

## Lake Host Program FAQs

### There are plenty of weeds in Country Pond. Why is milfoil such a problem?

Native plants are found in all New Hampshire lakes and are good for fish and other wildlife. However, non-native invasive plants, like variable milfoil, spread very quickly once they are established, wiping out native plants and making water unsuitable for boating or swimming.



Photo courtesy of NH DES



Photo courtesy of NH LAKES

### Country Pond doesn't have milfoil now. Why pay to prevent something that isn't a problem yet?

Once it starts to grow in a pond, ***milfoil is nearly impossible to get rid of completely and removal is VERY EXPENSIVE.*** Powwow Pond in Kingston and East Kingston has been battling milfoil since 2008, but milfoil keeps growing and has become even more difficult to treat.

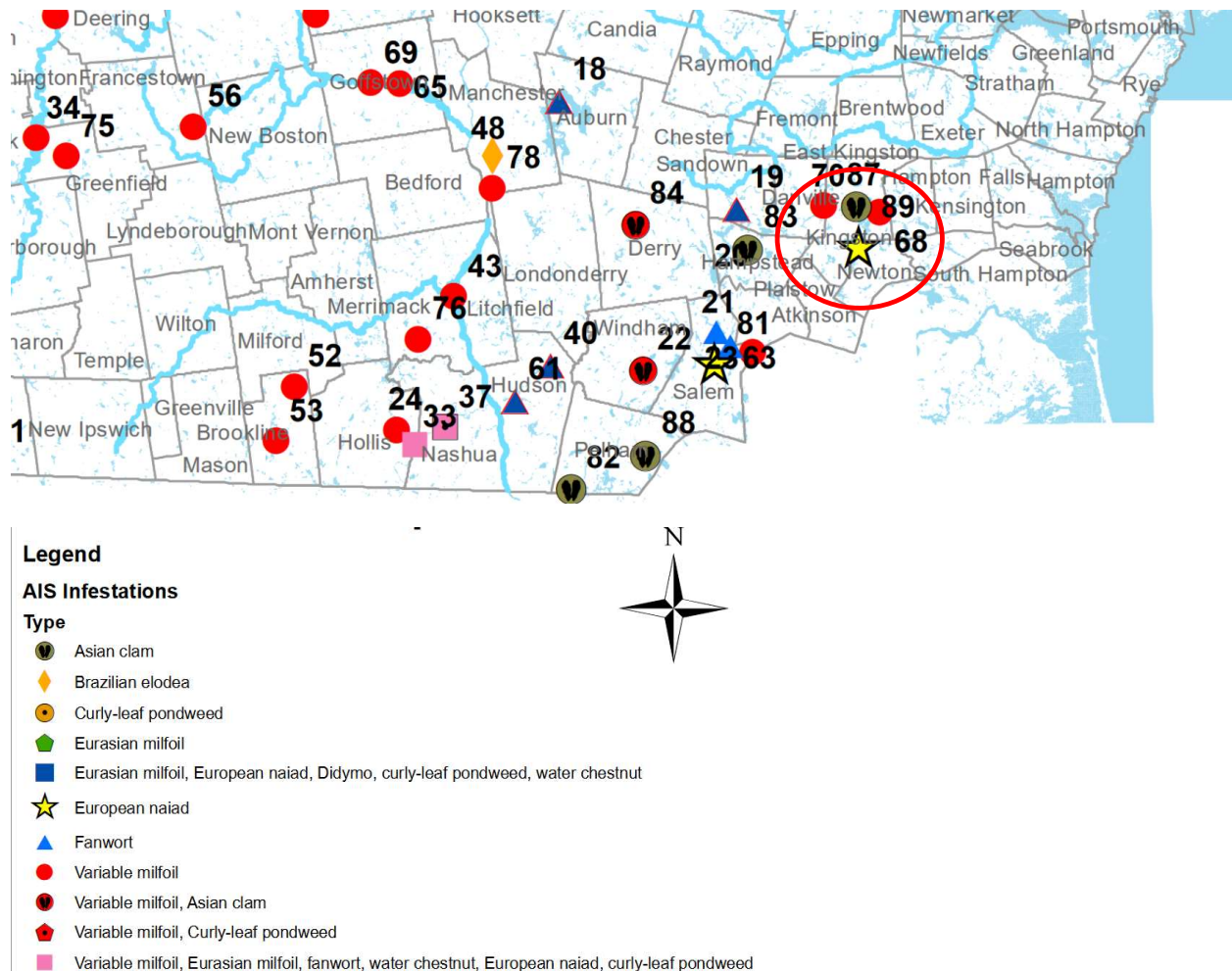
***In the past 3 years over \$68,000 has been spent on milfoil control in Powwow Pond.*** While some of this has been paid by federal and state grants, ***more than half of that cost has been borne by Kingston and East Kingston taxpayers.***

