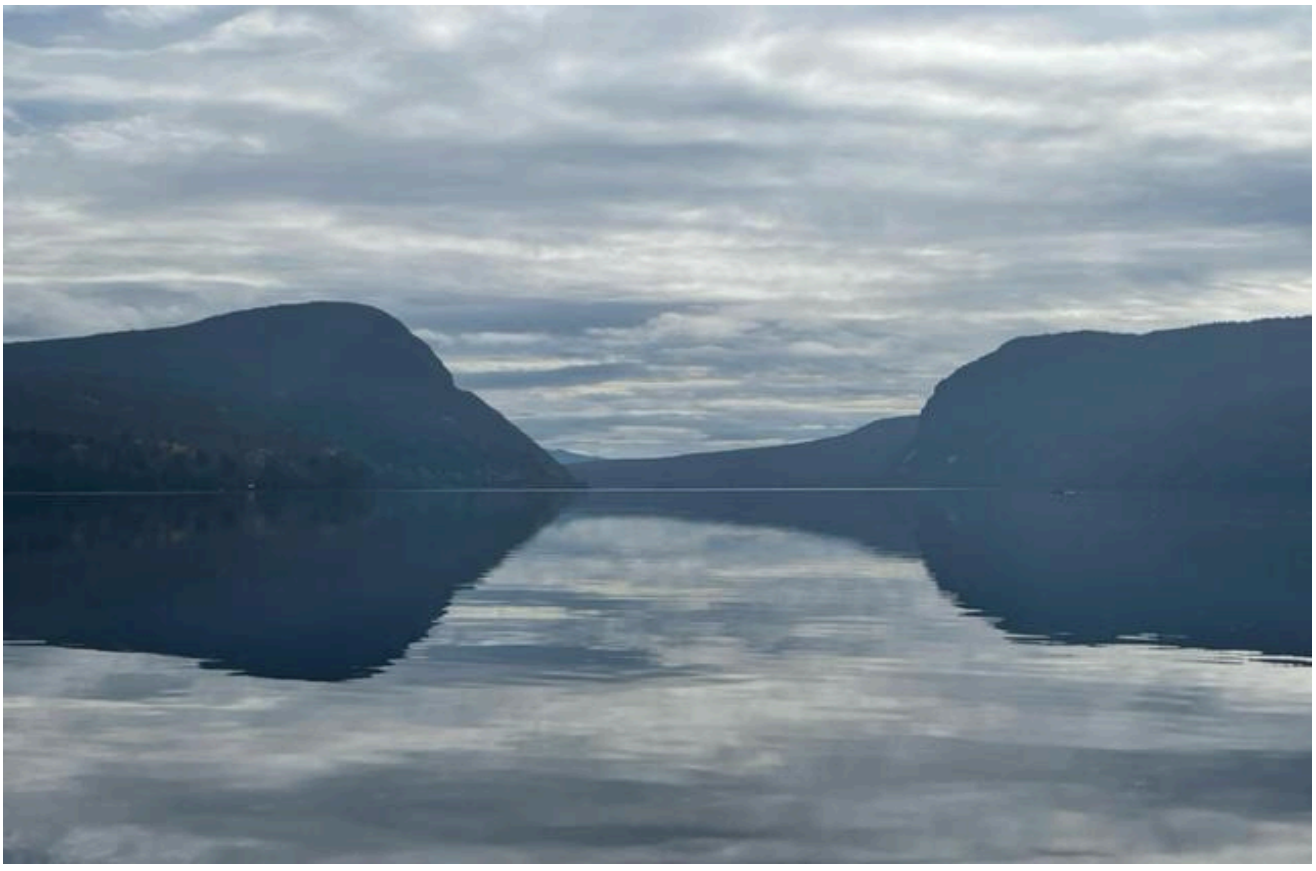
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2026 Lake Willoughby Eurasian Milfoil Report



Submitted to:

The Town of Westmore
54 Hinton Hill Road
Westmore, VT 05860

Summary of Work

First Day of Work: July 8, 2026
Last of Work: October 9, 2026
Total Days worked: 15.4 Days
Total Hours worked: 123.5 Hours
Total Buckets Removed: 162 and 9 plants

Areas of Milfoil Found from Survey:

Boat Launch
Crescent Bay
Mill Brook/Red Camps
Willoughvale-Grey Rock
North Beach-NW Shoreline
Grey Rock-Boat Launch
South End of Old 5A – Mill Brook/Red Camps

Total Milfoil Removed from Each Location 2021

(1 Bucket = 18 Gallons / 25-75 lbs)

LOCATION	**BUCKETS**	**HOURS**
Boat Launch	185	88
Crescent Bay	4	5
Mill Brook/Red Camps	22	16
Willoughvale-Grey Rock	51	26
North Beach-NW Shoreline	12 Plants	2
Grey Rock-Boat Launch	3	6
South End Old 5A (New Area)	1	1
TOTAL	**266**	**158**
TOTAL GALLONS	**4788**	
TOTAL POUNDS	**6650-19950**	

