

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID PROGRAM—CHISAGO COUNTY

The Chisago County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program consists of watercraft inspections, enforcement, education and outreach, regional coordination, and early detection. The goal of the AIS Program is to Prevent the spread of AIS through conducting watercraft inspections, providing education to citizens, decontamination of watercraft and enforcing AIS laws.

Early Detection activities include zebra mussel veliger and spiny waterflea sampling, installing zebra mussel monitoring plates, monitoring for new infestations at public water accesses, and conducting aquatic plant Point Intercept surveys. Chisago County will implement Rapid Response actions if zebra mussels or other new infestations are found in a lake or river located in the county. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, AIS outreach events and education to residents and students were severely limited in 2020.

Chisago County AIS Accomplishments 2020

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| People Doing AIS Work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors • 2 Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors • 1 Seasonal AIS Specialist • 72 Volunteers • 360 Volunteer Hours Served |
| Community Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 AIS Events • 48 Residents Reached • 42 Children Educated about AIS |
| Watercraft Inspection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19,458 Inspections Performed* • 3,694.5 Hours of Inspections Performed* • 24 Accesses Covered by Inspectors* • 97.2% of Watercraft Arriving at Launches with Drain Plugs Out • 1 Decontamination Unit • 60 Decontaminations Performed* <p>*Chisago County and CLFLWD combined</p> |
| Law Enforcement Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Chisago County Sheriff Officers Conducting AIS Work |
| Monitoring Conducted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Lakes and Rivers Surveyed for AIS • 59 Zebra Mussel Plates Deployed • 15 Water Bodies with Zebra Mussel Monitoring Plates • 12 Water Bodies with Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Tows • 13 Starry Trek Volunteers |

***Zero new infestations of zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas in 2020!**

Partners:

- Chisago County
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District
- St. Croix River Association
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- National Park Service
- Area Lake Associations, including:
 - * Center Lakes Association
 - * Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association
 - * Green Lake Association
 - * Goose Lake Landowners Association
 - * Rush Lake Improvement Association

