



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



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**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

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January 22, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
 and The Honorable Council  
 State House  
 Concord, NH 03301

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

In accordance with the provisions of RSA 487:29, this document provides the report for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2024 and 2025 of the Milfoil and other Exotic Plants Prevention and Research Grant Program (the Program). The report includes a summary of aquatic invasive plant species control, prevention and research projects funded by the program and the financial support granted to municipalities or subdivisions of the state, non-profit corporations, and research institutions. New Hampshire currently has 98 waterbodies (11 river systems and 87 lakes and ponds) infested with invasive aquatic plants. Program activities and grant funds focused on activities that reduce the spread of infestations and manage those infestations already in state waterbodies.

Background:

Funds associated with the milfoil prevention and research grants became available following the enactment of RSA 487:26 on January 1, 2003. Per the legislation, *"The grant program shall be funded by the portion of the lake restoration and preservation fund, established in RSA 487:25, and allocated to the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program. Approximately 3/4 of the moneys distributed from the fund to the milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention program shall be allocated for the purposes of milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants prevention and the remainder shall be allocated to milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants remediation research, as appropriate, based on grant requests."* Fee funds are derived from a \$9.50 fee on motorized boat registrations annually.

A Request for Proposals is issued in September of each year for projects that meet the criteria outlined in Chapter Env-Wq 1300 of state administrative rules. All prevention grant proposals are reviewed by a committee comprised of a designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services and a designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Safety. Research grant proposals are reviewed by a team of biologists from the Biology Section of the Watershed Management Bureau. All proposals are reviewed for eligibility and ranked based on standard review criteria for this program. These teams review the grant applications for the quality and quantity of work that is proposed, and to ensure that work is in line with programmatic goals. Applicants work with the agency to provide applications for projects that are well-planned and comprehensive in terms of their goals for prevention, research, or control.

Summary of SFY 2024 and 2025 Prevention and Research Grant Awards:

Tables 1 and 2 below provide summaries of the prevention and research grant awards made in SFY 2024 and 2025.

**Table 1**  
**SFY 2024 and SFY 2025 Exotic Aquatic Plant Prevention Grants**

SFY	Grantee	Project Summary	Grant Amount
2024	NH LAKES	The purpose of the NH LAKES project is to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into lakes and ponds in New Hampshire by continuing to expand and administer the Lake Host Program on public access sites throughout the	\$295,000

SFY	Grantee	Project Summary	Grant Amount
		state. This program has a proven track record of success, and since its inception in 2002, greater than 1600 saves have been catalogued (a save is when a Lake Host removes an identified piece of an invasive aquatic plant from a boat or trailer entering or leaving a waterbody). Organizations participating in the Lake Host Program staff public access sites to conduct inspections of boats, trailers, and other recreational gear as they enter and leave public waterbodies.	
2025	NH LAKES	The purpose of the NH LAKES project is to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into lakes and ponds in New Hampshire by continuing to expand and administer the Lake Host Program on public access sites throughout the state. This program has a proven track record of success, cataloguing eight more saves than the previous year (a save is when a Lake Host removes an identified piece of an invasive aquatic plant from a boat or trailer entering or leaving a waterbody). Organizations participating in the Lake Host Program staff public access sites to conduct inspections of boats, trailers, and other recreational gear as they enter and leave public waterbodies.	\$300,000

**Table 2**  
**Exotic Aquatic Plant Research Grant**

SFY	Grantee	Project Summary	Grant Amount
2024	North Carolina State University	Field trials and data collection for control of water violet in Lake Winnepesaukee.	\$6,000
2025	n/a	n/a	n/a

One research grant was funded in SFY 2024, for research into management of a new aquatic invasive plant in New Hampshire (water violet). No research grant funds were awarded in SFY 2025. We are scoping research options for SFY 2026 and will report on those at a later date.

Research grant funds are valuable in preventing new infestations of exotic aquatic plants and support research projects that build the knowledge base of state biologists and advance the science for managing exotic aquatic plants.

Control Grants:

Control grants are awarded to local entities (municipalities, lake associations and other such groups) for projects that reduce exotic aquatic plant growth in waterbodies in the state. Cost sharing on grants for exotic plant control activities is outlined under RSA 487:21. Grant match is determined based on an annual evaluation of projects in addition to the funding requests and availability. Requests for control grants typically exceed the annual budgeted amount and are expected to continue doing so as costs for management escalate putting an additional expense burden on local entities, like municipalities or nonprofit organizations.

Table 3 shows cumulative project costs and grants made each year from 2024-2025. Widespread efforts across multiple waterbodies to manage aquatic invasive plant species is more beneficial to the state than focusing all resources on a single or handful of projects each year. This approach has worked well to reduce the overall degree of infestation over time and leverages the use of local funds as match to cover project costs.

**Table 3**  
**Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Grants**

<b>SFY</b>	<b>Requests for Grants</b>	<b>Cumulative Cost of Projects</b>	<b>Available to Grant</b>	<b>Grants Awarded</b>
2024	51	\$1,957,914	\$1,022,830	43
2025	45	\$1,517,325	\$758,663	43

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-271-3449 or via email, [Robert.R.Scott@des.nh.gov](mailto:Robert.R.Scott@des.nh.gov) or Georgia Bunnell, Exotic Species Program Coordinator at 603-271-2248 or via email [Georgia.E.Bunnell@des.nh.gov](mailto:Georgia.E.Bunnell@des.nh.gov) .

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Sharon Carson, President of the NH Senate  
The Honorable Sherman Packard, Speaker of the NH House