Total Milfoil Removed from Each Location 2022

(1 Bucket = 18 Gallons / 25-75 lbs)

LOCATION	BUCKETS	HOURS
Survey		**7**
Boat Launch	381	110
Crescent Bay	2 Buckets and 20 Plants	5
Mill Brook	14	9
Willoughvale-Grey Rock	5	4
North Beach-NW Shoreline	8	11
Grey Rock-Boat Launch	2 Plants	0
South End Old 5A – Mill Brook	4	6
TOTAL	**414 and 22 Plants**	**152**
TOTAL GALLONS	**7452**	
TOTAL POUNDS	**10350-31050**	

Total Buckets Removed from Each Location 2023

(1 Bucket = 18 Gallons / 25-75lbs)

LOCATION	BUCKETS	HOURS
Survey		**8**
Boat Launch	244	91
Crescent Bay	3	3
Mill Brook	11	6
Willoughvale-Grey Rock	18	5.5
North Beach-NW Shoreline	4	8
Grey Rock-Boat Launch	3	4
South End Old 5A – Mill Brook	1	3
TOTAL	**284**	**128.5**
TOTAL GALLONS	**5112**	
TOTAL POUNDS	**7100-21300**	

Total Buckets Removed from Each Location 2024

(1 Bucket = 18 Gallons / 25-75lbs)

LOCATION	BUCKETS	HOURS
Survey		**8**
Boat Launch	134	75
Crescent Bay	½ Bucket and 4 Plants	10
Mill Brook/Red Camps	54	22
Willoughvale-Grey Rock	14	22
North Beach-NW Shoreline	7	6
Grey Rock-Boat Launch	4	3
South End Old 5A – Mill Brook	½ Bucket and 20 Plants	7
TOTAL	**214 and 24 Plants**	**153**
TOTAL GALLONS	**3852**	
TOTAL POUNDS	**5370-16050**	

Total Buckets Removed from Each Location 2025

(1 Bucket = 18 Gallons / 25-75lbs)

LOCATION	BUCKETS	HOURS
Survey		**6**
Boat Launch	58	18
Crescent Bay	7.5	7.5
Mill Brook/Red Camps	6.75	10.5
Willoughvale-Grey Rock	73.5	69
North Beach-NW Shoreline	0	0
Grey Rock-Boat Launch	4	19
South End Old 5A – Mill Brook	0.5	2
TOTAL	**144.25**	**126**
TOTAL GALLONS	**2596.5**	
TOTAL POUNDS	**3606.25-10818.75**	

Total Buckets Removed from Each Location 2026

(1 Bucket = 18 Gallons / 25-75lbs)

LOCATION	BUCKETS	HOURS
Survey		**8**
Boat Launch	59.5	31
Crescent Bay	0.5	3
Mill Brook/Red Camps	33.5	34.5
Willoughvale-Grey Rock	63	32.5
North Beach-NW Shoreline	4.5	2.5
Grey Rock-Boat Launch	0	0
South End Old 5A – Mill Brook	1 and 9 plants	12
TOTAL	**162 and 9 plants**	**123.5**
TOTAL GALLONS	**2,916**	
TOTAL POUNDS	**4,050-12,150**	

Map of all areas worked 2026 (Highlighted in Blue)



BOAT LAUNCH:

We spent more time at the boat launch this year compared to 2025 because the state of Potamogeton Foliosis there was not as dominant as in 2025. It still has the same density but does not reach as close to the surface. This resulted in the majority of the area being too thick for milfoil to grow and thrive so all of the work that was performed was around the edge of this native plant. The Milfoil removed was still growing with Potamogeton Foliosis so the total bucket count doesn't accurately show how much Milfoil was removed. Each Bucket was approximately 75-90% Potamogeton Foliosis and 10-25% Milfoil.

This native plant is still a major concern and we believe that something should still be done because it is being found in more and more locations than it has been before and is continuing to choke out other native plants in an unnatural way.

Here are a couple pictures of Potamogeton Foliosus to help everyone understand what it looks like and the density of the plant.





It's hard to tell in the first picture but it shows how close to the surface this plant was and this is in about 10-12 feet of water in 2025. In 2026 it was not as close to the surface but has spread to more locations and is very abundant everywhere we Harvested except for Creasant Bay. The second photo is a good example of how to identify it.

This photo is the area of the Boat Launch and where we worked was mostly around the Blue line.



Crescent Bay:

This area was very interesting this year because our first round of Harvesting we completed 2 very thorough surveys and did not find a single plant. This made us very excited thinking we might've potentially eradicated Milfoil from the location. Unfortunately on our second round of Harvesting we did another survey here and found some plants amounting to 0.5 Buckets in a total of 3 Hours. We don't have an explanation for this besides the Milfoil here bloomed later than everywhere else.



