

## LOCAL AQUATIC SITES TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM CT DEEP

HARTFORD – The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) today announced the inaugural recipients of grant funding via the Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Lake Kenosia in Danbury, Ball Pond in New Fairfield, and Candlewood Lake are among the locations selected to receive these funds.

The local grants are as follows:

- Housatonic Valley Association - \$25,500 to remove water chestnut from Lake Kenosia
- Candlewood Lake Authority - \$26,711 to create a Watershed Steward Program to educate boaters on aquatic invasive species
- Ball Pond Advisory Committee - \$2,960.11 for a research project to identify and monitor Cyanobacteria in the pond
- Edwin M. Wong, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Western Connecticut State University - \$3,225 for a research project to identify and quantify toxin genes from Cyanobacteria in Connecticut Waterways

Funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program was made possible by [Public Act 19-190](#), which passed the Connecticut General Assembly in 2019. The bill established an Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp fee to all registered boats using Connecticut waters, in order to create a dedicated funding source for the "Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation Account."

Members of the Danbury delegation - State Representatives Ken Gucker (D- Danbury, New Fairfield, Ridgefield, 138<sup>th</sup>) Bob Godfrey (110<sup>th</sup>), David Arconti Jr. (109<sup>th</sup>), Raghiv Allie-Brennan (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Stephen Harding (R- 107<sup>th</sup>) – are thrilled with DEEP's decision.

"During my first year in the Connecticut General Assembly, I pushed hard for this legislation," said Representative Gucker. "Today, I am proud to celebrate the impact of this bill, particularly in our community. This grant program is a victory for my colleagues who supported this bill in its journey throughout the legislative process. Because of Public Act 19-190, the state now has the funds to help preserve and maintain the beauty of aquatic locations throughout Connecticut for future generations."

"Western Connecticut, dotted with lakes and ponds, is beautiful and attractive," State Rep. Bob Godfrey said. "So it is our responsibility to keep its waters free from invasive species. I am grateful DEEP Commissioner Dykes has chosen Lake Kenosia, Lake Candlewood, and Ball Pond as part of Connecticut's Aquatic Invasive Species grant program."

Rep. Arconti said, "I am pleased to see this program working for its intended purpose and to see some of our local lakes benefiting from it. Keeping our lakes safe and free from invasive species is a top priority and I will continue to support efforts to keep these waterways clean."

"Lake Kenosia is one of the nicest places in my district to live near and visit. It is also one of Danbury's most important natural resources. I am delighted that DEEP has included Lake Kenosia in the inaugural round of funding through the Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program. Too many aquatic weeds clog swim areas, making the lake less desirable. I am confident this first step will help to protect the lake for future generations, and I commend the Lake Kenosia

Commission for their wise stewardship efforts over the years," said State Rep. Raghib Allie-Brennan.

"As the ranking member of the Environment committee I have been proud to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advocate for our local lakes," Rep. Harding said. "This funding is a critical step in addressing preservation needs for this important resource in our community and I will continue to advocate for funding to support Lakes Candlewood and Lillinonah and the important pieces of legislation impacting these lakes."

In total, DEEP will allocate \$360,000 to 21 projects throughout the state. These funds will be used to reduce the impact of aquatic invasive species on inland waters.

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