



PUBLIC NOTICE

In Reply Refer to: Keith Hannon

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Office: USACE New England District
Navigation, Coastal & Environmental Planning Section

Date: May 22, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE USACE CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Interested parties, members of the public, and stakeholders are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, in partnership with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) & the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), is conducting a research and demonstration project (the project) to better understand and control the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*) that is currently spreading throughout the lower Connecticut River, its tributaries, and isolated lakes and ponds in Connecticut.

Three public meetings will be held between May and June (details below) to update stakeholders and the general public about the USACE Connecticut River hydrilla project, and the critical component of the USACE research that is being done to develop safe and effective herbicide treatment plans that will assist local communities, marinas, and organizations in their efforts and planning to reduce current populations of hydrilla, and to contain further spread outside of its current known locations. Five sites have been chosen as aquatic herbicide application demonstration sites, and a tentative herbicide treatment schedule has been developed. Treatments will begin no sooner than the week of July 8, 2024. The five sites selected are:

- Keeney Cove (Glastonbury/East Hartford, CT)
- Chapman Pond (East Haddam, CT)
- Chester Boat Basin (Chester, CT)
- Selden Cove (Lyme, CT)
- Portland Boat Works (Portland, CT)

Meeting & Presentation Details: The three scheduled meetings will be presented with an online/virtual hybrid attendance option. The content of each presentation will be the same, and there is no need to attend more than one meeting. Each of the meetings will conclude with a question-and-answer period. For those who would like to attend one of the meetings, but have a scheduling conflict, a recording of the meetings will be made available via the project website (see link below). An up-to-date herbicide application schedule will also be maintained on the project website, so please check the website in advance of a scheduled treatment to see if there have been any schedule changes.

Meeting Details:

1st Meeting: May 29, 2024

- Start time: 7 p.m. USACE presentation begins.
- Where: Goodwin University, 1 Riverside Drive, East Hartford, CT
 - Community Room

- Parking in the University lots will be available to anyone attending the event.
- If you plan to attend this meeting via the virtual meeting access option, please visit the meeting registration link below. A WebEx meeting link will be sent to your email after you register. Click the meeting invite and registration link below to attend the May 29th meeting (if the link does not open due to Adobe security limitations, please copy and paste it into a web browser):

<https://mabbettassociatesinc-745.my.webex.com/weblink/register/rc6a8c9a7c1c043daaa3a37deb7e8a3ec>

2nd Meeting: June 4, 2024

- **Start time:** 7 p.m. USACE presentation begins.
- **Where:** Middletown Municipal Building, 245 deKoven Drive, Middletown, CT
 - City Hall Council Chamber room
 - If you plan to attend this meeting via the virtual meeting access option, please visit the meeting registration link below. A WebEx meeting link will be sent to your email after you register. Click the meeting invite and registration link below to attend the June 4th meeting (if the link does not open due to Adobe security limitations, please copy and paste it into a web browser):

<https://mabbettassociatesinc-745.my.webex.com/weblink/register/rf5bccb66c6005171ccfb8a533886c5fe>

3rd Meeting: June 27, 2024

- **Start time:** 7 p.m. USACE presentation begins.
- **Where:** East Haddam Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, CT
 - Town Hall Rooms 1 & 2
 - If you plan to attend this meeting via the virtual meeting access option, please visit the meeting registration link below. A WebEx meeting link will be sent to your email after you register. Click the meeting invite and registration link below to attend the June 27th meeting (if the link does not open due to Adobe security limitations, please copy and paste it into a web browser):

<https://mabbettassociatesinc-745.my.webex.com/weblink/register/r9a98913e32faf4d44814dec2efe4550a>

Please confirm via an email if you plan to attend any of the three scheduled meetings in-person to: CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil. This will help us to track the expected turn out at the in-person venues.

Additional Links:

USACE New England District Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration project website:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>

USACE New England District CT River hydrilla demonstration project website

StoryMap:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ac89d2534fa0490db6c8718191411bd1>