











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

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
	<p>AIS Prevention Aid Used <u>\$ 63,454.41</u> AIS Prevention Aid used this calendar year <u>\$ 2,148.00</u> saved in a contingency fund</p>
	<p>People Dedicated to AIS Work</p> <p><u>1</u> full-time staff with <u>20</u> % of their time dedicated to AIS work <u>1</u> part-time and seasonal staff with <u>1</u> % of their time dedicated to AIS work <u>6</u> total watercraft inspectors, including: <u>6</u> trained as Level 1 and <u>0</u> trained as Level 2</p> <p><u>\$ 18,749.29</u> spent on staff wages, including: <u>\$ 18,749.29</u> in AIS Prevention Aid <u>\$ n/a</u> in other funds leveraged</p> <p><u>89</u> volunteers conducted AIS work <u>251.25</u> volunteer hours served</p>
	<p>Partnerships Created and Maintained</p> <p>Local organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <u>10</u> lake associations <u>1</u> schools and/or youth organizations <u>3</u> local governments</p> <p>Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes</p>
	<p>Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged</p> <p><u>\$17,851.50</u> of AIS Prevention Aid awarded as grants to other organizations <u>7</u> organizations awarded grants <u>\$43,067.63</u> in funds contributed by other organizations that directly support aid-funded work <u>7</u> organizations contributing additional funds <u>\$4,000</u> in other funds leveraged from City of Zimmerman, Livonia Township</p>
	<p>Communities Engaged</p> <p><u>7</u> events held about AIS or that included AIS topics <u>166</u> residents and visitors directly contacted/engaged about AIS during events <u>45</u> children and <u>3</u> teachers taught about AIS <u>\$2,000</u> of aid spent on advertisements (billboards, TV, radio, newspaper, social media, etc.)</p> <p>Describe social media and/or advertising reach Over 46,000 followers on the Minnesota Traditions social media site which our program contributes towards.</p>
	<p>Watercraft Inspected</p> <p><u>\$23,836</u> spent on watercraft inspection including: <u>\$16,156</u> in AIS Prevention Aid <u>\$7,680</u> in other funds leveraged from Briggs Lake Chain Association, Three Lakes Improvement District.</p> <p><u>3,263</u> inspections performed* <u>1,110</u> hours of inspections performed* <u>11</u> accesses covered by inspectors</p>

Category	Metrics
	<p>12 water bodies covered by inspectors 96% of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out 98% of watercraft recorded as arriving free of aquatic plants 0 decontamination units (hot water, high pressure) operated by Level 2 inspectors 0 decontaminations performed 677 boaters engaged by AIS Volunteers/Ambassadors at water accesses 0 water bodies with cleaning tool stations maintained at n/a water accesses. <i>* The City of Big Lake worked directly with a private company to add 190 inspection hours to Lakeside Park in Big Lake. Total hours and data from inspectors, but not financial information, included in this summary.</i></p>
 <p>Law Enforcement Supported</p>	<p>\$4,397 in aid provided to local law enforcement officers to enforce AIS laws 3 local law enforcement officers conducted AIS work 438 boaters contacted by local law enforcement</p>
 <p>Monitoring Conducted</p>	<p>19 total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included: 4 early detection searches on 13 water bodies 55 zebra mussel settling plates deployed on 18 water bodies 4 aquatic plant surveys conducted on 4 water bodies 1 invasive common carp surveys conducted on 1 water bodies 0 new detections in the county 0 volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors 12 people participated in the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota AIS Research Center’s “Starry Trek” event List of species targeted for monitoring or surveys: Curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, Golden clam, Starry stonewort.</p>
 <p>New Infestation Response Planned</p>	<p>0 coordinated response(s) to a new AIS population(s) Our county has a response plan developed in 2021. 0 sites controlled/managed</p>
 <p>AIS Controlled</p>	<p>\$60,919.13 spent on in-lake/river control of AIS, including: \$17,851.50 in AIS Prevention Aid \$43,067.63 in other funds leveraged from 7 organizations 7 groups involved or conducting aid-funded control activities 10 total water bodies / sites with aid-funded control activities, including: 5 water bodies with invasive aquatic plant management 1 water bodies with invasive common carp management 1 sites with purple loosestrife management where 0 biocontrol beetles were released 0 sites with non-native Phragmites management covered 0 acres List of species controlled: Curly-leaf pondweed, Purple loosestrife</p>

