

490 Chapman Street, Suite 1B • Canton, MA 02021
voice 781/ 575-0354 • fax 781/ 575-9971

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
October 16, 2002

Please Contact:
Maggie Hillis

**INVASIVE ASIAN PLANT IDENTIFIED IN ELLIS POND
THREATENS THE NEPONSET RIVER**

**The Neponset River Watershed Association, the MA Department of Environmental
Protection, the Norwood Conservation Commission and Area Residents
rush to save the Neponset River**

- WHO:** The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA)
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
The Norwood Conservation Commission
Area Residents
- WHERE:** Ellis Pond, Norwood
- WHEN:** Thursday
October 17, 2002
1-4 PM
- WHY:** Recently, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management identified the presence of Water Chestnut in Ellis Pond in Norwood. Water Chestnut is an extremely invasive Asian plant that when left unchecked can:
- **CHOKES** the water bodies in which it invades
 - **OUTCOMPETE** native vegetation
 - Reduce oxygen levels which may result in the potential for **FISH KILLS** and **FOUL ODORS**
- In addition, its sharp spiny fruits can be hazardous, inflicting painful wounds to those who step on them.
- Fortunately, the plant has been identified before it is too late! DEM, NepRWA, the Norwood Conservation Commission and area residents are meeting Thursday, October 17, 2002 from 1 to 4 PM to manually remove the Water Chestnut from Ellis Pond before it infects sections of the Neponset River further downstream. If the plants or spiny nuts float over the Ellis Pond dam get into the main stem Neponset, the plants will reproduce rapidly to the point where managing them without spending a lot of money on machine harvesters will be impossible. Instead, a quick response to a new infestation, along with education of the neighbors about how to pull again next spring, may be enough to prevent the spread. If you are interested in learning more about this aquatic plant and how you can become involved in this effort contact NepRWA at 781-575-0354 or email the staff at staff@neponset.org

Enclosed: Water Chestnut Fact Sheet