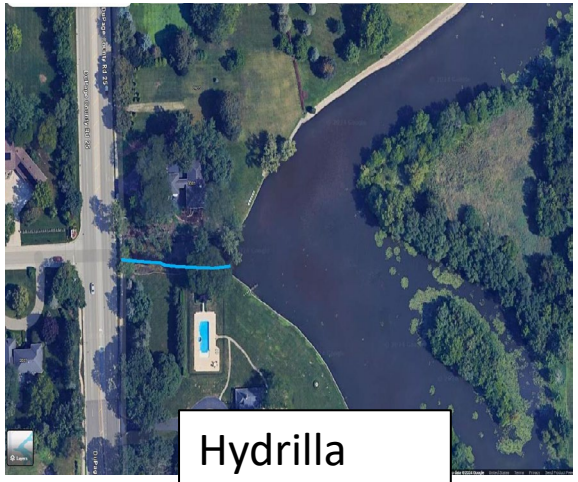
Hydrilla Assessments Upstream

Inlet 1

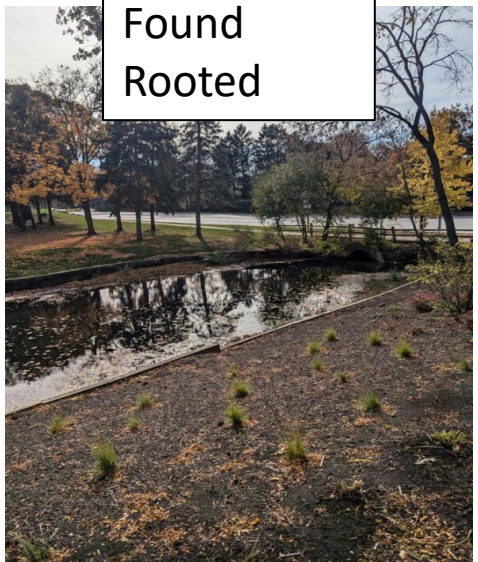


Hydrilla Not observed

Inlet 2



Hydrilla Found Rooted



Inlet 3

Hydrilla Not observed

2024 – Hydrilla Found - Ginger Creek – DuPage County

- Drains to Salt Creek watershed
- Likely an aquarium or water garden release since Hydrilla, Brazilian Elodea and unidentified aquarium plant found.
- Has already spread downstream – not observed in Salt Creek
- Communication to properties have been initiated – more targeted communication and treatment plan is ongoing

Outreach

- Communication Outreach will be disseminated to area.
  - HOAs
  - Watershed Workgroups
  - Forest Preserve
  - Village of Oak Brook
  - Property Owners
- IDNR Press Release
- Newspaper and radio segments
- Attended HOA meeting
- Larger area meeting planned early 2025

Outreach

INVASIVE ALERT

Hydrilla Found in DuPage County

Recently Hydrilla, a highly invasive aquatic plant, was discovered in DuPage County. This is the first known occurrence in DuPage County and only the second known report in Illinois. Considered one of the world's worst aquatic weeds, Hydrilla can grow up to an inch per day and form dense mats of vegetation, with negative impacts on boating, fishing, swimming, native aquatic wildlife, and property values. Control and eradication efforts can cost millions of dollars over many years.

State and local agencies are working together to track the spread of this aggressive invasive in our waterways and determine the most appropriate containment and eradication strategies. Be aware that this plant looks very similar to our native Elodea species, but there are a few key features that can be used to differentiate them. Hydrilla has whorls around the stem of more than 3 leaves with often visibly toothed edges. See the back of this flyer for details on identifying this invasive species.

It appears that the Hydrilla found in DuPage County may have been unintentionally released from a homeowner's aquarium or a water garden. Hydrilla is listed as a Federal Noxious Weed, meaning it is illegal to buy, sell, or transport. It is also banned in the State of Illinois. However, it is oftentimes still found in the aquarium and water garden trade.

Invasive hydrilla. Darkmax, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

Do your part to limit the spread of this invasive aquatic plant by following these actions:

REMOVE all plants, animals, and mud from any equipment that is used in waterbodies.

DRAIN all water from your boat and gear.

DRY everything thoroughly with a towel or heat.

DO NOT DISPOSE of aquarium or water garden plants and animals into waterbodies.

BE A HERO TRANSPORT ZERO™

If you suspect you have identified Hydrilla in your waterbody, please notify the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Nuisance Species Program at dnr.ans@illinois.gov. For additional information on Hydrilla, please refer to the Great Lakes Hydrilla Collaborative hydrillacollaborative.com

