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## LAKE JOSEPHINE, RAMSEY COUNTY: 2025 AQUATIC VEGETATION REPORT

Report by the Invasive Species Program – Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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**Lake:** Josephine (DOW# 62005700)

**Lake Surface Area:** 116 acres

**Littoral Area:** 79 acres

**County:** Ramsey

**Survey Type:** Point-intercept

**Date of Survey (most recent):** September 3, 2025

**Observer[s]:** April Londo (MNDNR)

Garrett Miller (MNDNR)

**Report updated:** November 26, 2025

**Author[s]:** Garrett Miller

Email: [garrett.miller@state.mn.us](mailto:garrett.miller@state.mn.us)

Phone: 651.259.5729



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### 2025 Summary:

*The most recent submersed aquatic vegetation point-intercept survey of Lake Josephine (DOW# 62005700) was on September 3, 2025. Submersed aquatic plants were present throughout the lake to a maximum depth of 3.66 meters (12 feet). Within the littoral zone (area in the lake from the 0 – 15-foot depth range [0 – 4.5 meters]), 82% of the sampled points contained native submersed taxa. The average number of native submersed taxa per sample point was 2.4, and a total of 13 native submersed plant species were documented during the survey. Two invasive aquatic plants have been observed in Lake Josephine: hybrid watermilfoil (Eurasian watermilfoil x northern watermilfoil) and curly-lead pondweed. Management of both species has been facilitated by the Lake Josephine Improvement Association and Rice Creek Watershed District.*

**Summary Table.** Summary of aquatic submersed plants in Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700) as indicated by the results of point-intercept surveys. Values were calculated from the littoral depth range (0 – 15 feet).

PI Survey Date	% Frequency of HWM*	Max Depth of Growth in feet [95%] <sup>†</sup>	% Points w/ Native Submersed Taxa	Mean Native Submersed Taxa/ Point	# Submersed Taxa
Jul 15, 2009	-	11	81	1.3	7
Sept 10, 2013	36	9	81	1.9	11
JUL 29, 2014	16	13	93	2.3	13
AUG 28, 2015	5	10	81	2	14
AUG 15, 2016	17	10	83	2.1	13
AUG 7, 2017	15	7	63	1.3	11
AUG 21, 2018	22	7	59	0.9	12
SEPT 13, 2019	10	7	53	0.9	12
SEPT 16, 2020	-	8	47	0.6	7
AUG 11, 2021	-	12	76	1.1	10
AUG 3, 2022	-	6	36	0.7	11
SEPT 12, 2023	-	9	73	1.4	8
JUL 10 & 16, 2024	-	9	79	1.9	13
Sept 3, 2025	-	12	82	2.4	13

<sup>†</sup> 95th percentile calculated based on all vegetated sampling points

Taxa refers to groups of submersed aquatic plant species or genera

\*HWM is an abbreviation for Hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil

## Lake Description:

Lake Josephine is a 116-acre lake located near Roseville, Minnesota. Two invasive aquatic plant species are present in the lake: Hybrid watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* x *Myriophyllum sibiricum* – abbreviated as HWM) and curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus* – abbreviated as CLP). The maximum depth of water is 13.1 meters (43.1 feet). Approximately 67% of the lake is littoral (water depth zone from 0 – 15 feet where aquatic plants are likely to be found). Lake Josephine is nutrient-rich, and the seasonal mean water clarity has been between 1 meter and 2.4 meters, with higher means observed in recent years of monitoring. More information on Lake Josephine water quality can be obtained by contacting your local governmental unit (watershed district, county, city) or by visiting: <https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/surface-water/impairment/62-0057-00> or <https://lakes.rs.umn.edu/#62005700>

## Management History:

Historically, hybrid watermilfoil was treated with 2,4-D formulated herbicides in Lake Josephine on an annual basis since nuisance conditions developed in 2013. Variances were also granted from 2014 to 2021 and in 2023 to allow treatment of more than 15% of the littoral area of the lake (see **Table 2 Invasive Plant Management**). In 2017, a 28-acre area was treated mid-season with diquat, targeting both curly leaf pondweed and hybrid watermilfoil. Although the treatment controlled both invasive plants, the treated area was too large and timed too late; therefore, unforeseen damage to the native plant community resulted. To allow native plants to recover, no herbicide treatments for hybrid watermilfoil were permitted in 2018 and 2019. To reduce hybrid watermilfoil at a lake-wide occurrence, the lake association was permitted to complete a whole lake fluridone treatment in 2020. Penoxsulam (Galleon), a systemic herbicide, was applied to 10 acres of curly leaf pondweed in 2022, with an additional 4.38 acres treated in 2023 for a total of 14.38 acres. Curly-leaf pondweed management continued in 2024 with an application of Flumioxazin (Clipper), a contact herbicide, to 8.15 acres. In 2025, 8.9 acres of curly-leaf pondweed management continued with the use of Flumioxazin.