Mill Brook/Red Camps:

This area also has been very noticeable with the spreading of Potamogeton Foliosis and experiences the same problem with the Bucket count as the Boat Launch with each Bucket removed still being 75-90% this native plant and only 10-25% Milfoil. This year we removed 33.5 Buckets in 34.5 Hours and were more thorough here than any previous year and expect there to be a significant decrease in 2027.



Willoughvale-Grey Rock:

We were concerned about this area this year based off of the Patch we worked last year directly in front of the Willoughvale. Our concern was there would be a decent amount of regrowth based on how dense the sandy sediment is here making it very difficult to completely remove the entire root structure. Thankfully this was not the case and found very little regrowth here and were able to focus the majority of our work in the southern part of this location. This area showed an abundant amount of Potamogeton Foliosis which has never been here. As stated in the 2025 report Miloil was basically the only plant here and considering how much of this native plant we found was surprising. Not that it finally spread to here but how much of it we found and how large of an area it has covered in a single year.

We ended up spending 32.5 Hours here removing 63 Buckets which once again was mostly this native plant but compared to 2025 where we removed 73.5 Buckets in 69 Hours where the Buckets were all Milfoil shows a significant drop in Milfoil in this location.

This native plant and its rapid appearance is concerning for the lake is something I would like to have addressed again over the winter.



North Beach-NW Shoreline:

This year we spent 2.5 Hours here removing 4.5 Buckets Hand Harvesting and were able to cover the entire area in that short of a period of time. This area also has the second most amount of the native plant so the actual amount of Milfoil removed is significantly less than the Bucket count.

We noticed in early November when we removed the North Beach swimming buoys that there are some plants growing in the swimming area and will have to take care of those next year and Harvest on a day or time when there is no one swimming.



Grey Rock-Boat Launch:

This area we spent a significant amount of time surveying again and didn't find anything except for a few plants that we considered to be more in the Boat Launch location. So we didn't spend any time Harvesting here and are planning on spending a lot more time here in 2027 surveying to make sure we didn't miss anything as we only surveyed this area during our first round of Harvesting.

Also have not found a lot of Potamogeton Foliosis here but we regretfully expect that to not be the case in the next year or 2.



South End of Old 5A – Mill Brook/Red Camps:

This area is very important to be very thorough since it's the furthest south we have found Milfoil and is the best way to prevent Milfoil from spreading to the South End. We covered this entire area twice and found a total of 1 Bucket and 9 plants in 12 Hours of work. The first time we found Milfoil in each of the areas marked as Yellow on the Map below and the majority of that Bucket was the Northern most Yellow Section (which is very close to Mill Brook) and only a handful of plants in the other spots. The second time we covered the entire area we only found 9 plants.

We are hoping that the extra time we spent at Mill Brook will help prevent plants from spreading to this area.

This area was also on Hand Pulling and no DASH was performed.



Conclusion:

Just as last year we are pleased with how everything is going. We are consistently finding less Milfoil and did not find a single "Patch" this year and last year we only found the one in front of the Willoughvale.

Each of the last 2 years and continuing into this year our main concern is becoming how to address the consistent growth and spreading of Potamogeton Foliosis. This is because our job is not just to remove invasive species but to address anything that could impact the quality of the lake. Other lakes have cyanobacteria or other invasive species but for Willoughby its this plant. Our main concert is that nothing will be permitted to be done about it which is not an acceptable result in our opinion.

Personally, I have spent every summer of my 42 years coming to Willoughby and have worked with Milfoil for 20 years at the beautiful lake. There has never been a plant that has covered this much area of the lake bottom that I have seen. If nothing is done I expect it will be in every area of the lake that is less than 20 feet deep in the next 5 years which includes the South end. Willoughby is the most beautiful pristine lake in Vermont (in my biased opinion) and I am seeing that change first hand.

Below are a couple photos of what it looks like.





There is another lake nearby that is actually experiencing the same issue however it is with an invasive plant called Starry Stonewart. This is in Derby Pond in Derby just 30 minutes north of us. We have been working there for the past few years and are finding less and less Milfoil each year. When we remove a patch of Milfoil the Starry Stonewart takes over that empty area before any Milfoil or anything else can grow in that spot. Now almost the entire bottom of Derby is only Starry Stonewart. This is more noticeable in Derby because their Milfoil problem was extremely more of an issue 3 years ago compared to this year where we were only able to find 3-4 patches compared to dozens.

I only bring up Derby because Potamogeton Foliosis is acting the same way as Starry Stonewart and is a very good comparison.

Milfoil is still our main focus and will continue to be our main focus. We are still very pleased with our result and believe next year will be even better. This is a long battle that we have to appreciate every win we can get. We hope further discussions can proceed about the Potamogeton Foliosis situation and something can be figured out so we don't lose the outstanding quality of our pristine lake.

We really appreciate your trust in our work and we are determined to continue making Milfoil a smaller issue each year.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to work in Lake Willoughby!

End Of Report