

## How does AIS spread?

The main way aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed spread to new waters is often by hitching a ride on boats and trailers of the very people who enjoy the water the most.

Cleaning boats and equipment before leaving the landing is an important step that people need to prevent the spread of invasive species. NR 40 requires everyone to Inspect, Remove, Drain, Never Move.

The Town of Barnes operates a Clean Boats Clean Waters program that assists boat owners in identifying and disposing of plants, animals, and bait before leaving the landing. Some bait exceptions exist, and are listed in the DNR regulations.

AIS has the potential to spread by disruption that occurs when boats move through the affected areas. Plants can break off and take root in other parts of the lake.

To minimize spread of aquatic invasive species, boating operations should occur in the middle of the lake, away from shorelines, and bays.

See location of Eurasian watermilfoil on map in this brochure.



Elizabeth J. Czarapata

## Boating Safety

Experienced and novice boaters alike need to be mindful that our waters are being shared by many users of varied interests, so always be respectful of others.

Wisconsin conservation wardens, and county sheriffs enforce the boating laws of Wisconsin. The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available at local businesses.

### **Age Requirements:**

Persons born after January 1, 1989 must hold a valid boating safety certificate to operate a motorboat.

A person 10 years old, or older, may operate a motorboat only if accompanied by a parent or guardian who holds a boating safety certificate.

A person 12 years old, or older may operate a motorboat if that person holds a valid boating safety certificate or was born before January 1 1989.

A person 12 years old, or older, may operate a PWC (Personal Watercraft) only if that person has completed a boating safety course.

A person born before January 1, 1989 is exempt from safety course requirement, but is encouraged to take the boating safety course which can be found online.

### **Safety Equipment:**

Wear a life jacket! You need one for your safety, and **Wisconsin law requires** a personal flotation device for each person on board all boats, kayaks, canoes and paddleboards.

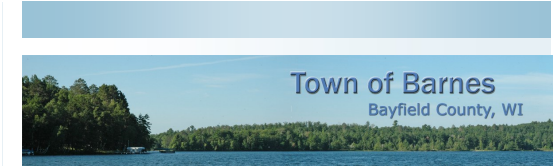
### **Safety Distance:**

While operating a motorboat on any lake, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when **within 100 feet** of a raft, pier, or lake shore.

While operating a Personal Watercraft anywhere on the water, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when **within 100 feet** of any other boat, kayak, canoe, and other PWC.

While operating Personal Watercraft, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when **within 200 feet** of lake shore.

**Slow-No-Wake is moving as slow as possible while still in control of the boat's direction.**



Welcome to our area!

## Tomahawk Lake Sand Bar Lake And Aquatic Invasive Species



Tomahawk Lake is a 131 acre lake with a maximum depth of 42 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing, located at Tomahawk Park on Moore Rd.

Sand Bar Lake is a 127 acre lake located in Bayfield County. It has a maximum depth of 49 feet. Visitors access it via Tomahawk Lake.

We take pride in the quality and clarity of our lake waters. Enjoy our natural resources and respect our State Laws.

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## Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM)

Eurasian watermilfoil has been found in Tomahawk Lake, approximate points are marked on map. Please help us control this Aquatic Invasive Species by decontaminating your boat before entering and after leaving the lake.



A submergent, herbaceous aquatic plant, Eurasian watermilfoil, usually extends 3 to 10 feet but can reach as much as 33 feet in length. The stems are reddish-brown to whitish-pink. It forms dense mats on the surface of water bodies, and new plants may emerge from each node on a stem may take root many substrates. Regenerates mostly from rhizomes, fragmented stems and axillary buds that develop throughout the year. Eurasian watermilfoil can be found in over 400 Wisconsin lakes and rivers..

EWM thrives in areas that have been subjected to various kinds of natural and manmade disturbance.

EWM's floating mats of vegetation on the surface of water bodies prevents light penetration for native aquatic plants and impedes water traffic. These mats may also increase the surface water temperature.

EWM is winter-hardy, able to overwinter in frozen lakes and ponds in our area.

Volunteers help is integral and includes reporting Eurasian watermilfoil to DNR or County AIS Coordinator, so learn to recognize it. Training is available, as there are multiple native milfoils that we want to protect. New volunteers to pull plants and participate in prevention activities are always welcome.

To learn more about invasive in the Barnes area lakes, contact the Town Clerk for opportunities.

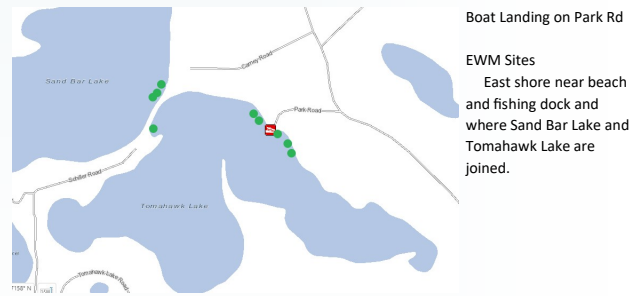
## Eurasian watermilfoil

What we are doing to control spread of EWM

Eurasian watermilfoil was first detected in Tomahawk Lake in 2004. Shortly after, EWM spread to Sand Bar Lake. Initial efforts to control the population was hand-pulling plants by volunteers and riparian owners. EWM continued to spread and Tomahawk Lake was first chemically treated in 2008 to reduce the plant population. Tomahawk & Sand Bar were also part of a widely-cited study of the effects and efficiency of 2,4-D in EWM.

EWM is having a profound impact on swimming, fishing and other water recreation.

Education efforts have been increased at boat landings as the Clean Boats Clean Waters program monitors boats arriving and leaving the lake. Riparian owners monitor their own shoreline as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring network, report findings and volunteer time to Town Clerk's office.



Hand-pulling weeds from the lake bottom continues by volunteers. Control efforts also includes a mechanical harvester mounted atop of a pontoon, called the Barnes Area Invasive Species Sucker or BAISS. The Town of Barnes funds the operation of the BAISS, along with two certified divers. Community members, organizations, riparian owners and anyone loving the outdoors, volunteer for four hour shifts to operate the pontoon, monitor divers' needs, and dispose of plants.

If you are interested in learning more about BAISS operations or wish to volunteer, please contact the Town Office.

Riparian owners can restore shorelines with native plants and bushes to control erosion and reduce runoff. Creating a buffer zone by simply not mowing along the shoreline is the easiest and least expensive method.

### Partners & Sources for Information:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species  
Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation  
Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan  
University of Wisconsin  
Wi Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detectors Handbook

## Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species

Whether you are a **boater, angler, paddler, water gardener/pond owner, or nursery owner**, you have a very important role to play in keeping Wisconsin's lakes free of aquatic invasive species.

**Boaters, anglers, and paddlers INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment.**

- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway)
- DRAIN all water from boats, motors, livewells, and all equipment
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
- BUY minnows from a licensed Wisconsin bait dealer.

**Nursery Owners and Water Gardeners**, do not sell, release, transfer, or purchase invasive plants that are restricted or prohibited in Wisconsin.



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

### How you can help:

Minimize potential for spread of Eurasian watermilfoil by using the middle, and deepest part of the lake when boating.

Follow Slow-No-Wake rules around peninsulas and in bays.

Familiarize yourself with known locations of Eurasian watermilfoil in order to avoid those affected areas.

Be able to recognize Eurasian watermilfoil and report any new patches.

### Join our Volunteers:

Clean Boats Clean Waters, Citizen Lake Monitoring network, and attend AIS Committee meetings.

The Committee is looking for volunteers to drive the BAISS pontoon, and also help as deck hands in harvesting operations.