










Dakota County's AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2022

Program Summary

The [Dakota County Aquatic Invasive Species Plan](#) outlines strategies to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species including prevention, early detection, rapid response, outreach and education, and a grant program.

	Category	Metrics
	AIS Prevention Aid Used	\$ <u>144,597.35</u> AIS Prevention Aid used this calendar year \$ <u>10,000</u> saved in a contingency fund (\$5,000 annually)
	People Doing AIS Work	<u>3</u> full-time staff with <u>10</u> % of their time dedicated to AIS work Dakota County hired Waterfront Restoration in 2022 for Inspection Work. Under our contract with Waterfront Restoration, there were: <u>19</u> Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors <u>3</u> Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors <u>0</u> % of aid used this year for staff wages. Inspectors were paid by the contract company rather than paid directly by Dakota County.
	Partnerships	Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <u>1</u> lake associations <u>5</u> local governments Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes
	Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged	\$ <u>68,703.50</u> in grants awarded (aid to other organizations) <u>6</u> organizations awarded grants \$ <u>74,077.93</u> in funds contributed by other organizations to directly support aid-funded work <u>6</u> organizations contributing additional funds
	Communities Engaged	<u>3</u> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics <u>696</u> children taught about AIS at the Children's Water Festival.
	Watercraft Inspected	\$ <u>59,423</u> spent on watercraft inspection and decontamination <u>4</u> accesses covered by inspectors <u>4</u> water bodies covered by inspectors <u>6,549</u> inspections performed <u>2257</u> inspection hours <u>81</u> decontaminations <u>1</u> decontamination units in operation by Level 2 Inspectors
	Law Enforcement Supported	\$ <u>13,482.50</u> provided to local law enforcement officers to enforce AIS laws <u>10</u> local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work <u>696</u> boaters contacted by local law enforcement <u>10</u> verbal warnings, <u>0</u> written warnings, and <u>1</u> citation given for AIS rules violations by Dakota County Sherriff's office.

Category	Metrics
 <p>Monitoring Conducted</p>	<p>13 total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 early detection searches on 3 water bodies 22 aquatic plant surveys conducted on 10 water bodies 1 invasive carp surveys conducted on 1 water bodies <p>1 new detections in the county</p> <p>14 existing active AIS Detectors; no new AIS detectors in 2022.</p> <p>25 people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota AIS Research Center’s “Starry Trek” event</p> <p>List of species targeted for monitoring or surveys: <u>Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Yellow Iris, Flowing Rush; searches included Zebra Mussels, Starry Stonewort, Spiny Water Flea, Rusty Crayfish, etc.</u></p>
 <p>Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) + Control of Other Invasive Species</p>	<p>\$68,058.68 spent on IAPM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 water bodies with aid-funded IAPM activities 5 groups involved or conducting aid-funded IAPM work <p>\$69,058.68 in other funds leveraged for IAPM work from Dakota County’s grant program. Generally, we see 50% match when funding treatment projects.</p> <p>List of species controlled: <u>Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Flowering Rush, and Yellow Iris</u></p>

Program Spending Summary

Budget Category	County: AIS Prevention Aid Spent in 2022	Local Grants: AIS Prevention Aid Awarded in 2022	Description
Public Outreach and Education	\$3,362.79	\$644.82	Metro Children’s Water Festival, purchasing AIS supplies, and grant awarded for educational aids.
Watercraft Inspection	\$55,048.56		\$4,374.44 of leveraged funds from cities for inspection programs.
Enforcement	\$13,482.50		Partnering with Dakota County Sheriff’s Office for AIS enforcement.
Invasive Aquatic Plant Management		\$68,058.68	Grants awarded for plant management projects and related surveys to Lake Byllesby Improvement Association and to the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville.
Other	\$4,000		Support AIS activities through volunteer monitoring network (Dakota County Wetland Health Evaluation Program)

Plans for 2023

In 2023, Dakota County will be continuing with the grant program, an inspection program, and funding additional AIS enforcement in partnership with the Sheriff's Office as the largest items in the AIS prevention budget.

Dakota County will continue to look for new Outreach and Education opportunities in 2023 and will continue with past partnerships.

2022 Highlights

Success Stories

Dakota County success stories involving AIS inspectors during the 2022 season:

On July 2, there was a situation at Lake Orchard in which a child around 8 years old was left in a boat while the parent went to get the truck. While the truck was being backed into the water, the boat came loose from the dock, and the child and the boat began drifting back into the lake. The mother exited the truck when she saw what was happening, but left the truck in reverse, and the truck became half-submerged in the water. Our inspector, Jordan Francis, swam out into the lake to retrieve the boat and was able to get the boat and the child safely back to the dock. Police were called to help with the situation, and a tow truck was able to remove the truck from the water. Everyone was fine, thank goodness!

On July 4, also at Orchard, our inspector, Devon Havekla, informed us about an interaction with a rude boater. The boater arrived with weeds on his watercraft and the drain plug in. He refused to let Devon touch the boat but was being noncompliant with Devon's instructions to remove the drain plug/weeds. Devon was able to de-escalate the situation and the boater removed the plants by hand. When the boater reluctantly removed the drain plug, there was water which came out - due to his refusal to answer survey questions, we can only guess whether this would have led to zebra mussels entering into the uninfested lake had Devon not been there. The boater was yelling about calling the police/DNR on Devon, despite Devon's authority to be performing inspections.

On August 28, a thin middle-aged man (early 50s) with brown/gray hair arrived at the Dakota County Lake Byllesby launch trailering a personal watercraft after being denied to launch from the Goodhue County launch on Lake Byllesby. The watercraft had last been on the Mississippi River for 3 seasons. During the inspection the watercraft was found to have attached shellfish in the intakes and exhaust areas. The boat owner originally was unaware of the mussels and AIS risk they posed. The mussels appeared to be zebra mussels and/or quagga mussels. Inspectors Dan Rechtzigel and Rob Card completed a full decontamination at the launch.

Photos of AIS Activities



Right: Dakota County purchased a button maker in 2022 to make AIS buttons in-house. These buttons are given out at events to promote AIS prevention awareness.

Left: City of Apple Valley created educational aids in the form of taxidermy goldfish. The city hosted a naming contest for the goldfish mounts, and they were named Bubbles and Betty.