On October 8, 2020, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) staff re-introduced submerged aquatic vegetation to Lake Josephine. The purpose of this effort was to increase the overall plant species richness and occurrence in the lake after multiple years of invasive aquatic plant management. Native

plant propagules were collected from Big Carnelian Lake in Washington County, and staff selected 5 – 6 locations within Lake Josephine along undeveloped shoreline for dispersal. This action was repeated in the summer of 2021. Multiple transplant events may be necessary over several years to establish new plants before they are detected in whole-lake plant surveys, which can help determine if propagation efforts are successful. Below is a list of plants species collected and introduced:

- *Ceratophyllum demersum*
- *Chara spp.*
- *Elodea canadensis*
- *Potamogeton gramineus*
- *Potamogeton illinoensis*
- *Potamogeton praelongus*
- *Heteranthera dubia*
- *Megalodonta beckii*
- *Naiad flexilis*
- *Potamogeton richardsonii*
- *Potamogeton zosteriformis*
- *Ranunculus aquatilis*

**Table 2 – Invasive Plant Management Summary.** Characteristics and history of herbicide treatments for Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700, total acres: 116, littoral acres: 79, 15% littoral acres: 11.8).

Date	Treatment [W, P, N]	Target Species	Total Acres Treated	Herbicide	Licensed Commercial Applicator
<b>2009</b>	N	-	-	-	-
<b>2012</b>	N	-	-	-	-
<b>JUL 1 2013</b>	P	HWM	7.9	DMA-4	Lake Management Inc.
<b>JUN 24 2014*</b>	P	HWM	20.4	DMA-4	Lake Management Inc.
<b>JUN 23 2015*</b>	P	HWM	25.1	DMA-4	Lake Management Inc.
<b>JUN 7 2016*</b>	P	HWM	4.8	DMA-4	Lake Management Inc.
<b>MAY 24 2017*</b>	P	HWM & CLP	28.0	Diquat	Lake Management Inc.
<b>2018*</b>	N				
<b>MAY 23 2019*</b>	P	CLP	11.2	Diquat	Lake Management Inc.
<b>APR 30 2020*</b>	W	HWM	117	Fluridone	Lake Management Inc.
<b>JUN 8 2021*</b>	P	CLP	3.9	Diquat	Lake Management Inc.
<b>2022</b>	P	CLP	10.0	Galleon	Lake Management Inc.
<b>2023*</b>	P	CLP	14.38	Galleon	Lake Management Inc.
<b>2024</b>	P	CLP	8.2	Flumioxazin	Lake Management Inc.
<b>2025</b>	P	CLP	8.9	Flumioxazin	Lake Management Inc.

