









Dakota County’s AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2023

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
	<p>AIS Prevention Aid Used \$ <u>104,003.74</u> AIS Prevention Aid used this calendar year \$ <u>15,000</u> saved in a contingency fund</p>
	<p>People Dedicated to AIS Work</p> <p>3 full-time staff with 10 % of their time dedicated to AIS work Dakota County hired Waterfront Restoration in 2023 for Inspection Work. Under our contract with Waterfront Restoration, there were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">19 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors 3 Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors</p> <p>0 % of aid used this year for staff wages. Inspectors were paid by the contract company rather than paid directly by Dakota County.</p>
	<p>Partnerships Created and Maintained</p> <p>Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: 2 lake associations 6 local governments Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes</p>
	<p>Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged</p> <p>\$22,478.56 of AIS Prevention Aid awarded as grants to other organizations 5 organizations awarded grants \$22,509.16 in funds contributed by other organizations that directly support aid-funded work 2 organizations contributing additional funds</p>
	<p>Communities Engaged</p> <p>3 events held about AIS or that included AIS topics</p>
	<p>Watercraft Inspected</p> <p>\$ <u>62761.51</u> spent on watercraft inspection and decontamination including: \$ <u>58,807.04</u> in AIS Prevention Aid \$ <u>3954.47</u> in other funds leveraged from cities of Burnsville and Lakeville.</p> <p>7,173 inspections performed 2,182 hours of inspections performed 4 accesses covered by inspectors 4 water bodies covered by inspectors 0.7% of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out 98.4% of watercraft recorded as arriving free of aquatic plants 1 decontamination unit (hot water, high pressure) operated by Level 2 inspectors 84 decontaminations performed</p>
	<p>Law Enforcement Supported</p> <p>\$14,752.50 in aid provided to local law enforcement officers to enforce AIS laws 8 local law enforcement officers conducted AIS work 768 boaters engaged by local law enforcement</p>

Category	Metrics
 <p>Monitoring Conducted</p>	<p>4 total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included:</p> <p>0 new detections in the county</p> <p>19 people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota AIS Research Center’s “Starry Trek” event</p>

Program Spending Summary

Budget Category	AIS Prevention Aid Spent by the County in 2023	AIS Prevention Spent by Local Grantees in 2023	Description
Public Outreach and Education	\$3965.64	NA	Libraries Partnership, Children’s Water Festival, Outreach Supplies
Watercraft Inspection	\$58,807.04	\$3954.47	Watercraft Inspections on Byllesby, Orchard, Marion, and Crystal Lakes
Enforcement	\$14,752.50	NA	AIS Enforcement Overtime Hours for Dakota County Sherriff’s Office
Grant Program	\$22478.56	\$22,509.16	Included Monitoring, Control, and Education efforts
Monitoring	\$4000	NA	Trained wetland health evaluation program volunteers on AIS detection
Totals	\$104,003.74	\$22,509.16	

Plans for 2024

In 2024, 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 2024 and will continue with past partnerships.