

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Water Pennywort

In the fall of 2010, an unfamiliar plant was discovered in the Delavan Lake Inlet. It was tentatively identified as one of the genus *Hydrocotyle*, however, there are several species of *Hydrocotyle*, many of which look similar and are difficult to tell apart. Samples were sent to Dr. Robert Freckmann at the Freckmann Herbarium, UW-Stevens Point for identification. The plant was positively identified by Dr. Freckmann as *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, commonly known as water pennywort. While *H. ranunculoides* is a native to southern Illinois, it is not native in Wisconsin and is in fact considered an invasive species.

This non-native aquatic perennial that can be found in shallow, slow moving water and on the wet edges and mudflats of lake or pond edges. *H. ranunculoides* prefers full sun to part shade. The round, deeply lobed round leaves reach the water surface from stalks attached to creeping stems. Small, green-white or green-yellow flowers develop in clusters in summer and early fall. This plant reproduces by runner stems and roots, seeds and stem fragments, and can develop large colonies.

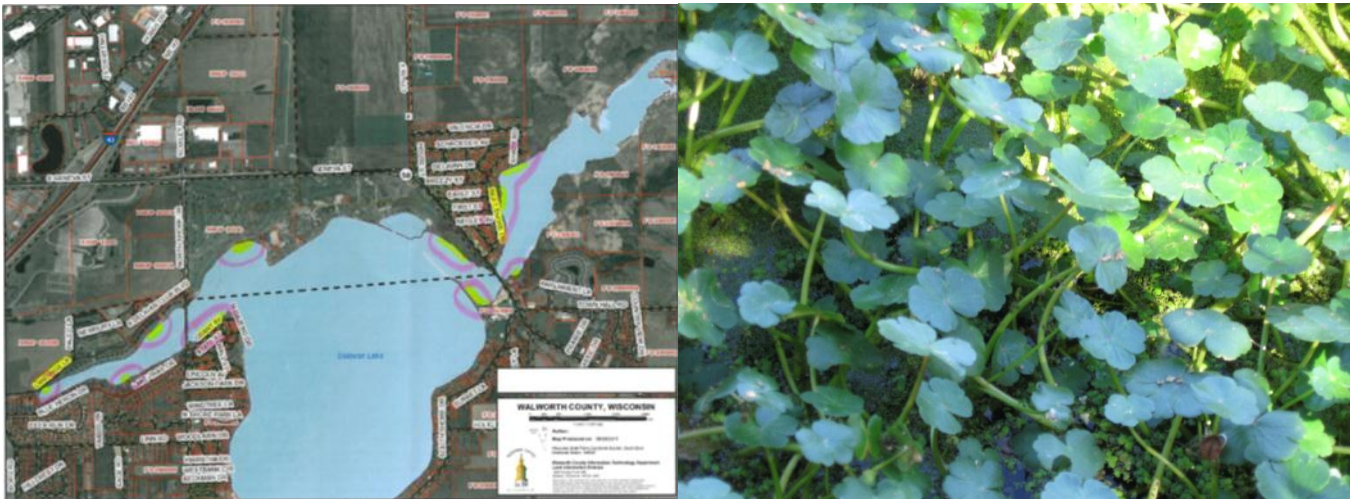
As soon as positive identification was obtained, Heidi Bunk, WI. Department of Natural Resources, (WDNR), Charlie Handel, Delavan Lake Sanitary District (DLSD) and Audrey Greene, Walworth County Land Use & Resource Management, (LURM), made plans to hand remove the water pennywort from the three properties where it was found. Charlie Handel monitored the situation during the time of preparation and found that the pennywort had spread quickly during September. It was determined that hand removal would no longer be an option for the expanding population, so the WDNR and DLSD worked to develop a WI DNR Rapid Response. The Water Pennywort was treated (see treatment map) on October 3, 2011. Additional treatments are planned for 2012.

The WDNR and DLSD need your help. If you see Water Pennywort on your shoreline, or anywhere on Delavan Lake, please contact Charlie Handel, DLSD immediately at 262- 728-4100 or Heidi Bunk, WDNR at 262-574-2130.

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Water Pennywort

Have You Seen This Plant?



Treatment Areas 2011
Map Courtesy of Delavan Lake Sanitary District

Photo By: Lisa Reas, LJ Reas Environmental
Delavan Lake Inlet, 2010