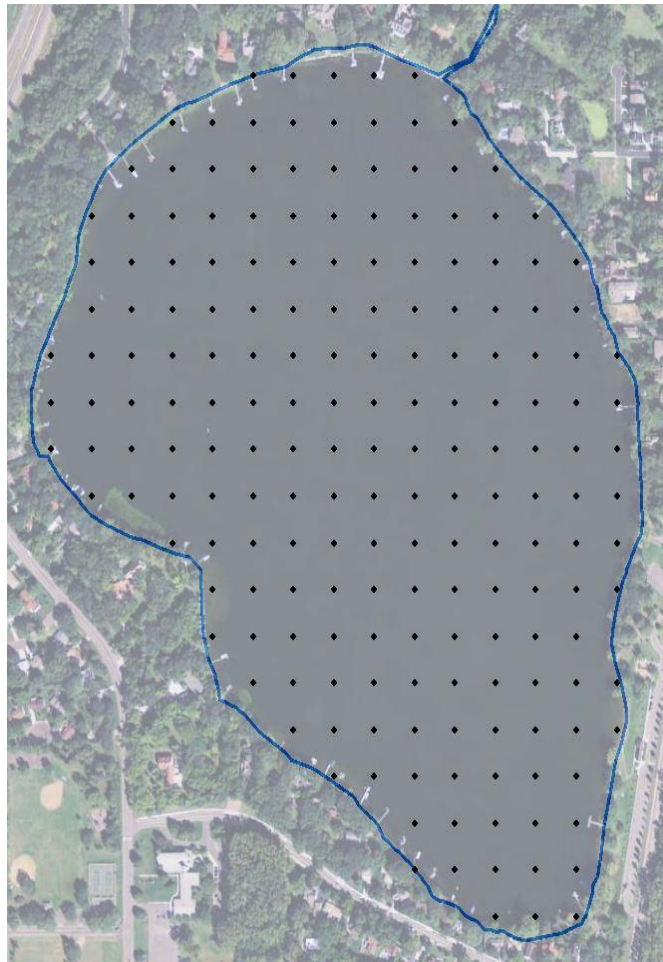
\*Indicates year when the issued permit contained a variance  
 Treatment: W (whole lake), P (partial lake), N (no treatment)  
 CLP is an abbreviation for curly-leaf pondweed  
 HWM is an abbreviation for hybrid watermilfoil

## Survey Objectives:

Point-intercept surveys were used to assess the distribution of aquatic plants in Lake Josephine. The primary purpose for this type of survey is to 1) develop baseline knowledge of the current plant community in a lake, and over time, 2) compare year-to-year plant variation (in plant presence and spatial location). Moreover, this survey will help the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and our partners monitor native plant communities and evaluate possible responses to invasive aquatic plant management efforts. It is important to note that distributions of aquatic plants may vary from year to year due to effects such as differences in weather, as well as the effects from plant and water quality management.

## Survey Methods:

A point intercept survey method developed by John Madsen in [“Aquatic Plant Control Technical Note MI-02, 1999”](#) was used. Survey points were placed 50 meters apart using a Geographic Information System (GIS), allowing for the placement of 192 points. Plant samples were collected by throwing and dragging a double-sided rake along the lake bottom at each point for approximately three meters. Plant samples were assessed on the boat to determine plant species, and rake fullness was used as a surrogate for density (scale of zero [no plants] to 4 [dense plants, matted on the surface] was used in 2012 – 2017, and a zero to 3 scale in 2018 and all years thereafter). Frequency of occurrence percentages (i.e., how often a plant species was found in the lake) were calculated based on the littoral zone (the portion of the lake that is less than 15 feet in depth).



## Survey Observations:

The most recent survey was conducted on September 3, 2025, by the MNDNR. Native submersed plant frequency of occurrence (FOO) has historically been high (81 - 93% FOO) but declined after the diquat treatment in 2017 (63% FOO) and fluridone treatment in 2020 (47% FOO). Aside from 2022 (36% FOO), plant FOO post fluridone has recovered close to levels seen before the 2017 diquat treatment, with a FOO range between 73% and 82%. The mean submersed native taxa per point was lowest in 2020 (0.6) but has since reached its highest at 2.4 taxa per point in 2025. Native species richness has been variable throughout the survey years, with 6 to 13 native taxa being observed (**Table 3 – Point Intercept Metrics**).

The native submersed species most observed in the 2025 survey were coontail and flat-stem pondweed, both observed at their highest frequencies within the past eight years. (see **Table 4 – Plant Frequency of Occurrence**). In 2024 and 2025, Canadian waterweed and white-stem pondweed were observed after being absent for several years; and white-water crowfoot was also observed in 2024, which is the first time observed in Lake Josephine point intercept surveys (see **Table 4 – Plant Frequency of Occurrence**). These three species were included in the native plant reintroduction effort in 2020 and 2021, suggesting a successful propagation effort.

Hybrid watermilfoil was confirmed in Lake Josephine in 2016 via genetic testing, and all samples collected were hybrid. Hybrid watermilfoil was observed at its highest frequency in 2013 (34%) and has not been observed since 2019 (**Table 4 – Plant Frequency of Occurrence**). Curly leaf pondweed presence was not detected in the 2025 survey, which is common given its early growth and senescence.

**Table 3 – Point Intercept Metrics.** Summary of point intercepts metrics for Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700). Shaded values were calculated from the littoral depth range (0 – 15ft). Surveys conducted by either the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) or Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR).

