

Sherburne County AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2019

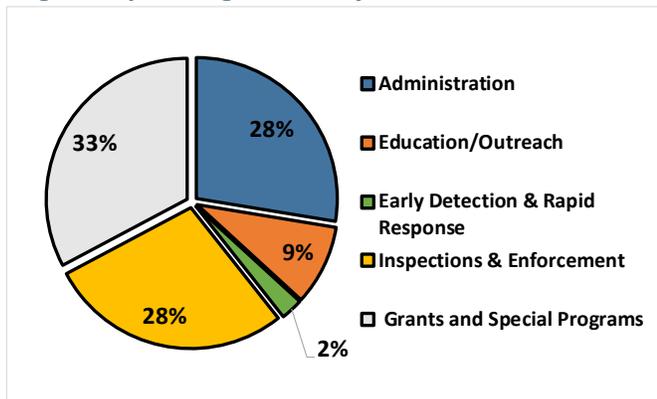
Program Summary

Now in its 5th year, the Sherburne County AIS Prevention Program strives to be an effective tool to educate the public about AIS and greatly reduce the opportunity for new infestations to be introduced to Sherburne County waters. Below is a collection of accomplishments from the 2019 program.

Category	Metrics
 AIS Prevention Aid Used	\$ 69,817 AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2019 \$ 2,064 saved in a contingency fund
 People Doing AIS Work	1 full-time staff dedicated to AIS work 1 part-time staff dedicated to AIS work 0 seasonal staff with AIS duties (other than inspectors) 11 Level 1 Inspectors 0 Level 2 Inspectors \$ 17,000 spent on staff wages 32 Volunteers conducting AIS work 478.5 Volunteer hours served
 Partnerships	Organizations engaged and/or actively conducting AIS work using AIS Prevention Aid: 9 lake associations 1 conservation nonprofits and outdoor groups (angling, hunting, paddling, sailing, etc.) 1 businesses 2 local governments 16 AIS Task Force members in 2019
 Funds Distributed and Leveraged	\$ 16,910 in grants awarded (AIS Prevention Aid to other organizations) 6 organizations awarded grants \$ 50,173.61 in additional funds leveraged 6 organizations contributing additional funds
 Communities Engaged	9 events held about AIS or that included AIS topics 150 residents and visitors reached about AIS during events 16 in-school presentations about AIS 540 children taught about AIS
 Watercraft Inspected	2,537 inspections performed 1,387.75 hours of inspections performed 9 accesses covered by inspectors 9 water bodies covered by inspectors 96 % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out 0 decontamination units in operation 1,461 boaters engaged by AIS Volunteers at water accesses
 Law Enforcement Supported	5 local law enforcement officers trained on AIS laws 5 local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work 1,083 boaters contacted by local law enforcement

Category	Metrics
 Monitoring Conducted	18 lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS 32 zebra mussel settling plates deployed 15 water bodies where veliger tows were taken 2 aquatic plant surveys conducted 0 volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors 16 people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and AIS Research Center’s “Starry Trek” event
 New Infestation Response Planning	\$ 0 spent on new infestation response(s) 0 new infestation response(s) coordinated Our county has a new infestation response plan
 Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM)	5 water bodies with IAPM activities (funded with AIS Prevention Aid)

Program Spending Summary



The graph at left represents the categorical spending of \$69,817 dollars in 2019 for the AIS Prevention Program.

- Administrative time includes reporting and project element oversight, including implementation of other category programs
- Education and outreach expenditures are largely for supplies and a contracted theatre group.
- ED & RR expenses are for supplies to support existing programs.
- Paid inspections make up a significant portion of the budget
- The County grant program supports lake planning, AIS management, and volunteer mobilization.

Success Stories

Sherburne County continues to utilize a diverse approach to combat AIS – through both preventing the introduction of new species and supporting management of existing infestations (thus reducing their opportunity to spread elsewhere). Volunteers and the efforts of organized lake groups are an essential implementor of these programs, which include AIS Early Detection and Monitoring, Public Access Outreach, and managing existing infestations. Together, 32 volunteers completed 478.5 hours of volunteer work in 2019.

Reports and Products

This year marks the last of the Sherburne County 5-Year AIS Prevention Plan. The 2019 AIS Task Force met numerous times to examine existing programs and alternatives and provided recommendations for a new, 2020-2024 AIS Prevention Plan. This report was completed in December and will be presented to the Sherburne County Commissioners in January 2020 for approval.

Photos of AIS Activities



AIS Prevention Planner Tina Fitzgerald (DNR) leads a discussion at the Sherburne County AIS Task Force meeting in June 2019



16 volunteers had fun in the sun during the annual Starry Trek AIS event.



Certified AIS Detector Michelle Binsfeld and two of her children throw an aquatic plant sampling rake from a pier in a Sherburne County Lake.

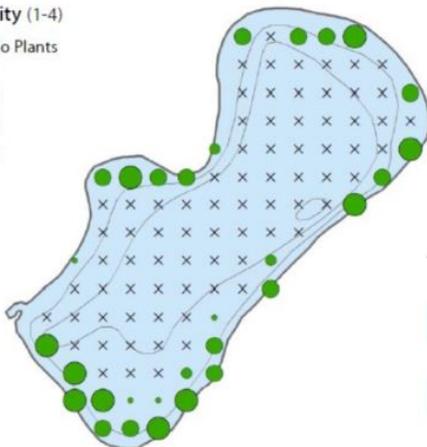


Sherburne County residents and AIS Task Force members visit a laboratory at the University of Minnesota during the annual AIS Research and Management Showcase.

All Vegetation

Density (1-4)

- × No Plants
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



The AIS Grant Program supported the Three Lakes Improvement District in completing aquatic plant studies on Lake Julia in 2019.



A Big Lake Community Lakes Association member leads a local discussion on AIS Volunteer Outreach for the Big Lake Public Access.