

Scott County's AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2020

Program Summary

The purpose of Scott County's AIS Prevention Program is to provide a framework to facilitate county-wide coordination and cooperation on AIS Scott County and our plan outlines the efforts that Scott County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Scott County and Minnesota. We hope to accomplish a greater public awareness of AIS and prevent any new AIS discoveries in Scott County's waterbodies. The County will take an adaptive management approach that involves learning from experiences and outcomes and adjusting strategies as they become better understood. The AIS Prevention Program is managed by the Natural Resources department with one full-time staff person with 15% of their time dedicated to AIS work with oversight by the Water Resources Supervisor. The strategies in the Plan to prevent the spread of AIS include: Partnerships, Education & Public Outreach, Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination, Monitoring & Early Detection, Managing Existing Populations of AIS, Rapid Response and Enforcement. Partners in our AIS work include: Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District, Cedar Lake Improvement District, and O'Dowd Lake Chain Association.

| Category | Metrics |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  AIS Prevention Aid Used | \$ <u>50,243</u> AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2020 (we got a late start on a lot of programs this year) \$ <u>20,756</u> saved in a contingency fund |
|  People Doing AIS Work | <u>1</u> full-time staff with 15% of their time dedicated to AIS work <u>14</u> Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors (contracted through a vendor) <u>NA</u> Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors <u>33%</u> of aid used in 2020 for staff wages <u>22</u> volunteers conducting AIS work (zebra mussel monitors) <u>20</u> volunteer hours served (estimated) |
|  Partnerships | Organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <u>x</u> lake associations <u>0</u> conservation nonprofits and/or outdoor groups (angling, hunting, paddling, sailing, etc.) <u>x</u> schools and/or youth organizations <u>x</u> businesses <u>x</u> local governments Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes |
|  Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged | \$ <u>5,466</u> in grants awarded (aid to other organizations) <u>1</u> organizations awarded grants \$ <u>53,657</u> in funds contributed by other organizations to directly support aid-funded work (matching for: watercraft inspections (PLSLWD match) & invasive aquatic plant management from O'Dowd/Thole Lake Association, Cedar LID) <u>3</u> organizations contributing additional funds \$ <u>29,524</u> in other funds leveraged (SWMO budget) |
|  Communities Engaged | <u>0</u> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics <u>NA</u> residents and visitors directly contacted/engaged about AIS during events <u>8</u> posts on social media seen by <u>1350</u> followers <u>4</u> paid advertisements (billboards, TV, radio, newspaper, social |

| Category | Metrics |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | media, etc.) Co Newsletter: carp, watercraft inspections <u>0</u> children taught about AIS |
|  Watercraft Inspected | <u>8,409</u> inspections performed <u>1,958</u> hours of inspections performed <u>8</u> accesses covered by inspectors <u>7</u> water bodies covered by inspectors <u>97.6</u> % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out <u>1</u> decontamination units in operation <u>0</u> boaters engaged by AIS Volunteers/Ambassadors at water accesses |
|  Law Enforcement Supported | <u>\$ 0</u> provided to local law enforcement officers to enforce AIS laws <u>0</u> local law enforcement officers trained in 2020 on AIS laws <u>2</u> local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work <u>3</u> boaters contacted by local law enforcement |
|  Monitoring Conducted | <u>4</u> total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included: <u>4</u> early detection searches on <u>4</u> water bodies <u>21</u> zebra mussel settling plates deployed on <u>4</u> water bodies <u>NA</u> veliger tows taken on <u>NA</u> water bodies <u>4</u> aquatic plant surveys conducted on <u>4</u> water bodies <u>0</u> volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors <u>0</u> people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and AIS Research Center's "Starry Trek" event |
|  New Infestation Response Planning | <u>0</u> new infestation response(s) coordinated Our county has a new infestation response plan: No, but will be creating one this winter to include in our plan as an amendment |
|  Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) | <u>\$ 17,466</u> of aid spent on IAPM <u>5</u> water bodies with aid-funded IAPM activities <u>4</u> groups involved or conducting aid-funded IAPM work <u>\$ 34,307</u> in other funds leveraged for IAPM work (match from O'Dowd/Thole Lk Assoc & Cedar LID) |

Program Spending Summary

| Budget Category | AIS Prevention Aid Spent in 2020 | Description |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Public Outreach and Education | \$ 5,380 | Outreach/Education & Coordination |
| Local Grant Program | | |
| Watercraft Inspection | \$ 29,112 | Contracted watercraft inspections & staff time |
| Enforcement | \$ | |
| Monitoring | \$ 6,208 | Aquatic plant surveys and zebra mussel monitoring |
| New Infestation Response | \$ | |
| Invasive Aquatic Plant Management | \$ 17,466 | curlyleaf pondweed management |
| Other | \$ | |

Success Stories

Contracted watercraft inspections on Prior Lake in 2020 found aquatic plants (54 times entering/228 times exiting), mud (7 times entering/14 times exiting), and zebra mussels (0 times entering/2 times exiting). The inspections prevented the movement of two different boats with zebra mussels from exiting the lake and infesting other lakes.

The Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District was awarded the 2020 Minnesota Association of Watershed District “Program of the Year” for its carp management program. It’s more focused on management and water quality improvement than on prevention by creating an Integrated Carp Management Plan that implemented innovative strategies to reduce carp populations in two impaired lakes (Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake).

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5963dafa4c8b03a819ee618d/t/5fd6b256ab777271769bbb12/1607905879272/2020+Program+of+the+Year_Website+%28%29+-+PLSLWD.pdf

Reports and Products

[2020 Watercraft Inspections](#)

[2020 PLSLWD Watercraft Inspections](#) The PLSLWD did not utilize any of the AIS Prevention Funds for watercraft inspections in 2020.

Carp Management

The picture below shows Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) and WSB staff holding carp at a carp seine on Spring Lake. Carp management work included carp removals (removal methods included seines, box traps and push traps), installation of barriers to keep carp out of spawning areas, carp tracking and training the carp. PLSLWD budget for 2020 was \$240,000 (\$150,000 levy, \$90,000 grant/WBF & 319). No AIS Prevention funds were spent on this project.



Photo credit: PLSLWD