



THE MEADOWS CENTER
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Boat Cleaning Protocol for Spring Lake Access

The San Marcos Springs ecosystem is the second largest in Texas and has the most environmental stability and flow reliability of any spring system in the southwestern United States (USFW 1996). USF&W has designated eight species that live in the San Marcos Springs and Spring Lake as either threatened or endangered. Species are listed as threatened or endangered based on declining numbers or loss of habitat. Consequently recreational use of Spring Lake is limited.

Concerns about the introduction of aquatic and invasive species into Spring Lake has led the University to implement a gear wash and boat cleaning protocol to anyone accessing the lake. Boaters between waterways can unknowingly spread several plant species, including hydrilla, water hyacinth and 'Cryptocoryne becketii' found in the lower San Marcos River. If they are brought into Spring Lake they could cause many problems. Safe from the predators and diseases of their native habitat, they could reproduce uncontrolled, choking out and threatening the native, threatened and endangered species that live here.

The best way to manage aquatic invasives is to halt their spread into new areas. It only takes a few minutes to inspect and clean your boat and other equipment each time you leave the water. Knowing how to do this properly will save time and ensure that your efforts protect our waters from plants and animals that don't belong.

How to Clean Your Equipment/Boat Properly

Please follow the following procedures before entering Spring Lake. (Gear/boats that have been used exclusively in Spring Lake, a chlorinated pool, or a salt water environment do not require decontamination prior to access at this time):

1. Remove any visible plant matter, animals, mud, and dirt from your boat, trailer, boots, shoes, paddles, rudders and all equipment that was exposed to the water. Even plant fragments and dirt may contain tiny hitchhikers.
2. Empty water from boat hulls, canoes and kayaks, boots, etc. Please do this before you leave. If you wait until you get home to empty water, it is likely to run down the gutter into a storm drain, which could contaminate local waters.

3. Clean your equipment, including your boat's exterior surface and bilge with hot tap water (at least 104° F). If hot water is not available, spray boat with high-pressure water.
4. Make sure that your boat and other equipment is allowed to dry for at least 24 hours before using it in other waters.
5. For equipment that cannot be exposed to hot water, either dip it in a solution of 20% vinegar and 80% water for 20 minutes or in a 1-percent saltwater solution for 24 hours. This table provides correct mixtures for the 1-percent saltwater solution:

Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt
5	2/3
10	1-1/4
25	3
50	6-1/4
100	12-2/3