Survey Metrics	JUL 15 2009	SEPT 10 2013	JUL 29 2014	AUG 28 2015	AUG 15 2016	AUG 7 2017	AUG 21 2018	SEPT 13 2019	SEPT 16 2020	AUG 11 2021	AUG 31 2022	SEPT 12 2023	JUL 16 2024	Sept 3 2025
Treated (Y/N)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Surveyor	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	MN DNR	RCWD	RCWD & MN DNR	MN DNR
Total # Points Sampled	72	190	190	190	190	188	189	190	185	177	152	153	145	141
Max Depth of Growth (95%)	11	9	13	10	10	7	7	7	8	12	6	9	9	12
# Point in Max Depth Range	62	127	133	119	118	105	99	93	104	103	71	131	121	134
# Points in Littoral (0-15 feet)	68	149	142	144	143	144	151	148	142	107	132	153	145	141
% Points w/ Submersed Native Taxa	81	81	93	81	83	63	59	53	47	77	36	73	79	82
Mean Submersed Native Taxa/ Point	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.0	2.1	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.4	2.0	2.4
# Submersed Native Taxa	6	9	11	12	11	9	10	10	7	9	10	7	13	13
# Submersed Non-Native Taxa	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	0

**Table 4 – Plant Frequency of Occurrence.** Historic percent frequency of occurrence (FOO) for submersed aquatic vegetation within the littoral zone (0 – 15 feet) in Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700).

Taxonomic Name SUBMERSED PLANTS	Common Name	JUL 15 2009	SEPT 10 2013	JUL 29 2014	AUG 28 2015	AUG 15 2016	AUG 7 2017	AUG 21 2018	SEPT 13 2019	SEPT 16 2020	AUG 11 2021	AUG 31 2022	SEPT 12 2023	July 16 2024	Sept 3, 2025
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum x sibiricum</i> *	Hybrid watermilfoil*	-	36	16	5	17	15	22	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i> *	Curly-leaf pondweed*	79	6	2	1	20	6	13	1	-	4	2	1	7	-
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coontail	58	43	45	78	62	43	34	24	3	1	10	48	49	70
<i>Macroalgae</i> **	Muskgrass & Nitella	37	4	10	23	27	38	24	32	44	70	22	46	60	19
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian waterweed	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Water stargrass	-	1	-	3	6	-	1	3	-	1	8	16	26	2
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Northern watermilfoil	10	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Najas spp.</i>	Naiad	-	32	27	27	33	11	25	17	-	7	5	-	1	1
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	Large-leaf pondweed	-	6	5	8	5	5	5	9	1	4	8	6	12	18
<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	White-stem pondweed	-	1	2	6	9	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	18
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small pondweed	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	2	2
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	Flat-stem pondweed	31	24	30	47	58	22	2	-	8	15	17	16	30	51

