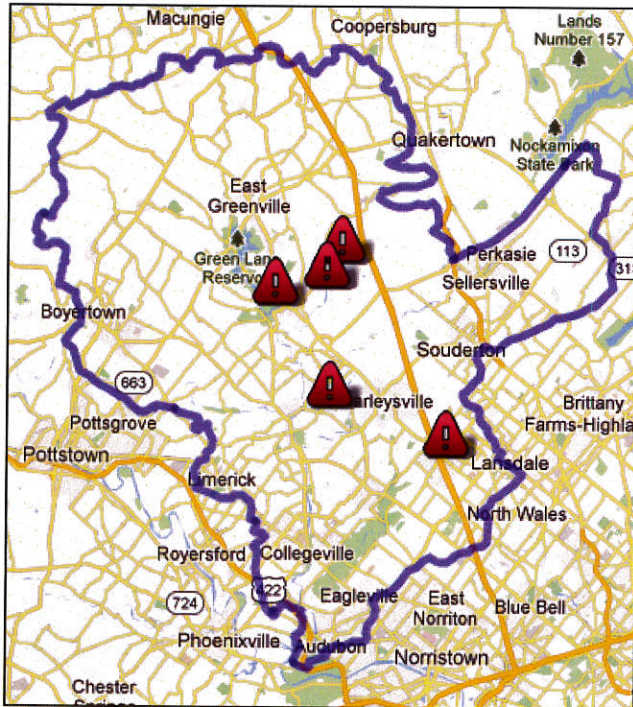


## Infestation Sites in Perkiomen Creek Watershed



### Creeks at Risk

- ◆ Unami Creek
- ◆ Main Branch of the Perkiomen Creek
- ◆ East Branch of the Perkiomen Creek
- ◆ Towamencin Creek

Every waterway downstream from these areas could potentially be infested by water chestnut!

## About PWC

Founded in 1964 to combat pollution in the Perkiomen and its tributaries, today the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy helps ensure quality drinking water for hundreds of local communities.

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy's strategic focus is to educate and inspire, provide tools for action, and engage the 362 square-mile watershed community. Conserving and protecting land and water resources through a commitment to and leadership in conservation, award winning environmental education, and watershed stewardship, the Conservancy serves a vital role in the region.

The Conservancy is proud to be a member organization. Join today at [perkiomenwatershed.org](http://perkiomenwatershed.org)!



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# [ERADICATING]

## European Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)



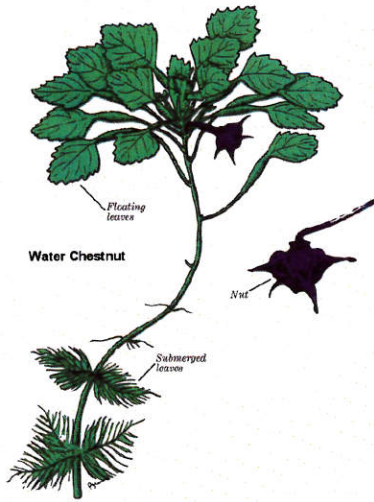
### NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES





## European Water Chestnut

The European water chestnut can be identified by its floating leaves that form a rosette. Each plant can have up to 20 rosettes stretching over the surface of the water. The plant also has feather-like leaves



underwater. Further down are the roots, which anchor the plant in the stream bed. The water chestnut blooms in July with a white flower where the large, pointed seed pod is produced.

## Effects of Water Chestnut

### *Imbalanced Ecosystem*

The European water chestnut is an invasive species that outcompetes native plants for food and habitat. This occurs because the water chestnut is not native to our area and has no natural predators.

### *Limited Recreation*

Dense mats of water chestnuts can quickly spread over large areas. When boating, the

plants may get caught on oars, making it difficult to travel through and possibly spreading the infestation. The sharp spines of the seed pods also pose a danger to swimmers.

### *Expensive Clogs*

If water chestnuts continue to spread throughout our watershed, they could clog intakes for water treatment facilities, which could be expensive to fix.



## Managing Infestations

Water chestnut populations are difficult to control because the plants grow quickly over a large area and the seeds can survive for up to 12 years. Additionally, broken pieces of the stem and roots can form new plants. Therefore, infestations can spread to new water bodies by seed pods or plant parts traveling downstream. They can also hitch a ride on boats or waterfowl.

Managing water chestnut is very costly, and thousands of dollars from grants have already been put into this project. Much of this was awarded through the SEI Cares Program.

Since 2009, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy has successfully managed multiple infestation sites. This has been achieved through hand-pulling events with many community volunteers. It is important to continue controlling water chestnut growth so past efforts do not go to waste!



You can help the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy fight European water chestnut by reporting sightings, preventing the spread of seeds and plant parts, and volunteering for a hand-pulling workday.