

2 local lakes will get treated for invasive plants Tuesday

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COVENTRY/MANSFIELD — Treatments for invasive plants in Eagleville Lake and Coventry Lake are scheduled for Tuesday.

Coventry Lake will be closed to swimming until 3 p.m. Tuesday due to the follow-up herbicide application to eliminate the invasive hydrilla plant from the lake.

Additionally, another herbicide will be applied to Eagleville Lake Tuesday to combat the invasive Fanwort plant.

Residents will be restricted from using water from the Eagleville Lake on the Coventry/Mansfield line for irrigation purposes until Aug. 31, according to the lake treatment notice.

Both the fanwort and hydrilla treatments will be performed by state-licensed firm SOLitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury, Mass.

SOLitude Lake Management has been historically

performing these treatments since the discovery of the plants and the town has been actively consulting with local limnologist Dr. Robert Kortmann from Ecosystem Consulting Service.

Fanwort was first identified in Eagleville Lake in September 2012 by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, which determined 75 percent of the lake was infected, according to Coventry Director of Planning and Development Eric Trott.

Hydrilla was first detected

in Coventry Lake in September 2015 and is known as one of the most difficult invasive plants to manage.

Both plants are highly invasive and non-native, therefore, if left untreated, they can quickly choke out the native vegetation in the lakes and degrade water quality, which poses a threat to fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Hydrilla is treated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEEP-registered chemical herbicide, called "SonarOne" made by the company SePRO.

Fanwort is treated with the aquatic herbicide Flumioxazin, also known as "Red Eagle," which is also a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEEP-registered chemical herbicide.

Swimming is restricted at Coventry Lake because the boat being used to apply SonarOne needs to be able to move freely along the shoreline without encountering swimmers, according to the treatment notice.

There are no restrictions to boating or fishing, the notice reads.

According to the Coventry Lake Advisory Committee, the hydrilla treatment has been successful so far.

“The 2019 hydrilla management report stated there was only one location found during the post-treatment survey,” reads an announcement on the lake advisory committee’s Facebook page.

That location is on the south side of the Woodland Road cove, according to the announcement.

“This means the 2018 and 2019 treatments were successful at preventing the spread of hydrilla to new locations, while also reducing the current growth,” it continued.

To help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, the CT DEEP is hosting an online boat launch monitor training session Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To register for the online training, email gwendolynn.flynn@ct.gov.

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