\* Denotes invasive aquatic plant

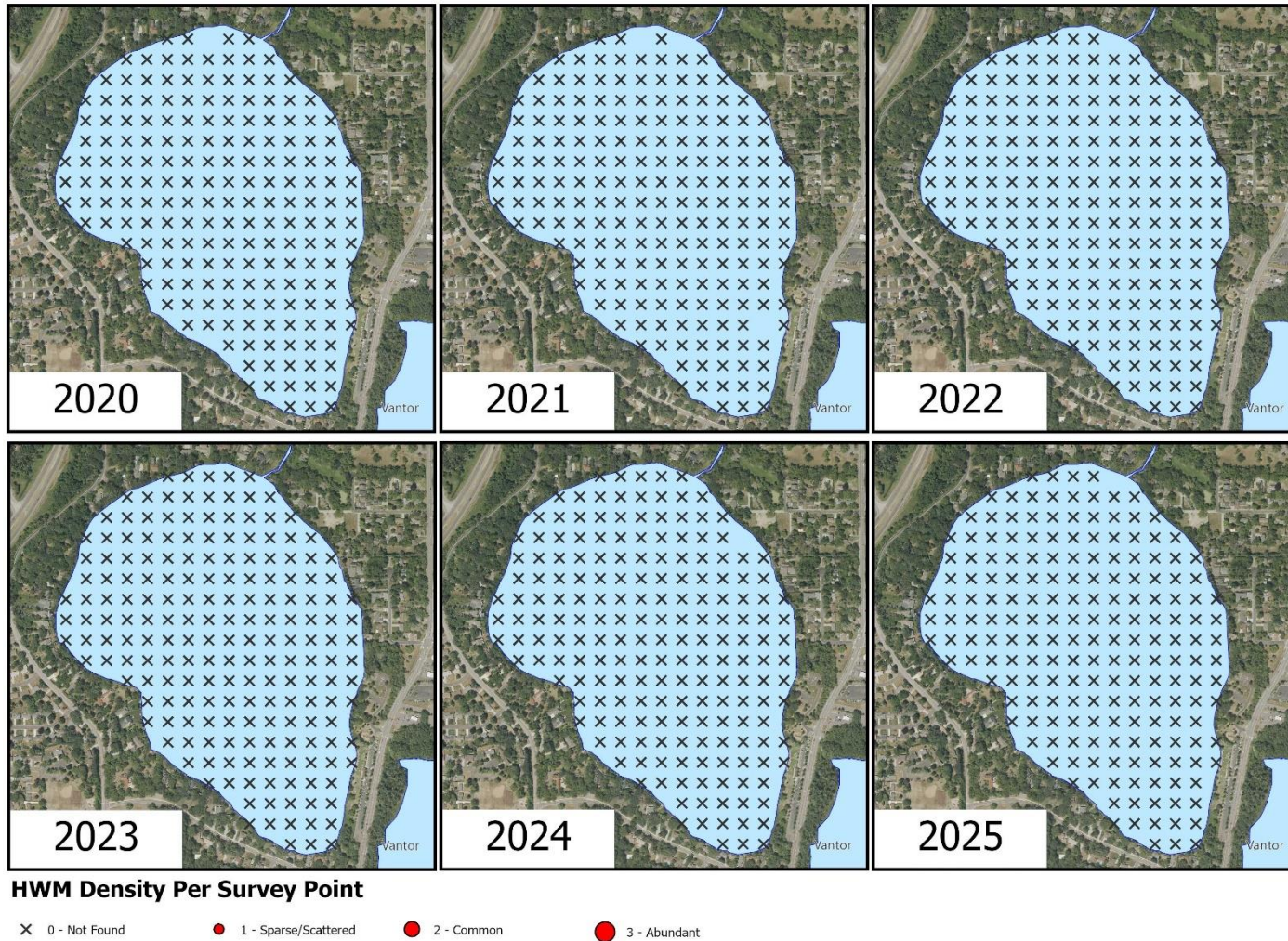
\*\* Muskgrass and Nitella combined in 2015 to present

**Floating, Free-floating & Emergent plants observed:** *Lemna trisulca* (Forked duckweed), *Nuphar advena* (Yellow pond lily), *Nuphar variegata* (Bullhead pondlily), *Nymphaea odorata* (White waterlily), *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple-loosestrife)

