

PROJECT NARRATIVE:

Eagleville Lake, a significant water resource associated with the Willimantic River, is the focus of the grant request. The Towns of Coventry and Mansfield both border the Lake and are cooperatively requesting the funds to address the proliferation of Fanwort in the Lake. The Lake is accessed from State Route 275 from both towns. Please refer to the attached map.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE:

Eagleville Lake provides year round public access for recreational boating, kayaking, canoeing, picnicking and nature viewing purposes. All of these uses are popular on the Lake and enjoyed by residents of both towns as well as the region at large. The State of Connecticut owns Lake frontage which allows physical access at the Eagleville Dam on the Coventry side. A public parking lot is also provided for convenience.

The Town of Mansfield also provides a public parking lot on a property they own that links to other walking trails along the Lake and Willimantic River. A handicap access fishing area and public viewing area on the dam are also available on the Mansfield side.

The Pine Lake Shores Association, a small private residential neighborhood lake association, is also located along the banks of the Lake. The association owns property that possesses frontage on the Lake which provides open space and passive recreational enjoyment on the Lake.

Please refer to the attached map which provides a graphic depiction of the amenities described above.

WATER BODY OWNERSHIP:

To the best of the Towns' knowledge the Lake is not privately owned, but is a public water body that is the common town line between Coventry and Mansfield. The Eagleville Lake Dam is at the southern terminus of the Lake and is owned by the State of Connecticut.

TARGET AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES:

In September of 2012, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station performed an aquatic invasive inspection of Eagleville Lake. The report determined that approximately 60 acres of the Lake is inundated with Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). Please refer to the attached map and report, which details the locations of where Fanwort was found to be on the Lake.

STATE-LISTED SPECIES:

According to the DEEP's Natural Diversity Database Areas Map (June 2014), the Eagleville Lake area is located where State and Federal Listed Species and Significant Natural Communities have been found. Please refer to the attached copy of the map.

The Towns have prepared and submitted a Natural Diversity Database Review application. Please refer to the attached copy of the application.

DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE AND NEED FOR, AND BENEFITS OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

The CT Agricultural Experiment Station identified an approximately 60 acre infestation of Fanwort in Eagleville Lake in 2012, which is about 75% of the total area of the Lake. It is anticipated that the Fanwort has spread even more since that time due to how quickly and easily it can spread if untreated.

Fanwort is an aquatic invasive that grows in dense stands and shades out native plants, thus reducing biodiversity and creating further ecological impacts. Additionally, due to the extent of its proliferation, it negatively affects recreational and aesthetic value as well. This negative impact can also affect property values of residences that have frontage on the Lake and enjoy the natural resource.

The proposed treatment of the Fanwort is the first step in reducing its impact on Eagleville Lake. The Towns recognize the need to maintain this effort beyond the first herbicide application and pursue continued funding to provide for this. Also, the Towns commit to an ongoing educational campaign that will provide information to the communities about the presence of Fanwort and methods to mitigate its impacts.

DESCRIBE THE SCOPE OF WORK:

Please refer to the attached memorandum from Dominic Meringolo, Senior Environmental Engineer with Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. (ACT, Inc) to Charles Lee of CT DEEP (dated: November 7, 2013) which describes the vegetation management recommendations for Eagleville Lake. The Towns propose to address all treatment areas that amount to 60 acres. ACT, Inc. would be the expected licensed contractor to perform the application of Flumioxazin (trade name 'Clipper'), as this herbicide has demonstrated results controlling similar infestations in several lakes in Connecticut and Massachusetts. It is believed that it is the most appropriate treatment considering the nature of the situation involving the Lake. There are no expected negative impacts to the public access with the treatment application.

The memorandum identifies that George Knoekelin, owner of Northeast Aquatic Research, will be partnered with to perform pre and post application surveys of the Lake to be able to determine measured impacts.

ACT, Inc. has indicated that the first treatment will be very helpful in reducing the impact of the Fanwort, but additional yearly management will likely be necessary to fully address the infestation. These options can include subsequent herbicide treatments or other options such as benthic barriers. The Towns acknowledge this and will continue to pursue funding to allow for this to occur.

A Natural Diversity Database Review application has been prepared and submitted for the proposed treatment. The results of the application review will illicit information regarding the nature of the specific species of concern and methods to mitigate or avoid negative impact. The Towns will commit to adhere to the recommendations that are provided from that review.

The Towns will be conducting an educational campaign with the communities prior to and after the treatment activities to facilitate a clear understanding of the nature of the issues and the intention of the Towns to address them. The Towns will use a variety of media outlets including: website, eblast, newspaper press releases, public flyers, cable television as well as public forums.

The Towns will request the involvement of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station to assist with the ongoing survey work to determine the status of the Fanwort situation on the Lake. Also, the Towns will work with the public to educate them on ways to identify the Fanwort who can serve as the 'eyes on the Lake'.

DEFINE THE SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

Based upon the guidance of ACT, Inc. the Towns expect a two to three month review period for the Natural Diversity Database. The CT DEEP application for the treatment is expected to be submitted in January/February 2015. The application window would be mid to late June 2015. Survey/inspections would be conducted before and after treatment.

DEFINE THE BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

The Towns received a recommended scope of work and project budget from Aquatic Control Technologies, Inc. In order to address the 60 acre infestation of Fanwort, the consultant suggests a price of \$28,000.00 which includes the pre and post application inspections as well as the CT DEEP permitting process fee.

The Towns have committed to half of the required match of \$14,000.00 or \$7,000.00 from each town.

DESCRIBE THE AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE OR MATCHING FUNDS OR IN-KIND SERVICES:

The Towns have committed to half of the required match of \$14,000.00 or \$7,000.00 from each town. Please refer to the attached letters confirming the match.

The Towns also commit to applying in-kind services of Town Staff time and resources to administer the grant. The Towns will conduct educational and advocacy work that is crucial to obtaining support for further funding for follow-up control and to increase the awareness about the importance of early detection and intervention in other water bodies in the region and the State.

The Towns recognize that follow-up control will likely be necessary and more than one application of the herbicide or other methods will be required to properly treat the Fanwort infestation. The Towns are committed to pursue the funding in order to make that a reality. It is believed that the project will gain public attention and will facilitate the ongoing management of the Fanwort in the Lake and provide for continuing efforts with education, identification and eradication.