

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 activities. The goals of the AIS Program are to Prevent the spread of AIS through conducting watercraft inspections and educating citizens, to Decontaminate watercraft and Enforce 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 limited in 2021.

Chisago County AIS Accomplishments 2021

People Doing AIS Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors • 3 Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors • 1 Year-Round AIS Specialist • 66 Volunteers • 330 Volunteer Hours Served
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 AIS Events • 528 Residents Reached • 12 Social Media Posts & 162 Followers
Watercraft Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18,116 Inspections Performed* • 5,671.25 Hours of Inspections Performed* • 24 Accesses Covered by Inspectors* • 96.3% of Watercraft Arriving at Launches with Drain Plugs Out • 1 Decontamination Unit • 93 Decontaminations Performed* <p>*Chisago County and CLFLWD combined</p>
Law Enforcement Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Chisago County Sheriff Officers Conducting AIS Work
Monitoring Conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Lakes and Rivers Surveyed for AIS • 56 Zebra Mussel Plates Deployed at 16 Water Bodies • 16 Public Water Access Searches • 12 Water Bodies with Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Tows • 10 Starry Trek Volunteers

***Zero new infestations of zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas in 2021!**

Partners:

- Chisago County Water Resources
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD)
- St. Croix River Association
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- National Park Service
- Area Lake Associations:

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

