**Native**

**Bigmouth buffalo** are a native fish that look like carp without barbels. Unlike many fish, they can survive in cloudy, warm water. They are most common in the St. Croix and lower Mississippi Rivers.

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**Invasive**

**Flowering rush** is a Eurasian plant that is sold commercially for use in garden pools. It is now illegal to buy, sell or possess the plant. It competes with native shoreland vegetation. It can be controlled through chemical or mechanical means but a DNR permit is required.

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**Invasive**

**Common carp** are one of the most damaging aquatic invasive species due to their wide distribution and severe impacts in shallow lakes and wetlands. Their feeding disrupts shallowly rooted plants muddying the water. They release phosphorus that increases algae abundance, which in turn causes declines of aquatic plants needed by waterfowl and fish.

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**Native**

**Broad-leaf pondweeds** provide excellent habitat for panfish, largemouth bass, muskellunge, and northern pike. Bluegills nest near these plants and eat insects and other small animals found on the leaves. Walleyes use these pondweeds for cover. These plants are important fish habitat, so it is best to let them be.

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**Native**

**Coontail** is often confused with watermilfoil, but coontail leaves are spiny and forked rather than feather-like. Many waterfowl species eat the shoots; it provides cover for young bluegills, perch, largemouth bass, and northern pike and supports insects that fish and ducklings eat. However, when growing densely, coontail commonly causes nuisance conditions along shorelines.

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**Native**

**Bulrush** provides excellent fish habitat-provide spawning areas for northern pike and, in early spring, provide nesting cover for largemouth bass and bluegills. Bulrushes attract marsh birds and songbirds and provide food for ducks, geese, and swans. To preserve natural habitat, the DNR allows the removal of bulrushes only in a small area to provide boat access to deeper lake water.

**Invasive**

**Curlyleaf pondweed** has small "teeth" visible along edge of leaf. It begins growing in early spring before most other pondweeds and dies back during midsummer. The die-off can cause a huge phosphorus influx, which results in excess algae growth as well.

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**Invasive**

**Eurasian watermilfoil** can reproduce through stem fragmentation and runners. A single segment of stem and leaves can take root and form a new colony. Fragments clinging to boats and trailers can spread the plant from lake to lake. The best way to limit the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil within a lake is to maintain healthy native aquatic plant populations.

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**Native**

**Higgins eye** was the first freshwater mussel to receive federal protection, which took effect in 1972. Today, the lower St. Croix River has one of the largest remaining Higgins eye populations throughout the species' range. It has been extirpated from the Minnesota River, and is rare in the Mississippi River.

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**Native**

**Northern watermilfoil** provides cover for fish and invertebrates and supports insects and other small animals eaten by fish. Waterfowl occasionally eat the fruit and foliage.

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**Invasive**

**Zebra mussels** attach to boats, nets, docks, swim platforms, boat lifts, and can be moved on any of these objects. They also can attach to aquatic plants, making it critical to remove all aquatic vegetation before leaving a lake. Microscopic larvae may be carried in water contained in bait buckets, bilges or any other water moved from an infested lake or river.