



2018

- 16 species of plants were observed
- No vegetation observed at 82 sites
- Plants were most abundant between 2 and 9 feet of water
- Eurasian watermilfoil observed at 5 sites
- Survey was completed at the end of August when plants are at the end of their growing season

- **No plants observed beyond 18 feet of water**
- **Top two most abundant plant species were chara and water celery**
- **Many of the same emergent aquatic plants were identified**



2021

- 23 species of native plants were identified
- No vegetation was observed at 75 sites
- Plants were most abundant between 5 and 8 feet of water
- Bushy pondweed increased in frequency in comparison to 2018
- Survey was completed mid July when plant growth is at its peak

Summary

The 2018 and 2021 Clearwater Lake aquatic plant surveys had very similar findings. The location, frequency, and density of plants were found to be nearly identical between the two years. There are many variables that can impact plant growth such as sunlight, nutrients, and water temperature. It is important to remember that each year is unique and will have some seasonal changes observed due to fluctuating levels of various variables. One important difference between the two surveys would be the timing. The 2018 survey was completed at the end of the summer, whereas the 2021 survey was completed mid summer during peak plant growth. This could be one of the reasons that more native plants were observed in 2021. 2021 was a very warm and dry year. With early ice out and reduced water levels the plant density appeared more abundant in comparison to other years. This was a pattern observed on many lakes throughout the state of Minnesota.

Future monitoring should continue to ensure that Eurasian watermilfoil does not continue spreading outside of the already established areas. Monitoring can help to provide information to assist with invasive species management.