

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION ZEBRA MUSSEL WATCH PROGRAM



In 2018, Chisago County launched a new program where twenty-one volunteers monitored for the presence or absence of invasive zebra mussels in lakes countywide. This year, fifty-nine volunteers installed monitoring plates on their docks in Chisago, Fish, Green, Kroon, Little Green, Mandall, North Center, North Goose, North Lindstrom, Rabour, South Center, South Goose, South Lindstrom, East and West Rush Lakes.

Volunteers checked the plates once a month for the presence or absence of zebra mussels. Staff collected suspected aquatic invasive species samples from volunteers. Volunteers observed no zebra mussels during the 2020 monitoring season! At the end of the season, staff collected the plates, gave a final inspection for zebra mussels, disassembled, scrubbed and sterilized them for next year.

Chisago County will continue the program in the spring of 2021. To participate, please contact [susanna.wilson@chisagocounty.us](mailto:susanna.wilson@chisagocounty.us). Thank you to our volunteers for their efforts!

Zebra mussels are an invasive (non-native) species that can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and cause expensive damage to water intake pipes. Less than three percent of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels. More information on zebra mussels is available at [www.mndnr.gov/AIS](http://www.mndnr.gov/AIS).



Zebra mussel on sampling plate. Photo credit: Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)

## Partners:

- Chisago County
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Center Lakes Association
- Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association
- Green Lake Association
- Goose Lake Landowners Association
- Rush Lake Improvement Association

