

In search of Milfoil

At a recent Board of County Commissioners meeting a resident testified that it was her opinion that opening the boat launch year-found was the cause of all the lake's problems concerning milfoil.

In the August 17, 2023, Volunteer Lake Weed Survey we did not find any milfoil. So, we searched to see if there were any County reports of a milfoil problem at Offut Lake in the past. This search led me to Wesley Glisson, Aquatic Plant Specialist at the Washington State Department of Ecology. The following information comes from email exchanges with Mr. Glisson.

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Hi Gary,

We did end up making a last-minute visit to Offut Lake yesterday to collect some samples. I apologize for not getting back to you sooner and being able to connect at the lake. We've had a busy field season this year and I have been falling behind on emails.

We observed very dense growth of water naiad ([Najas](#) sp.) on the south and southeast shores of the lake during our visit, which I am sure you and the rest of the lake residents are well aware of. These plants are native, but clearly grow to nuisance levels. We found one patch of the native watermilfoil I mentioned in my previous email (western watermilfoil, [Myriophyllum hippuroides](#)) but it was not growing problematically. We did not see any other watermilfoil plants on the lake.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the plants on the lake and I would be happy to answer them. I am located out of the Ecology headquarters in Lacey, so I am not too far from Offut and will likely be making routine return visits.

Best, Wes

Wesley Glisson (he/him)

Aquatic Plant Specialist

Environmental Assessment Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Hi Gary,

We typically enter all our data at the end of the field season, and I could generate a more official report at that time. For now, I've attached a pdf with a bullet-point list of the plants we observed on the lake the other day. Keep in mind that we did not do an exhaustive survey. However, I believe that we found most of the aquatic plants on the lake. All of our plant survey data eventually gets posted online at the following site: [Lakes - Environmental Data \(wa.gov\)](#). You can search by lake and see which plants the Department of Ecology has seen on the lake during previous surveys.

Location of the milfoil found by Mr. Glisson on his September 6, 2023 visit to Offut Lake.