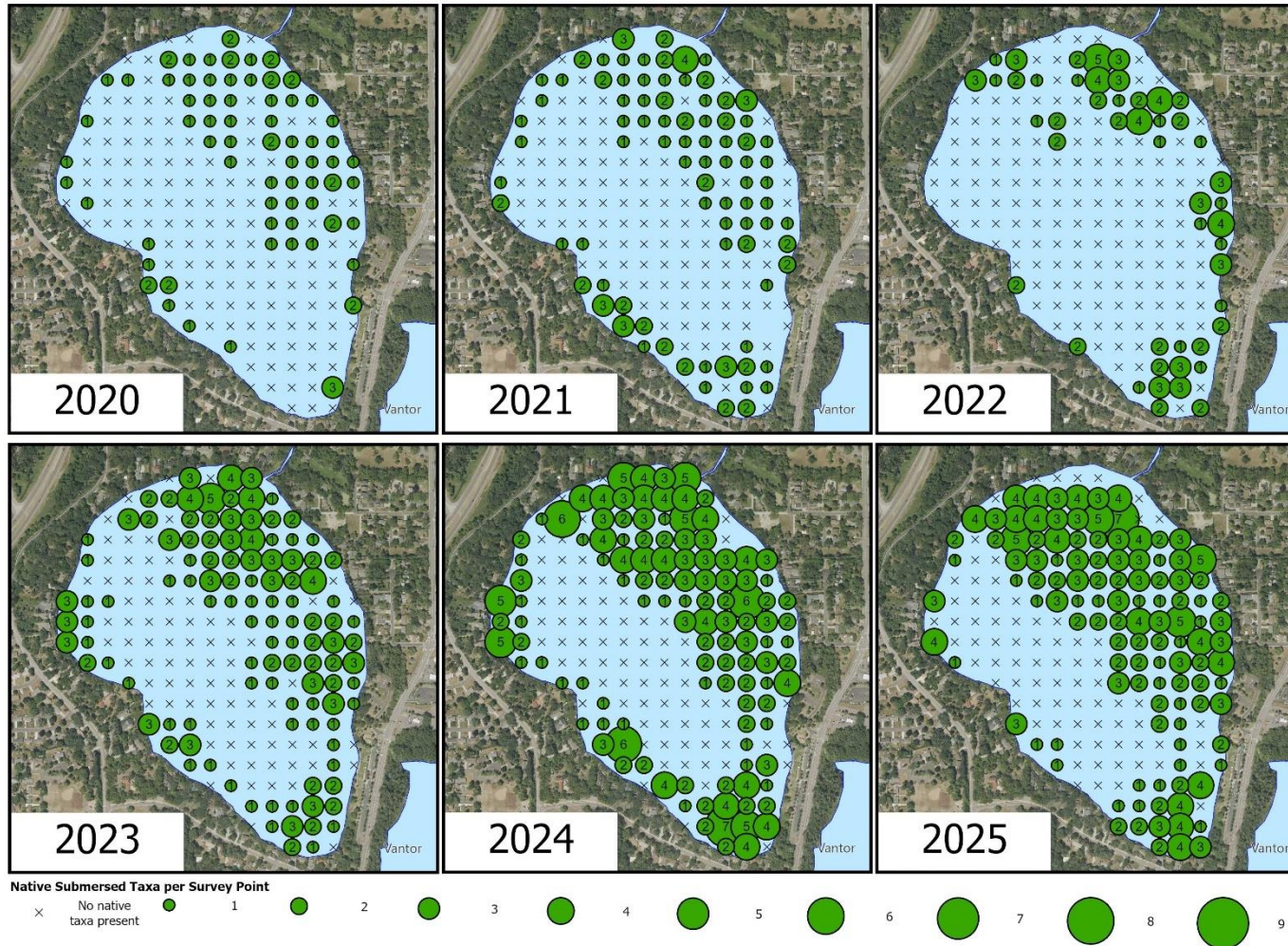
**Less common (< 5% frequency) submersed vegetation observed:** *Potamogeton gramineus* (Variable-leaf pondweed) in 2009, *Potamogeton foliosus* (Leafy pondweed) in 2013, 2015-2016, 2018-2022, and 2024-2025, *Stuckenia pectinata* (Sago pondweed) in 2014, 2022, and 2023 *Eleocharis acicularis* (Needle spikerush) in 2015, and 2017-2020, *Potamogeton illinoensis* (Illinois pondweed) in 2015-2018, 2020, and 2025, *Vallisneria americana* (Water celery) in 2015-2018, and 2021-2025, Non-sphagnum moss (Watermoss) in 2019 and 2023, *Ranunculus aquatilis* (white water crowfoot) in 2024.



**Photos 1 and 2.** Both photos show abundant *Potamogeton praelongus* (white-stem pondweed) sampled during the 2025 point intercept survey on Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700).



**Figure 1 – Hybrid Watermilfoil Density.** Spatial distribution and rake density per sample point of hybrid watermilfoil (HWM; 2020 - 2025). Various-sized circles and numbers denote abundances at each sample location. Surveys were conducted by either the Rice Creek Watershed District (2023) or by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (all other years). No HWM was found in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, or 2025. Data for all survey years provided upon request. Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700).



**Figure 2 – Native Species Taxa Density.** Spatial distribution and species richness (# of native aquatic taxa per sample point) of all submersed plant species (2019 - 2025). Various-sized circles and numbers denote how many different species were observed at each sample location. Surveys were conducted by either the Rice Creek Watershed District (2023) or by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (all other years). Data for all survey years provided upon request. Lake Josephine, Ramsey County, Minnesota (DOW# 62005700).

*This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audiotape by emailing [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or by calling 651-259-5016.*