***The amount we are requesting to help prevent a milfoil infestation is very small compared to the cost of milfoil removal.***

## How likely is it that Country Pond could have a problem with invasives if it hasn't happened yet?

We have been very lucky so far, but *it is only a matter of time before we do have problem.*

**Country Pond is literally surrounded by lakes and ponds that are infested with invasives**, and it takes only one boat or trailer with an invasive weed attached to start an infestation. This is the southeast portion of the *NH DES Aquatic Invasive Species in New Hampshire* map, updated December 2019. It shows Country Pond bordered by lakes with variable milfoil, Asian clam and European naiad:



## **Can Lake Hosts prevent people from using the boat ramp?**

**NO.** The Lake Host's job is to educate and inform the public, not to enforce the law.

The Clean Drain and Dry law, effective since 2017, requires boaters to clean weeds from their boat trailers and hulls and drain the bilge before launching a boat in any New Hampshire lake.

Lake Hosts will provide information on New Hampshire's Clean Drain and Dry law, education on invasive species, and courtesy boat/trailer inspections ***only with the boater's permission.***

## **Half of Country Pond is in Kingston. Shouldn't they share the cost?**

If milfoil appears on the Kingston side of Country Pond the town will take steps to remove it, as they have with Powwow Pond. However, since there is no public boat or beach access to Country Pond in Kingston the odds of a milfoil infestation starting there are much lower.

***Newton is responsible for maintaining the boat ramp and beach, which are the town's property and which benefit only Newton residents.***

Also, the Kingston Conservation Commission has agreed to fund all VLAP water testing in Country Pond so they are doing their fair share.

## **I don't use Country Pond. Why should I care about it?**

***Country Pond is a valuable resource for Newton.*** Towns that have lake access through boat ramps and beaches are more desirable to live in than towns that don't. That means home values will appreciate, especially for lakefront property, which means more tax revenue can be collected from lakefront property owners. This benefits the entire town.

## **Why don't the people with lakefront property pay for this? It seems like they will get most of the benefit.**

The health of Country Pond benefits the entire community, not just people who live on the lake. Lakefront property owners already contribute more through higher property taxes. Also, although they may use the lake more often, lakefront property owners rarely use the boat ramp more than twice a year, to take their boats in and out.

***The people who will be most affected by milfoil are residents who don't live on the lake, but who use the boat ramp*** frequently to put their boats in for a morning of fishing or an afternoon of water sports.

## **Who gets the money and how do they pay the Lake Hosts?**

The money will be paid to NH LAKES, the non-profit organization that created and manages the Lake Host program. NH LAKES is responsible for Lake Host payroll, and if any of the money should go unused in 2020, it can be applied to payroll for the following year.

Country Pond Lake Association is responsible for hiring and scheduling employees and volunteers and reporting hours to NH LAKES.

The Lake Host program is also funded by grants from NH LAKES. Grants are based on volunteer participation. In 2019 Country Pond Lake Association received \$1,000 from NH LAKES to partially fund the Lake Host program, and we anticipate receiving at least that amount again this year.