



Underwater View of Coontail in Little Comfort Lake, Chisago County, Minnesota, August 1, 2025

Meander Aquatic Plant Survey for Little Comfort Lake, Chisago Co, MN, 2025

Meander Survey: August 1, 2025

Prepared for:
Comfort Lake/Forest Lake
Watershed District
Forest Lake, Minnesota



December 3, 2025

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Meander Aquatic Plant Survey for Little Comfort Lake, Chisago Co, MN, 2025

Lake ID: 13-0054
Size: 36 acres
Littoral area: 16 acres
Maximum depth: 56 ft (at normal lake level)

In a meander survey with 55 sample sites on the 37 acre Little Comfort Lake on August 1, 2025, coontail, a native submerged aquatic plant, was the dominant plant (Figure 1). Curlyleaf pondweed (at one site) and Eurasian watermilfoil (sampled at 2 sites)(both non-native submerged aquatic plants) were found at light densities.

Aquatic plant maps for the dominant floatingleaf species which were white water lilies (Figure 2), the dominant submerged plant species (coontail) (Figure 3), and a non-native species, Eurasian watermilfoil (Figure 4) are found on the following pages.



Figure 1. Heavy coontail growth and water lilies were the dominant aquatic plants in Little Comfort Lake in 2025.

Little Comfort Lake Water Lily Growth August 1, 2025

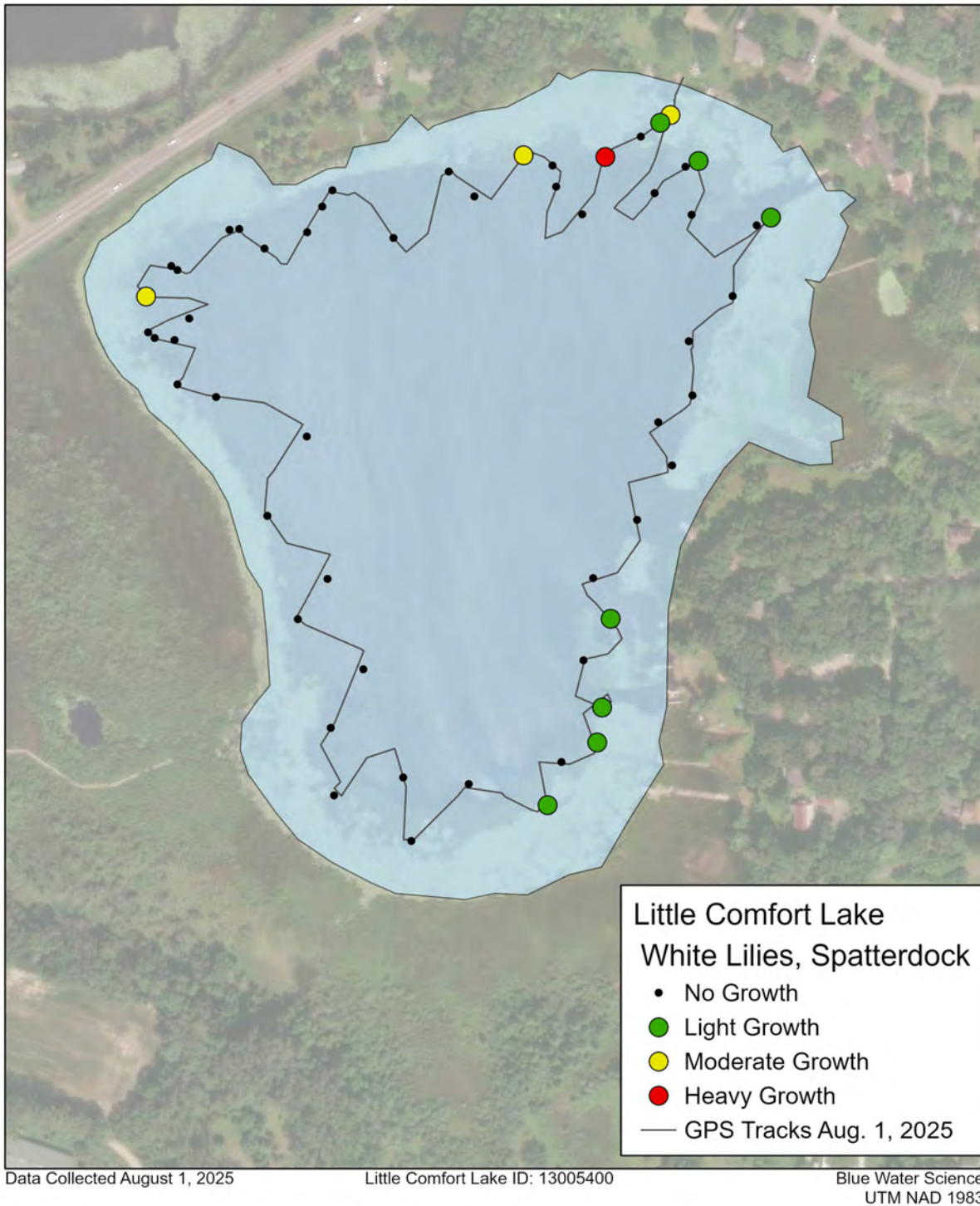


Figure 2. White water lilies were the dominant floatingleaf plant in Little Comfort Lake on August 1, 2025. Growth was observed primarily on the east side of the lake in 2025.

