

# LOON LAKE: AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY 2019



## OBJECTIVES

During the summer of 2019, the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute conducted an aquatic plant survey of Loon Lake. Historically, non-indigenous and nuisance aquatic plants have not been detected in Loon Lake. The purpose of the survey was to detect any new infestations since the last survey was performed in August of 2017.

## METHODS

AWI staff executed the survey on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The survey was performed by slowly trolling through the littoral areas of the lake in a zig-zag fashion and examining the species composition of the submerged and floating aquatic plant beds. We referenced the survey maps from 2010 and 2017 and developed an updated plant bed map for 2019.

## RESULTS

We did not detect any non-indigenous or nuisance aquatic plants in Loon Lake, nor did we detect any noticeable change to the size or distribution of the known aquatic plant beds. We found the plant community of the lake to be typical of small, low alkaline lakes of the north-central Adirondacks. The system supports numerous plant beds comprising roughly 20 acres (6% of total surface area). We identified 20 plant species in the pond, not including the numerous emergent and semi-aquatic species that fringe the pond margin (Table 1). The most common plants to occur in these beds are members of the pondweed genus *Potamogeton*, which together account for 45% of the ponds plant diversity. The pondweed species *praelongus*, *amplifolius*, and *gramineus* are pervasive throughout the lake and make up the majority of the offshore community. Nearshore species such as bur-reed (*Sparganium*), white water lily (*Nymphaea*),

spatterdock (*Nuphar*), pipewort (*Eriocaulon*) and arrowhead (*Sagittaria*) are scattered around the entire lake.

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To find out more about the AWI visit [www.adkwatershed.org](http://www.adkwatershed.org)

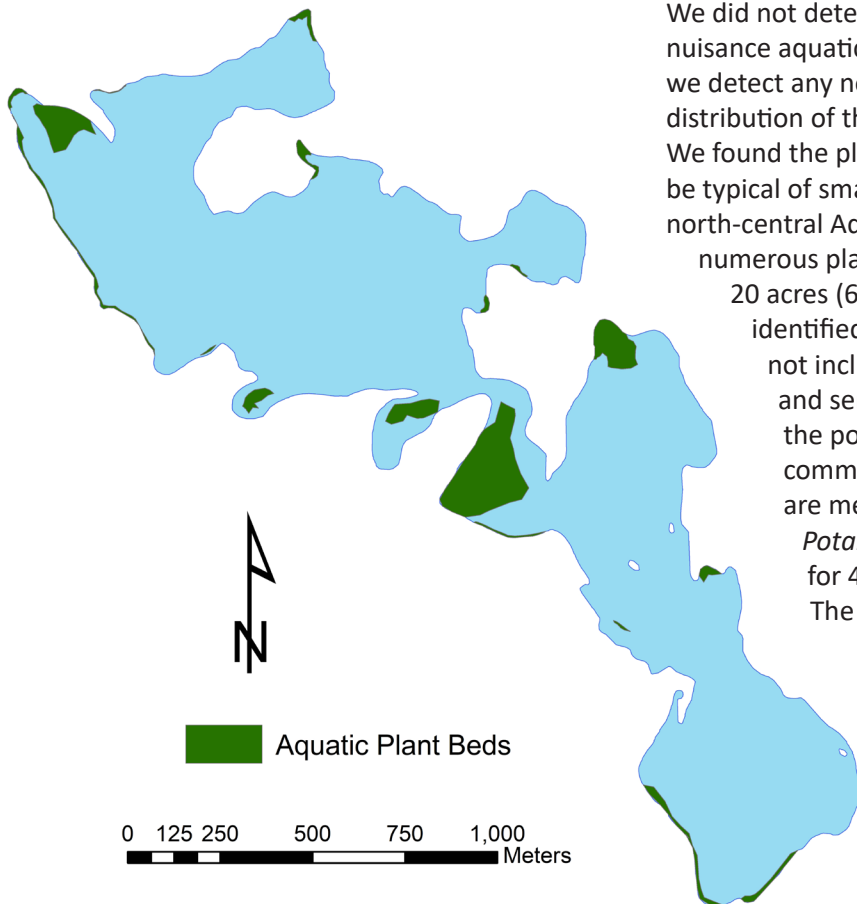


Table 1. Aquatic plant species encountered in the 2019 survey of Loon Lake.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
water shield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>
common water weed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>
pipewort	<i>Eriocaulon species</i>
quillwort	<i>Isoetes species</i>
water naiad	<i>Najas flexis</i>
brittlewort (algae)	<i>Nitella species</i>
spatterdock	<i>Nuphar variegata</i>
white water lilly	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
large- leaved pondweed	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>
ribbon-leaved pondweed	<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>
variable-leaved pondweed	<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>
clasping-leaved pond weed	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>
white-stemmed pondweed	<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>
small pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>
robbins pondweed	<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>
spiral-fruited pondweed	<i>Potamogeton spirillus</i>
flat-stemmed pondweed	<i>Potamogeton zostrifomres</i>
bur-reed	<i>Sparganium species</i>
slender arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>
eel-grass	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>