











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

Program Summary

The Sherburne County AIS Prevention Program leverages community-based programs to reduce the spread of AIS, manage existing populations, and create an informed public on the importance of this issue and its impacts on our water resources.

Category	Metrics
 AIS Prevention Aid Used	<p>\$ 71,902 AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2021 \$ 14,059 saved in a contingency fund</p>
 People Doing AIS Work	<p>1 full-time staff with 20 % of their time dedicated to AIS work 1 part-time and seasonal staff with 5 % of their time dedicated to AIS work 9 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors 0 Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors 29 % of aid used in 2021 for staff wages 105 volunteers conducting AIS work 530 volunteer hours served</p>
 Partnerships	<p>Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: 9 lake associations 1 conservation nonprofits and/or outdoor groups (angling, hunting, paddling, sailing, etc.) 1 schools and/or youth organizations 1 businesses 4 local governments Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes</p>
 Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged	<p>\$ 17,447 in grants awarded (aid to other organizations) 7 organizations awarded grants \$ 45,120 in funds contributed by other organizations to directly support aid-funded work 7 organizations contributing additional funds</p>
 Communities Engaged	<p>6 events held about AIS or that included AIS topics 135 residents and visitors directly contacted/engaged about AIS during events 10 posts on social media seen by 628 followers \$2,000 spent on paid advertisements (billboards, TV, radio, newspaper, social media, etc.) 7 children taught about AIS</p>
 Watercraft Inspected	<p>\$ 24,190 spent on watercraft inspection 4,543 inspections performed 1,527.5 hours of inspections performed 10 accesses covered by inspectors 10 water bodies covered by inspectors 95 % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out 0 decontamination units in operation by Level 2 inspectors 0 decontaminations performed 1,065 boaters engaged by AIS Volunteers/Ambassadors at water accesses</p>

Category	Metrics
 Law Enforcement Supported	<p>\$ 4,393 provided to local law enforcement officers to enforce AIS laws</p> <p>3 local law enforcement officers trained in 2021 on AIS laws</p> <p>7 local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work</p> <p>811 boaters contacted by local law enforcement</p>
 Monitoring Conducted	<p>16 total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 early detection searches on 16 water bodies 55 zebra mussel settling plates deployed on 16 water bodies 10 aquatic plant surveys conducted on 6 water bodies <p>1 new detections in the county</p> <p>3 volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors</p> <p>16 people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota AIS Research Center's "Starry Trek" event</p>
 New Infestation Response Planning	<p>1 new infestation response(s) coordinated</p> <p>Our county has a new infestation response plan: Yes</p>
 Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM)	<p>\$ 11,050 spent on IAPM</p> <p>5 water bodies with aid-funded IAPM activities</p> <p>5 groups involved or conducting aid-funded IAPM work</p> <p>\$ 42,988 in match funds leveraged for IAPM work</p> <p>List of species controlled: 2</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	\$5,796	\$0	
Watercraft Inspection	\$19,000	\$0	Additional \$6,000 leveraged locally
Enforcement	\$4,400	\$0	
Monitoring	\$5,000	\$6,397	Additional \$9,000 for common carp monitoring
New Infestation Response	\$2,400	\$	
Invasive Aquatic Plant Management	\$0	\$11,050	
Other: Administration	\$17,859	\$0	

Success Stories

Sherburne SWCD partnered with the Sherburne County Coalition of Lake Associations to create an AIS Early Detection and Rapid Response template document for county lake groups. The AISED RR materials include several postcard visual documents, leading novice lake users through a protocol to determine if they have a suspicious aquatic species and if so, what the next appropriate steps are.

The Sherburne SWCD Board approved use of AIS Contingency Funds to assist the Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association to investigate common carp in Eagle Lake. It is suspected the carp population exceeds the management threshold and are negatively impacting the lake. Negative impacts include a disruption of native vegetation, excessive turbidity, and an additional 360 lbs of phosphorous released to the water column each year which spurs late summer algae blooms. Funds from the AIS Prevention program are being used to determine if carp management is appropriate for Eagle Lake.

Reports and Products

Sherburne SWCD staff partnered with Megan Weber of the Minnesota AIS Research Center on a year-long study of golden clams in Briggs Lake. The study documented, for the first time in Minnesota, overwinter survival of clams in a Minnesota lake. Previous studies had hypothesized that the thermal range was 2°C, however this new discovery raises questions about this understanding as well as the potential range of spread by this species.

Photos of AIS Activities



Photo 1: A Starry Trek volunteer inspects his rake tow sample. Photo by Becky Guthrie.

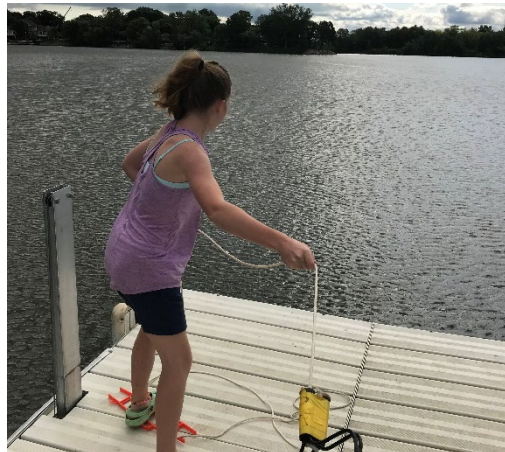


Photo 2: A Starry Trek volunteer tosses the sampling rake. Photo by Cindi Edwards-Plant.



Photo 3: Starry Trekkers look for AIS. Photo by Patrick Plant.

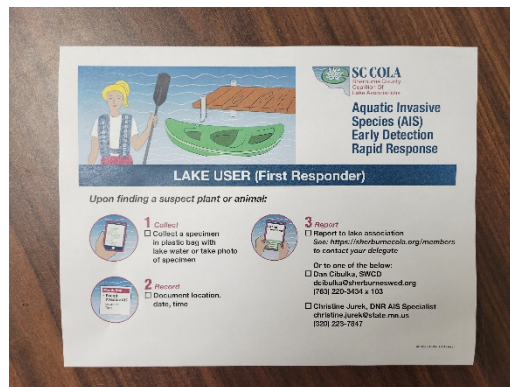


Photo 4: Sherburne County COLA AIS EDRR action plan card. Design by Cindi Edwards-Plant.



Photo 5: Volunteers assist with golden clam monitoring. Photo by Sherburne SWCD.



Photo 6: Volunteers assist with golden clam monitoring. Photo by Sherburne SWCD.