Little Comfort Lake Coontail Growth August 1, 2025

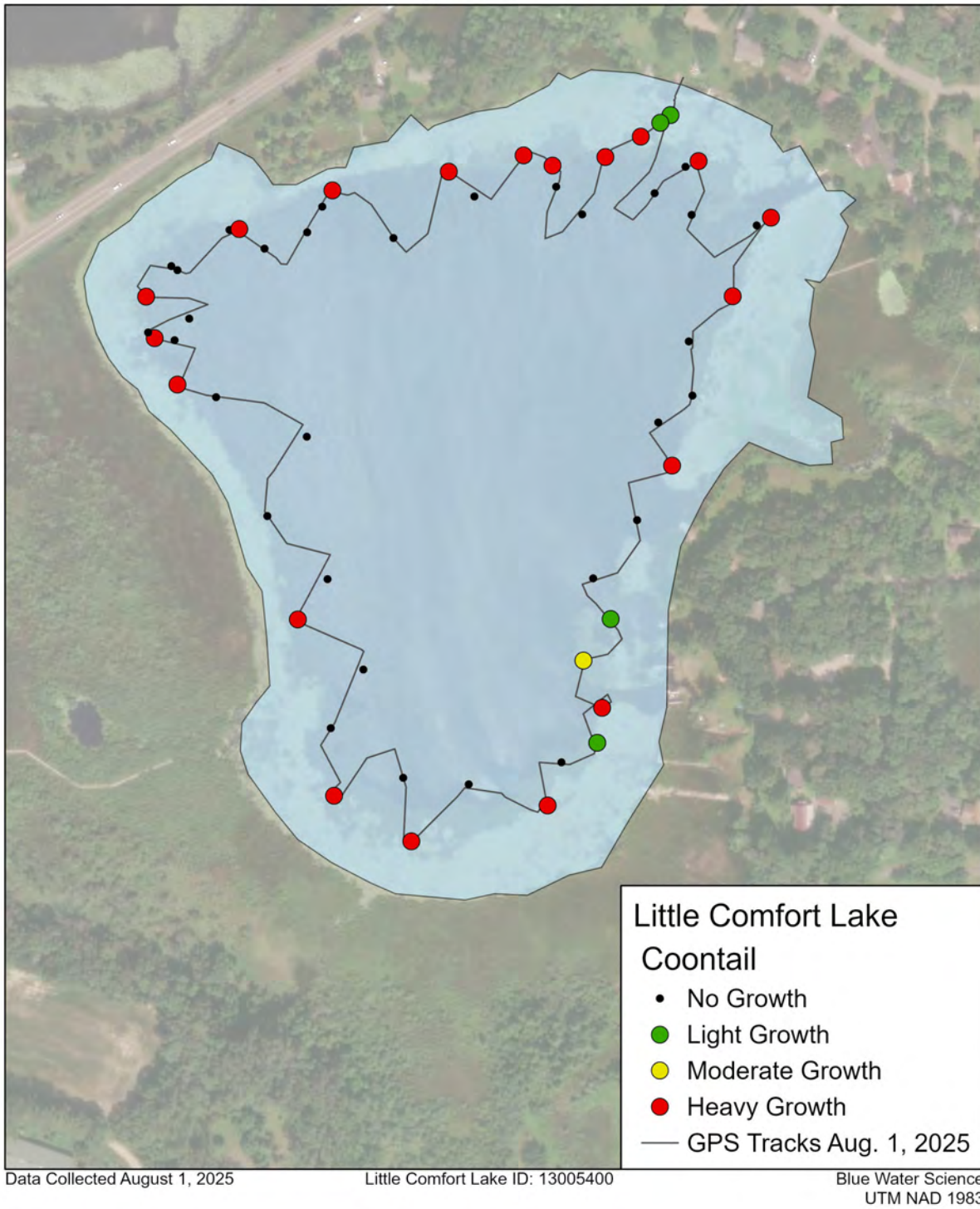


Figure 3. Coontail was the dominant plant with abundant growth out to 10 feet around the lake on August 1, 2025.

Little Comfort Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Growth August 1, 2025

