

FACTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Ginger Creek Hydrilla Treatment

AT A GLANCE

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and our partners on the Hydrilla Task Force are working to contain and eliminate an infestation of the highly invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla in Ginger Creek. For more on the threat of Hydrilla, see the Ginger Creek Hydrilla Handout from The Conservation Foundation.

HOW

Aquatic herbicide treatments using the pellet herbicide SonarOne.

WHERE

Approximately 70 acres of Ginger Creek from the lake to the mouth at Salt Creek.

WHEN

Spring to Fall 2025. Reapplications may be necessary during that time to keep concentrations at effective levels. Treatments will likely be conducted in future years as well.

How will we know it's working?

Herbicide concentration testing will be conducted after applications, and vegetation monitoring will help track any changes in the distribution of the infestation.

I'm a Ginger Creek community member. How does this impact me?

Product application will be at a very low concentration; therefore, impacts to the community should be minimal. Treated water from Ginger Creek can be safely used to irrigate lawns and plants. Treated water should not be used for hydroponic farming. Residents with continued concerns about irrigation may switch to municipal water if desired, but it is not required.

Is it safe? Will it affect my kids, pets, or wildlife?

Sonar is one of the safest herbicides in the aquatics industry and one of the most studied. When applied properly, there are no restrictions on fishing, swimming, and drinking by people, pets, and wildlife, even at maximum product applications rates immediately after application. We will be applying at rates significantly lower than maximum.

Will other aquatic plants in Ginger Creek be affected?

There may be impacts to other aquatic plants like Eurasian Watermilfoil (also invasive), American Elodea, Coontail, Naiad, and Pondweeds. Algae will not be impacted.

What can I do to help?

Ensure that any footwear, boats, or equipment that has been used in Ginger Creek is thoroughly washed, dried, and decontaminated prior to using in another waterbody. Never release aquatic life into natural waterways.

Questions? Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Nuisance Species Program at DNR.ANS@illinois.gov or (217) 558-4743.

