

Great Herring Pond Weed Survey 2025

Aquatic invasive species, particularly invasive pond weeds, are a concern for many lake and pond groups. Given the size and recreational popularity of Great Herring Pond, HPWA has set an annual goal to conduct a baseline survey of the pond to determine whether any invasive species are present.

On August 28th, 2025, the pond was surveyed. We visited 9 points around the edge of Great Herring Pond, roughly 25 meters offshore (this varied based on depth and personal judgement). At each point, we raked up a few samples of whatever growth was present, which were then identified. We found 0-4 species at each site; those with no growth were typically rocky. The great news is that all the species we found (6 total, listed below) were native. We did not observe two other native species we've seen before.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Features	Number of sites
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	coontail	Branched, whorled leaves	1
<i>Chara vulgaris</i>	common stonewort or muskgrass	Brittle with mineral scale, smells skunky	n/a
<i>Elodea nuttalli</i>	slender/western waterweed	Pointy leaves in a whorl of 3	4
<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Water stargrass	Long, narrow grass-like leaves with no midrib, yellow flowers	1
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	slender/leafless watermilfoil	No true leaves, bumpy stem	1
<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	common waternymph	Close clusters of paired leaves with tapered bases	4
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	common bladderwort	Large bladders, the tips of branches have tufty shapes	n/a
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	wild celery	Ribbon-like with a distinct stripe down the center	5

We also observed a native freshwater sponge at one of the sites.

After 15 years of a continued lack of invasive pond weeds, it is essential to continue education and vigilance. There is a lot of boat activity in the pond, and any boat arriving from another water body could bring an invasive weed that could colonize the pond. The good news is that now that we know what we usually see here, anything different will stand out more. Please keep an eye out for anything that doesn't seem to belong!

- Sara Grady