

## **Water Chestnut Management Action Plan Vision**

A watershed with a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem. The overall goals for managing water chestnut in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord River watershed (SuAsCo) are to reduce existing populations of water chestnut to levels that can be controlled with minimal effort, prevent re-infestation in managed sections, and to prevent the establishment of infestations in new areas. To work toward these goals, we propose the following objectives and actions over the next five years. Implementation will depend on funding and leadership.

### **ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVE 1. ESTABLISH A WATERSHED-WIDE WATER CHESTNUT TASK FORCE**

Establish a Water Chestnut Task Force under the SuAsCo CISMA to oversee implementation of this management plan. The Task Force will initially consist of members already involved in water chestnut management in the watershed: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Town of Concord, Town of Lincoln, Town of Framingham, Town of Acton, Concord Land Conservation Trust, OARS, Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee, and Hop Brook Protection Association.

- Recruit additional members from other watershed towns, state and local agencies, and lake/pond associations.
- The Task Force would meet twice a year to o coordinate management efforts taken on by various stakeholders in the watershed, o update the watershed-wide information (see Table 4), o encourage monitoring and logistical support from towns, o share updates on control techniques, research, and funding sources, and o collaborate on outreach and education materials and efforts (Objectives 2–4)
- Every five years or more frequently if needed, the Task Force should review and revise this Management Plan to adapt its methods and recommendations to changes in field conditions, including the effects of ongoing management, and any new research or management options.
- The Task Force may be the organizing body to apply for funding for regional planning and implementation, leveraging the water chestnut management strategy outlined here.