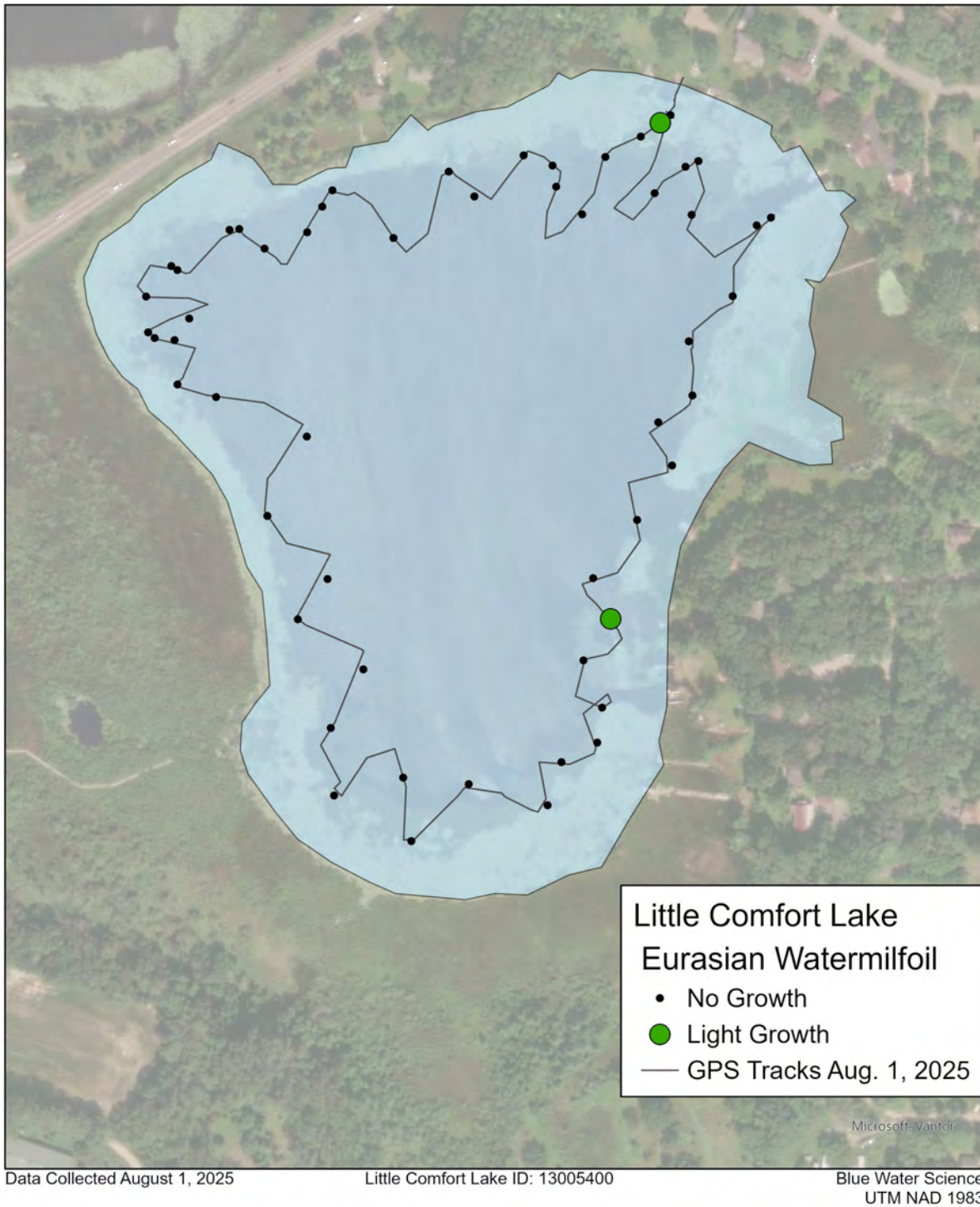


Figure 4. Eurasian watermilfoil was found at a light density generally a single stem, at two locations on August 1, 2025.

Management Recommendations: In May and June, floating filamentous algae may be present on Little Comfort. Some years filamentous algae is worse than others. Copper sulfate is an algaecide that could hasten the algal decline, but should only be used in severe filamentous years.

Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed are present in Little Comfort, but in 2025 the growth may have been overwhelmed by the dense coontail growth. In years with heavy coontail growth, treating EWM will not have much impact on recreational use since coontail is the dominant plant.

Coontail is a potential navigational and recreational nuisance in some years (as it was in 2025). Herbicides would be only a temporary solution. Mechanical harvesting could be employed to cut channels to open water, but it may be difficult for a harvester to gain access to Little Comfort.



Figure 5. Coontail growth in Little Comfort Lake in 2025 was dense out to 10 feet.

APPENDIX

Individual site aquatic plant data for Little Comfort Lake on August 1, 2025.

Site	Depth (ft)	Spatterdock	White Lilies	Coontail	CLP	EWM	Flatstem	No plants
1	4		2	1				
2	4		1	1		1		
3								
4	7							1
5	6		1	3				
6	14							1
7								
8	8		1	3				
9	8			3				
10	13							1
11	9							1
12								
13	8			3				
14	7				1			
15	12							1
16	4		1	1		1		
17	10			2				
18	10		1	3				
19	10		1	1				
20	9							1
21	7		1	3				
22								
23	7			3				
24	14							1
25	8			3				
26	8							1
27	13							1
28	8			3				
29	15							1
30								
31	26							1
32	15							1
33	9			3				
34								
35	9			3				
36								
37								
38	8		2	3				
39								
40	12							1
41								
42	8			3				
43	18							1
44	19							1
45	13							1
46	8			3				
47								
48	5			3				
49	12							1
50	4	2		3			1	
51	9			3				
52	15							1
53	19							1
54	7		3	3				
55	5			3				
Average		2	1	3	1	1	1	1
Occurrence (55 sites)		1	10	24	1	2	1	19