Aquatic species that are not native to our area are invading Lake Michigan and regional waterways, causing irreparable harm and millions of dollars of damage. Invasive plants can:

- Displace native plants, which are important sources of food and shelter for wildlife,
- Change ecological processes, such as oxygen production because invasive plants can alter chemistry and flow, and
- Block drainage pipes, impede navigation and hinder commercial and recreational fishing.

The Invasive Species Ordinance passed City Council on May 9, 2007. This ordinance makes it unlawful to possess certain invasive species on a regulated list. The City of Chicago has worked with scientists and stakeholders to draft this regulated list, which includes live animals, viable plant parts and live transport species. While there are many more invasive species that could cause harm in the region, the initial list focuses on species that pose the most critical threat.

This flyer shows the aquatic invasive species that are prohibited in Chicago, as well as native alternatives for each species. To see the land-based species that are prohibited, go to cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies or call 312-743-9283. For the latest pertinent state and federal regulations, please visit www.fws.gov and www.dnr.illinois.gov.

For information on how to properly dispose of these species if you already have them, please see www.habitattitude.net.
Aquatic species that are not native to our area are invading Lake Michigan and regional waterways, causing irreparable harm and millions of dollars of damage. Invasive animals can:

- Make waters unusable for recreation and damage commercial and recreational equipment,
- Reduce natural biodiversity and degrade ecosystem functions, and
- Increase the operating costs of industrial processes such as drinking water treatment plants.

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Partner organizations: Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, University of Notre Dame, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Shedd Aquarium and Wisconsin Sea Grant.

*Rive transport species: species that can be transported live, but not sold live.