

Connecticut River Hydrilla History



Connecticut River
Conservancy

Connecticut River Conservancy has been working with municipalities, nonprofit groups, government agencies, businesses, boaters and individuals to address the growing threat of hydrilla.

Much of our work around hydrilla has been focused on advocating for increased resources dedicated to solving this issue, preventing its spread through education, and building partnerships in the region.

2021

In 2021, CRC received funding to pilot the installation of benthic barriers to suppress hydrilla growth, and work with experts to understand various treatment options. In partnership with CAES, CRC drafted a report on the success and challenges of using benthic barriers and what managers should consider when weighing this option. [Read the full report here.](#)





2022



In 2021 and 2022 CRC and its partners worked to advocate for federal funding to study and treat the magnitude of hydrilla in the watershed. This successful effort resulted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers engagement in the project. The project is investigating hydrilla's growth patterns, water exchange dynamics in the CT River, and

evaluating herbicide efficacy in laboratory conditions in 2023 to guide operational scale field demonstrations of herbicide efficacy in 2024. [Read more on the USACE website here.](#)

In 2022 CRC further tested the efficacy of benthic barrier at another site in the Connecticut River and had similar successes at both sites. [Read the full report here.](#)

2023

In 2023, CRC continued to develop a community based social marketing strategy to engage boaters in the “clean, drain and dry” practice to prevent the spread of hydrilla. Learn more about our [progress to date](#) and our next steps. We also collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England district for a [demonstration project](#) to

determine the effectiveness of herbicides registered for aquatic use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to safely reduce and control the spread of the Connecticut River hydrilla. In collaboration with State Representative Christine Palm, we organized a well-attended press conference on hydrilla that helped bring local and national attention to the issue.



→ [Learn more at ctriver.org](https://ctriver.org)