










Dakota County's AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2021

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	<p>\$ <u>108,321</u> AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2021 \$ <u>5,000 (annual)</u> saved in a contingency fund</p>
 People Doing AIS Work	<p><u>3</u> full-time staff with <u>10</u> % of their time dedicated to AIS work <u>15</u> Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors (hired by contracted company) <u>3</u> Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors (hired by contracted company) <u>0</u> % of aid used in 2021 for staff wages <u>4</u> new AIS Detector volunteers, <u>10</u> Starry Trek Volunteers, and <u>181</u> Wetland Health Evaluation Program volunteers who have been given basic AIS ID training and information</p>
 Partnerships	<p>Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <u>2</u> lake associations <u>5</u> local governments Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes</p>
 Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged	<p>\$ <u>70522.99</u> in grants awarded (aid to other organizations) <u>7</u> organizations awarded grants \$ <u>49,510.63</u> in funds contributed by other organizations to directly support aid-funded work <u>7</u> organizations contributing additional funds</p>
 Communities Engaged	<p><u>3</u> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics: Wetland Health Evaluation Program Trainings, Children's Water Festival and Dakota County Fair <u>14</u> posts on <u>4</u> topics (AIS Detectors, Inspectors, Starry Trek and a "Preventing the Spread of AIS" video) on County social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and NextDoor) seen by at least <u>9535</u> people. <u>38</u> posts seen by at least <u>2,397</u> people on Dakota County SWCD social media (Facebook and Instagram).</p>
 Watercraft Inspected	<p>\$ <u>47,700.85</u> spent on watercraft inspection and decontamination <u>8,321</u> inspections performed <u>2,194</u> hours of inspections performed <u>4</u> accesses covered by inspectors <u>4</u> water bodies covered by inspectors <u>0.8</u>% of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out <u>1</u> decontamination units in operation by Level 2 inspectors <u>101</u> decontaminations performed <i>For more information on 2021 watercraft inspections, please see the full report.</i></p>
 Law Enforcement Supported	<p>\$ <u>12,455</u> provided to local law enforcement officers to enforce AIS laws <u>10</u> local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work <u>736</u> boaters interactions by local law enforcement <u>16</u> verbal warnings issued <u>0</u> citations and <u>0</u> written warnings issued</p>

Category	Metrics
 <p data-bbox="321 254 464 317">Monitoring Conducted</p>	<p data-bbox="623 123 1252 151">8 total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="667 159 1154 186"> 1 early detection searches on 1 water bodies <li data-bbox="667 195 1295 222"> 6 zebra mussel settling plates deployed on 1 water bodies <li data-bbox="667 231 1252 258"> 10 aquatic plant surveys conducted on 8 water bodies <p data-bbox="623 266 959 294">2 new detections in the county</p> <p data-bbox="623 302 1360 371">10 people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota AIS Research Center’s “Starry Trek” event</p> <p data-bbox="623 380 1409 449">List of species monitored: <u>Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, Starry Stonewort, Zebra Mussels</u></p>
 <p data-bbox="321 632 594 695">Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM)</p>	<p data-bbox="623 464 919 491">\$ 28,184.81 spent on IAPM</p> <p data-bbox="623 499 1130 527">9 water bodies with aid-funded IAPM activities</p> <p data-bbox="623 535 1235 562">11 groups involved or conducting aid-funded IAPM work</p> <p data-bbox="623 571 1170 598">\$ 8,947.50 in other funds leveraged for IAPM work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="667 611 1435 680">• <i>Lake Byllesby Improvement Association coordinated with Goodhue County on a Curlyleaf Pondweed plant management project.</i> <li data-bbox="667 688 1442 791">• <i>Lake Byllesby Improvement Association and the city of Apple Valley both received grant funds from the Minnesota DNR for treatment projects.</i> <p data-bbox="623 800 1406 869">List of species controlled: <u>Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, Yellow Iris</u></p>

Program Spending Summary

Budget Category	County: AIS Prevention Aid Spent in 2021	Local Grants: AIS Prevention Aid Awarded in 2021	Description
Public Outreach and Education	\$3,112.00	\$15.93	Reimbursement for residents taking the AIS detector training, funding for Children’s Water Festival to have AIS Content, purchase of AIS booklets, and a newspaper notification from one of the grant recipients.
Watercraft Inspection	\$22,231.09	\$25,469.76	Cities participate in the inspection program under the umbrella of our grant program. We had inspectors at 4 public accesses in Dakota County in the year 2021.
Enforcement	\$12,455	N/A	Additional overtime AIS Enforcement hours through the County Sherriff’s department.
Monitoring	\$0	\$16,852.50	Monitoring was conducted as part of our AIS grant program on several lakes.
New Infestation Response	N/A	N/A	Newly discovered infestations did not warrant coordinated response in 2021.
Invasive Aquatic Plant Management	N/A	\$28,184.81	Plant management is completed under the AIS grant program as eligible projects.

Success Stories

Lake Byllesby AIS Prevention

During the 2021 AIS Watercraft Inspection season, inspectors found 149 AIS violations. Most notably, inspectors denied launch on two separate occasions to boat owners attempting to access Lake Byllesby with zebra mussels attached to their watercrafts, preventing potential zebra mussel infestations within the lake.

Reports and Products

[2021 Watercraft Inspection Report](#)

[2021-2025 Dakota County Aquatic Invasive Species Plan](#)

Photo(s) of AIS Activities

The AIS Display and educational materials, created in 2020 and brought to events in 2021, are pictured below.

