

Lake Kiowa Non-Native Plants & Wildlife Control

Managing non-native aquatic plants that have been introduced into Texas waterways costs millions of dollars annually. These invasive aquatic plants can over shadow beneficial native submersed plants and lower oxygen levels, hamper the feeding of sport fish, threaten human health by creating ideal mosquito breeding habitats, restrict water flow, resulting in flooding and increase the sediment in waterways.

Zebra Mussels are having a devastating effect on the state's natural resources. They negatively impact native fish and mussels and foul beaches with their sharp shells. They wreak havoc for boaters by damaging boat hulls, clogging water intake and reducing the performance of boating equipment. *Zebra mussels* have already invaded Lakes Texoma and Ray Roberts and could take over all freshwater sources in Texas.

To Curb the spread of these invasive species, you are required by law to remove harmful plants and animals from your boat and trailer. Therefore, you must perform the following steps before launching your boat at Lake Kiowa.

Before leaving a boat ramp, you must:

- *Thoroughly inspect all surfaces and remove any aquatic plants and animals that are found, from your boat, motor and trailer.*
- *Properly dispose of all plant and animal waste that you remove, to ensure they do not reenter the water supply. Be sure to check under all water fittings and equipment.*
- *Empty your bail bucket on land.*
- *Drain your equipment, including the motor, all internal operating systems, bilges, live wells, bait buckets and coolers.*
**The services of a boat mechanic may be required.*

Prior to launching your boat or trailer into Lake Kiowa:

- *Rinse your vessel, propeller, trailer and equipment with hot water (over 140F) using a high-pressure washer.*
- *Check in with Security at the Front Gate to have your boat locked to your trailer.*
- *Store your boat and trailer in a warm and dry environment for the following times:*
 - ***April 1st to October 31st – Fourteen days***
 - ***November 1st to March 31st – Thirty days***
- *Longer and hotter dry storage time is better to safely ensure elimination of unwanted plants and animals.*