

# Do your part to protect Lake Michigan and the region's waterways.

## Use native plants in place of aquatic invasive species.

### Prohibited:



TU Darmstadt

**Water hyacinth**  
(*Eichornia crassipes*)

Aggressive invader. Reproduces quickly. Leads to fish kills.  
Also regulated by U.S. Code: Title 18, Sec. 46.

### Try these instead:



Paul Redleam, Jr.

Pickerel weed  
(*Pontederia cordata*)



Robert H. Moellenbrock

Arrow arum  
(*Peltandra virginica*)



Jeff Hageman

White water lily  
(*Nymphaea odorata*)

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](http://cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies) or call 312-743-9283. For the latest pertinent state and federal regulations, please visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

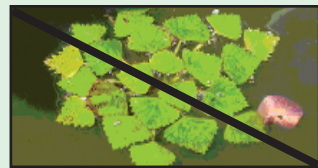


Richard M. Daley  
Mayor



Suzanne Malec-McKenna  
Commissioner

### Prohibited:

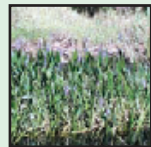


Annette Haggemeier

**Water chestnut**  
(*Trapa natans*)

Forms mats on surface of water. Fouls propellers and fishing lines.  
Prevents light and oxygen from reaching native plants.  
Also regulated by U.S. Code: Title 18, Sec. 46.

### Try these instead:



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Pickerel weed  
(*Pontederia cordata*)



Robert H. Moellenbrock

Arrow arum  
(*Peltandra virginica*)



Jeff Hageman

White water lily  
(*Nymphaea odorata*)

### Prohibited:



S.L. Winteron

**Hydrilla/water thyme**  
(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Spreads quickly. Very costly to eradicate. Crowds native plants.  
Also regulated by Federal Noxious Weed Act.

### Try these instead:



Robert H. Moellenbrock

Canadian waterweed  
(*Elodea canadensis*)



Dennis Albert

Wild celery  
(*Vallisneria spiralis*)



Adrian Jones

Sago pondweed  
(*Potamogeton pectinatus*)

### Prohibited:



Pam. n. Hladcz

**Greater spearwort**  
(*Ranunculus lingua*)

Severe invader elsewhere. Predicted to cause large problems if introduced to the Midwest.

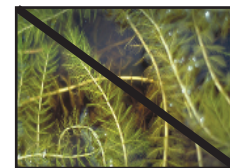
### Try this instead:



J.R. Manshart

Buttercup family  
(*Ranunculaceae*)

### Prohibited:



Allison Fox

**Eurasian watermilfoil**  
(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Forms mats on surface of water. Fouls propellers and fishing lines.  
Prevents light and oxygen from reaching native plants.

### Try these instead:



Robert H. Moellenbrock

Canadian waterweed  
(*Elodea canadensis*)



Dennis Albert

Wild celery  
(*Vallisneria spiralis*)



Adrian Jones

Sago pondweed  
(*Potamogeton pectinatus*)

### Prohibited:



Dodeaq, LLC

**Brazilian elodea/waterweed**  
(*Egeria densa*)

Crowds out native vegetation. Costly to eradicate.  
Pending regulation by the Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

### Try this instead:



Robert H. Moellenbrock

Canadian waterweed  
(*Elodea canadensis*)

### Prohibited:



K.L. Leaven

**Parrot feather watermilfoil**  
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

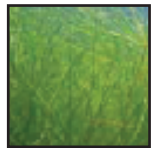
Clogs waterways. Provides breeding areas for mosquitoes.

### Try these instead:



Dennis Albert

Wild celery  
(*Vallisneria spiralis*)



Adrian Jones

Sago pondweed  
(*Potamogeton pectinatus*)



Adrian Jones

Coontail  
(*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

### Prohibited:



Kazuo Yamasaki

**Water spinach**  
(*Ipomoea aquatica*)

Obstructs water flow. Overgrows other plants on river banks.  
Also regulated by Federal Noxious Weed Act.

### Try this instead:



Kevin S. Nelson

American water willow  
(*Justicia americana*)

### Prohibited:

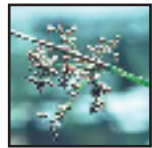


Kentucky University

**Flowering rush**  
(*Butomus umbellatus*)

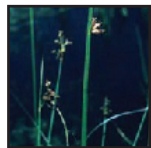
Rapidly expanding across North America.

### Try these instead:



Stephen Sullivan

Rush  
(*Juncus effusus*)



Robert W. Freeman

Three square bulrush  
(*Schoenoplectus pungens*)



Robert W. Freeman

Hard-stemmed bulrush  
(*Schoenoplectus acutus*)

### Prohibited:



Bio & Eco

**European frog-bit**  
(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

Outcompetes native vegetation.

