



MERRY MACROPHYTES: PROTOCOL

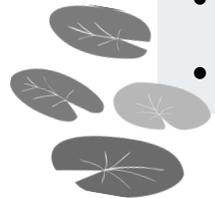


Welcome to the Merry Macrophytes protocol! Follow these steps to begin monitoring aquatic plants in your very own lake.

Equipment List

- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Aquatic Plant Identification Guide
- Phone for iNaturalist
- Lifejacket
- Stopwatch
- Sun Hat
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Towel

- 1.** Print out your Merry Macrophytes data sheet to record data in the field. If you have a smartphone, download the iNaturalist app and join the The Land Between Bioblitz group. iNaturalist will record all the species you find and help with identification as well.
- 2.** With all necessary equipment, travel to your nearest waterfront. Walk up and down your shoreline to find a survey starting location that has macrophytes present.
- 3.** Once you have found an area on the shoreline with macrophytes, start the timer for 30 minutes and begin to visually scan for aquatic plants. Any macrophyte that is easily seen by eye can be included in the survey. Walk down the shoreline to scan the littoral, riparian and upland zones for macrophytes and record the data as you go.



- 5.** When surveying the shoreline for macrophytes, enter the water to only a safe level. If the water is deeper than knee height, wear a PFD/life jacket. Identify the macrophytes using the field guide or iNaturalist. Record the data and the amount of times you saw the same species, or take a photo and upload it to iNaturalist. **NOTE: Many species are difficult to identify. If you can't determine the specific species of a plant, the group that it belongs to followed by spp. is acceptable (eg. Pondweed spp.). If you find a second species of plant that belongs to the same group that is also unidentifiable it should also be added to this grouping (do not create a second spp group)**

- 6.** After 30 minutes of surveying your shoreline, your macrophyte survey is complete!



