



# Geneva Lake Environmental Agency

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Village of Fontana - Village of Williams Bay - City of Lake Geneva - Town of Linn - Town of Walworth  
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## Memo

**To:** Village of Williams Bay & Fontana, City of Lake Geneva, Town of Linn & Walworth, Walworth County

**From:** Geneva Lake Environmental Agency

**Subject:** Chapter 30 Aquatic Invasive Species Ordinances

**Date:** 3/28/2023

I am writing to inform you that the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency recently passed a Chapter 30 Aquatic Invasive Species Ordinance draft. This ordinance aims to protect our water bodies from invasive aquatic species and maintain the ecological balance of our environment.

This ordinance will allow the municipalities the power to enforce Chapter 30 at the local level to ensure that all watercraft owners have removed and drained all water and aquatic vegetation from the watercraft and trailers.

The following are the key features of the Chapter 30 Aquatic Invasive Species Ordinances:

1. **Watercraft Inspection:** All watercraft entering and exiting our waterways are eligible and subject to inspections to check for invasive species and ensure that all water is drained from the craft before launching or leaving.
2. **Decontamination:** Watercraft owners shall drain all water and remove any visible aquatic plants or animals from the watercraft before launching or leaving any waterway before operating on any road within the municipality.
3. **Penalties:** Violating any of the above requirements will result in a penalty, including a fine or denied access to launch at municipal launch, should the watercraft owner decide not to drain, clean, or remove organic matter from their watercraft or trailers.
  - (a) For the first offense, a forfeiture shall be \$100, plus costs
  - (b) For a second offense, a forfeiture shall be \$175, plus costs.
  - (c) For a third and subsequent offense, a forfeiture shall be \$250, plus costs.
  - (d) Municipal launch staff can deny access to any watercraft utilizing their launch.

Chapter 30, Aquatic Invasive Species Ordinances, aims to prevent the further spread of Aquatic Invasive Species by giving each local municipality the power to enforce Chapter 30 through its municipal court system and allowing each municipality to be a part of the solution to stopping the further introduction of Aquatic Hitchhikers and protecting our waterways and preserving the environment for future generations. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jacob Schmidt  
Executive Director