### Try these instead:



David G. Smith

Yellow pond lily  
(*Nuphar advena*)



Scott A. Millman

Bullhead lily  
(*Nuphar variegatum*)



Jeff Hageman

White water lily  
(*Nymphaea odorata*)

### Prohibited:



**Chameleon**  
(*Houttuynia chordata*)

Invades lakes and river shores.  
Outcompetes native vegetation.

No alternative  
native species.

For information on how to properly dispose of these species if you already have them, please see [www.habitattitude.net](http://www.habitattitude.net)





Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

# Do your part to protect Lake Michigan and the region's waterways.

## Use native animals in place of aquatic invasive species.



Suzanne Malec-McKenna  
Commissioner

### Prohibited:



Jeffrey Jensen

#### Monkey goby (*Neogobius fluviatilis*)

Competes with native fish.  
Average size at adulthood: 7.7 inches

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.

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](http://cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies) or call 312-743-9283. For the latest pertinent state and federal regulations, please visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov).

### Prohibited:



Jeff Gaudin

#### \*Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)

Removes fish habitat.  
Leads to declines in sportfish populations.  
Also regulated by Illinois Administrative Code 805.  
Average size at adulthood: 1.4-4 inches

### Prohibited:



AquaticCommunity.com

#### Snakehead (Any species from the genera *Channa* or *Parachanna*, from the family *Channidae*)

Voracious predator. Costly to eradicate. Also regulated by IL Admin Code 805 and the Federal Lacey Act.  
Average size at adulthood: 2-3 feet

### Try this instead:



J/Photo.dk

#### Short-nosed gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*)

### Prohibited:



C. Bernier

#### European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*)

Negatively impacts native fish.  
Average size at adulthood: 20 inches

### Try this instead:



M. Gauthier

#### Native yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*)

### Prohibited:



John H. Tuglian

#### African clawed frog (*Xenopus laevis*)

Outcompetes and preys upon native frogs.  
Maximum size at adulthood: 4.7 inches

### Try these instead:



Miami University

#### Leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*)



Carl D. Howe

#### Bull frog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

### Prohibited:



#### Oriental weatherloach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)

Reaches high densities. Competes with native fish for food.  
Average size at adulthood: 9.8 inches

### Try these instead:



Emma Turner

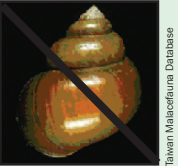
#### Clown loach (*Chromobotia macracanthus*)



Emma Turner

#### Queen loach (*Botia dario*)

### Prohibited:



Ilaven Malacofauna Database

#### Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)

Reaches extremely high densities. Carries parasites and diseases.  
Average size at adulthood: 2.25 inches

### Try this instead:



Stijn Ghesquiere

#### Tropical apple snail (*Pomacea bridgesii*)

### Prohibited:

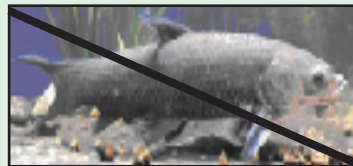


Great Lakes.org

#### Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)

Outcompetes native fish for food sources.  
Also regulated by IL Admin Code 805 and the Federal Lacey Act.  
Maximum size at adulthood: 3.4 feet

### Prohibited:



Chinese Academy of Fishery Science

#### Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)

Eats endangered mollusks.  
Also regulated by IL Admin Code 805 and the Federal Lacey Act.  
Average size at adulthood: 3-6 feet

### Prohibited:



Alwa Photo

#### \*Grass carp/white amur (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)

Outcompetes native fish for food sources.  
Also regulated by IL Admin Code 870.60.  
Average size at adulthood: 4.9 feet

### Prohibited:

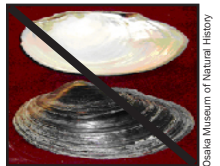


USGS

#### Bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)

Reaches high densities, grows up to 110 pounds.  
Competes with native sportfish.  
Also regulated by IL Admin Code 805 and the Federal Lacey Act.  
Average size at adulthood: 3.7 feet

### Prohibited:



Osaka Museum of Natural History

#### No known common name (*Anodonta woodiana*)

High reproduction rate.  
Competes with endangered native mussels.  
Average size at adulthood: 2-3 inches

### Prohibited:



Garry Nette

#### Eurasian minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*)

Causes reduced reproduction of sportfish.  
Average size at adulthood: 5.5 inches

For information on how to properly dispose of these species if you already have them, please see [www.habitattitude.net](http://www.habitattitude.net)

[www.cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies](http://www.cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies) **312-743-9283**

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.

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



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