

## The Shadow Lake Milfoil Committee Mission Statement

The Milfoil Committee is a coalition of volunteers dedicated to preventing the degradation of Shadow Lake water quality and protecting the shoreline habitat from infestations of Eurasian water milfoil and other aquatic invasive species.

### What We Do

- Collaborate with the Shadow Lake Association's Board of Directors, the Town of Glover, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Conservation, to maintain an effective lake management plan;
- Support the summer Boat Wash Program, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Public Access Greeter Program and the Vermont Invasive Patroller Program;
- Provide educational outreach to Association members and lake boaters on the dangers to Shadow Lake posed by non-native aquatic invasive species;
- Monitor the entire shoreline throughout the summer season for early detection of invasive species by employing a professional SCUBA diver and trained snorkel volunteers to locate and hand pull plants before they can spread;
- Provide surface support (boat escort and personnel) to watch over and ensure the safety of our team of divers/snorkelers;
- Mobilize a rapid response team to identify and contain any invasive species infestation, marking the underwater site with survey tape and placing orange buoys at the lake surface for lake users to avoid recreation near that site in order to minimize water disturbance and prevent further plant spread;
- Inform lakeshore property owners of the presence of invasive species and the Committee's control measures;
- Create and annually update an easily understood lake map to include the historical and current sites on aquatic invasive species infestation;
- Encourage shoreline property owners to regularly monitor their waterfronts for unusual underwater plant growth and immediately report any suspicious growth;
- Network with knowledgeable experts for technical advice to help us prevent and defend against the introduction of aquatic invasive species or other emerging environmental issues;
- Apply for grants for State and Town funding, and for any necessary State environmental permits to strengthen our control program;
- Purchase and maintain all equipment necessary to operate the control program;
- Survey the lake to identify and document the native aquatic plant species and assess the areas where significant native plant growth indicates external phosphorous presence;
- Attend relevant seminars and workshops;
- Network with other organizations in Vermont to exchange information regarding control programs for aquatic invasive species;
- Provide updates to the Shadow Lake Association website; design and provide informational signs; procure and distribute educational materials; and circulate flyers when necessary to share information on topics related to aquatic invasive species.

~ In this way, the Milfoil Committee strives to preserve the natural beauty of Shadow Lake, maintain its recreational enjoyment, and enhance the property value of the adjoining land.

<http://shadowlakeassociation.org/water-quality/>

