



Parrot-feather watermilfoil

(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Managing parrot-feather watermilfoil in the Riondaz pond in Viriat (Ain department)

The Reyssouze river-basin board (SBVR)

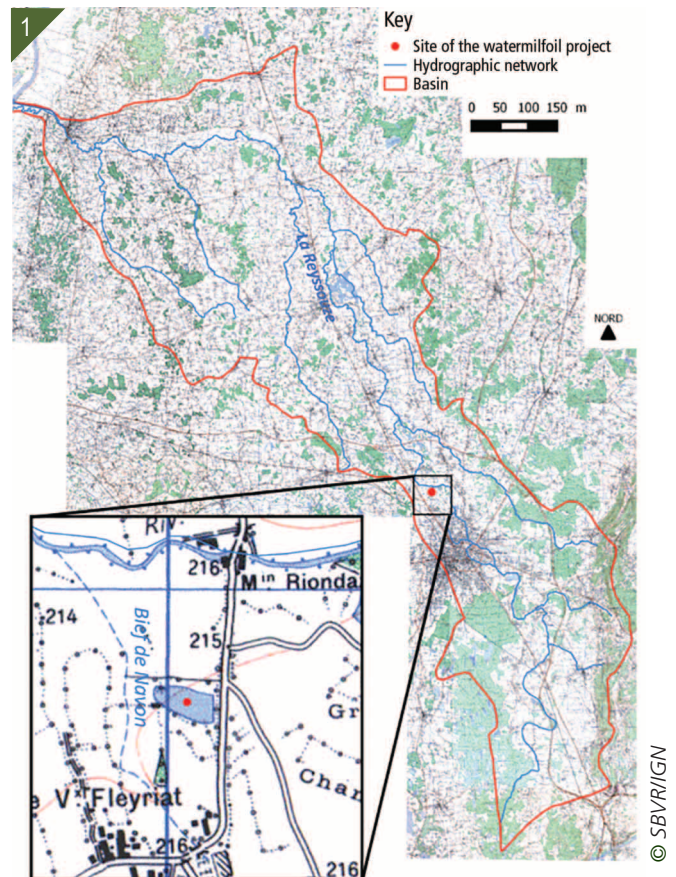
- SBVR works to improve the quality of the water courses and aquatic environments of the Reyssouze River and its tributaries. The board undertakes studies and work on the water courses of the basin, a territory representing 500 square kilometres and 38 towns.
- It also provides science advice to both public and private entities, as well as to private persons who want to work on aquatic environments.
- Contact: Dimitri Mercier, river policy officer - dimitri.mercier@syndicat-reyssouze.fr

Intervention site

- The Riondaz pond covers a surface area of 7 000 square metres in the town of Viriat (Ain department). The man-made pond is now used for recreational activities and is managed by the Works' council of the Ain psychotherapeutic centre (CPA).
- The bottom of the pond consists of alluvial stones covered by a thick layer of fine sediment. A source supplies most of the water and the precise depth of the pond is unknown. Three-quarters of the total surface area are exposed to sunlight and to winds from the north-west.
- A nearby discharge ditch is available to release the water from the pond to the natural environment. The ditch is linked to the pond at two points via culverts equipped with screens. The ditch flows into the Navon stream, a left-bank tributary that flows into the Reyssouze 200 metres downstream.
- The parrot-feather watermilfoil (PFW) was first observed in the pond in 2015. In 2017, the pond was the only known spot colonised by the species in the Reyssouze basin.

Disturbances and issues involved

- Over the two-year period, the PFW developed considerably in the pond. In 2017, it had covered the entire surface area of the pond and replaced the previous beds of aquatic plants.



1. Mapping showing the Riondaz pond.

- Due to the excessive growth, recreational fishing, the main activity, and stocking were halted in 2016.

Interventions

Interventions in 2017

- SBVR decided to launch a project to manage the PFW in order to avoid any risk of species dispersal to other sites in the river basin and to restore the recreational activities desired by the pond owner.
- The work consisted of uprooting the PFW using an excavator loaded onto a barge that enabled it to access the entire surface area of the pond. The excavator was equipped with a special bucket with “claws” designed to gather a maximum amount of plants while leaving the fine and coarse sediment.