Learn how to ID Hydrilla

Identify Invasive Hydrilla

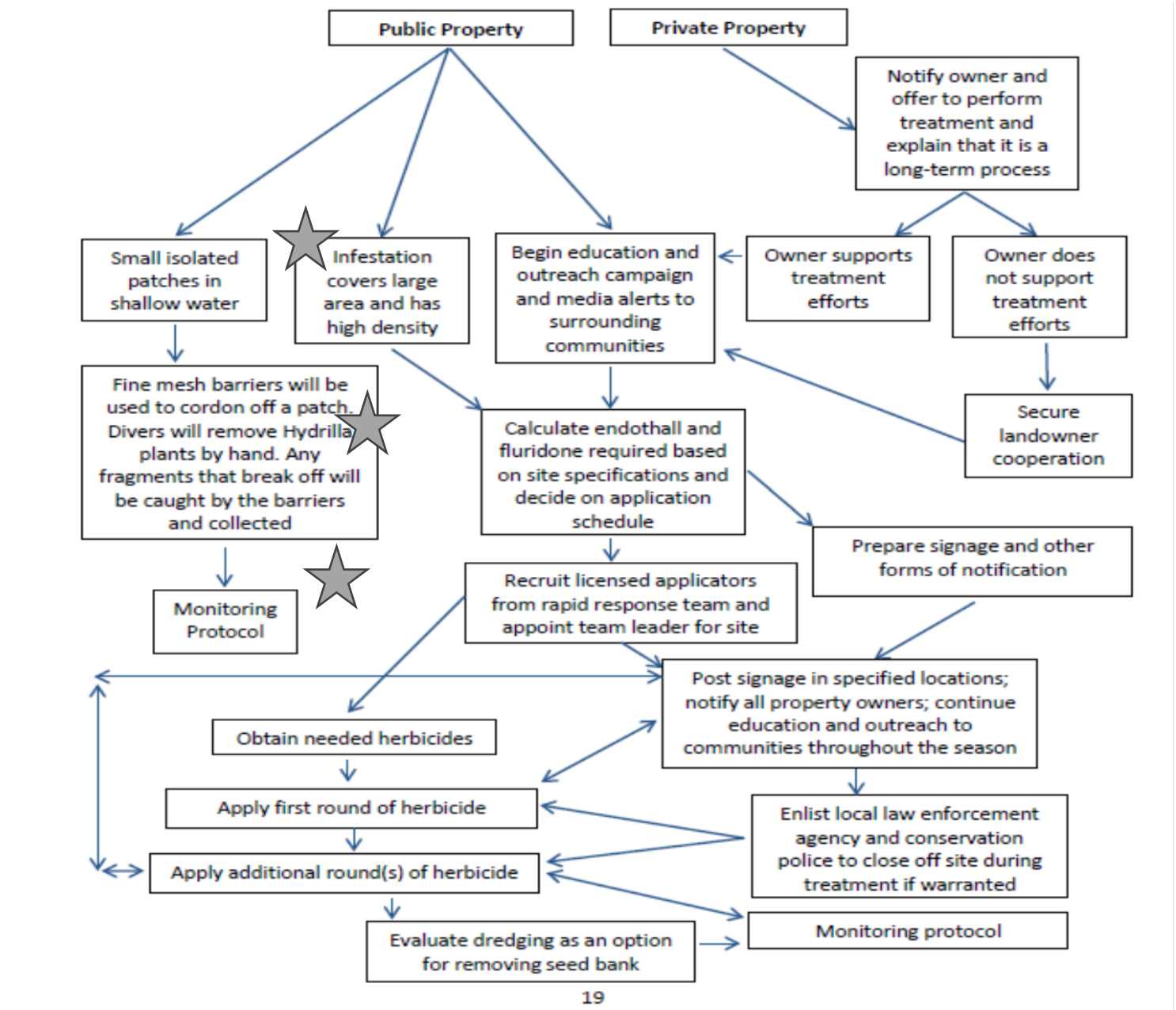
INVASIVE		NATIVE
		
Michael J. Grodowitz, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center	Christian Fischer, Wikimedia Commons	Paul Skawinski, Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest
HYDRILLA *Hydrilla verticillata*	**BRAZILIAN ELODEA** *Egeria densa*	**AMERICAN ELODEA** *Elodea canadensis*
• Whorls of **more than** 3 leaves • Leaves often have **visibly toothed** edge • Leaf vein often has small **visible spines**	• Whorls of **more than** 3 leaves • Leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge • Leaf vein is **smooth** underneath	• Whorls of **exactly** 3 leaves • Leaves do **not** have visibly toothed edge • Leaf vein is **smooth** underneath

Illustrations: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida

Take a close look at the leaves. Hydrilla leaves have toothed edges and are arranged in whorls of more than three leaves around the stem.

Robert Vidiki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

Illinois Hydrilla Task Force



Treatment planned for Spring 2025

Treatment & Monitoring Plan

- Multi – Year Treatment & Monitoring
- ~80+ acres
- Aquatic Plant Surveys
- Inlet/Creek monitoring
- Tuber Monitoring
- Fluridone Treatments (Sonar One pellets for continuous release of active ingredient)
- Begin 10 ppb – target 3-5ppb throughout growing season.

Challenges

- Flowing System
- Large Acreage to cover
- Landowner permissions
- Time/Money
- Effective Outreach

Next & Current Steps

- Big Project – multiple waterbodies impacted

- IDNR applying for Grant to help assist with Hydrilla treatments
  - Timeframe: December Deadline
  - 3 year grant, long term management not included.
  - Outreach not included
  - Letters of support

- Collaboration with downstream property owners
  - MOU with impacted Ginger Creek communities
  - Community Webinar
  - Future Planning: HOA need to plan for long term management