Program Spending Summary

Budget Category	AIS Prevention Aid Spent by the County in 2023	AIS Prevention Spent by Local Grantees in 2023	In-Kind Funds Contributed in 2023	Description
Public Outreach and Education	\$2,184.07	\$1,200.00	\$500.00	We Are Water program, COLA as in-kind contributions
Watercraft Inspection	\$16,624.00	\$	\$7,680	
Enforcement	\$4,397.55	\$	\$	
Monitoring	\$	\$	\$	No direct expenses, staff and volunteer time were spent on various monitoring projects.
New Infestation Response	\$	\$	\$	n/a
AIS Control	\$9,908.75	\$	\$40,753.38	Grant program, control category
AIS Planning / Education grants	\$7,942.75	\$	\$2,314.25	Grant program, planning and education category
Totals	\$41,057.12	\$	\$51,247.63	

Plans for 2024

In 2024, we will continue our existing programs while adding two additional elements, 1) discuss potential partnerships for purple loosestrife beetle rearing and 2) evaluate feasibility for public access cleaning tool options. Additionally, as our 2020-2024 AIS Prevention Plan is sunseting we will direct efforts to development of a new 5-year plan including a public stakeholder survey and meetings with the county’s AIS Task Force.

2023 Highlights

Success Stories

- In a third year of monitoring, no live golden clams were found within Big Lake and Briggs Lake where live populations were found once before in 2020. Annual monitoring will continue on these lakes. Additionally, in 2023 SWCD staff and seasonal interns visited six sites on the Mississippi River to search for clams. Live specimens of various sizes were encountered at four of the six sites.
- A partnership was established between the Lake Fremont Improvement Association, City of Zimmerman, Livonia Township and Sherburne SWCD to evaluate the abundance of common carp in Lake Fremont. Surveys by an experienced contractor were completed in summer/fall 2023 and turned up a “high” number of carp. A report with details is expected near year’s end.

Engaging Diverse Audiences

- Outreach was completed for approximately 45 youth participants in a Youth Water Festival, where aquatic invasive species were included as a topic. Those joining the event experienced a live and interactive performance from CLIMB Theater on the threats AIS pose to our waters.

Multi-County Collaborations

- AIS Coordinators from Wright, Sherburne, Stearns, Benton, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Todd and Douglas Counties met to discuss potential collaboration projects or ways to streamline work. An outcome of this was effective communication on challenges regarding operating a watercraft inspection program.

Reports and Products

- Watercraft Inspections

Inspection Location	Lake ID	Total Hours
Ann Lake Public Access	710069	40
Big Lake (Lakeside Park Access)	710082	90
Big Elk Lake Public Access	710141	75
Birch Lake Public Access	710057	50
Briggs Lake Public Access	710146	142
Eagle Lake Public Access	710067	70
Fremont Lake Public Access	710016	40
Julia Lake Public Access	710145	131
Little Elk Lake Public Access	710055	60
Orono Lake Public Access	710013	70
Rush Lake Public Access	710147	142

- Early Detection Activities

Survey Location	Lake ID	Starry Trek	ZM Settling Platforms	Spiny Water Flea Pilot
Ann Lake Public Access	710069	Y	Y	
Big Lake (Lakeside Park Access)	710082	Y	Y	
Big Elk Lake Public Access	710141	Y	Y	Y
Birch Lake Public Access	710057	Y	Y	
Briggs Lake Public Access	710146	Y	Y	Y
Cantlin Lake	710041		Y	
Eagle Lake Public Access	710067	Y	Y	
Fremont Lake Public Access	710016	Y	Y	
Julia Lake Public Access	710145	Y	Y	Y
Little Elk Lake Public Access	710055	Y	Y	
Long Lake	710159		Y	
Mitchell Lake	710081		Y	
Orono Lake Public Access	710013	Y	Y	Y
Round Lake	710167		Y	
Rush Lake Public Access	710147	Y	Y	Y
Sandy Lake	710040	Y	Y	
Thompson Lake	710096		Y	
Pickereel Lake	710158		Y	
West Hunter Public Access	710022	Y		

- Common Carp Activities

- A contractor was hired to assess the carp population of Lake Fremont (710016). Project sponsored by Fremont Lake Improvement Association, City of Zimmerman, Livonia Township and Sherburne SWCD (using AIS Prevention Funds).
 - A Clean Water Fund grant was sought to implement carp management on Eagle Lake (710067). Project sponsored by Sherburne SWCD and the Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association. This grant application was not selected for funding in this competitive program, we will try again in a future year.

Photo(s) of AIS Activities



Photo 1: Large golden clam found in Mississippi River (Photo by: Sherburne SWCD)



Photo 2: SWCD technicians and DNR seasonal staff survey the Mississippi River on Otsego County Park for golden clams (Photo by: Sherburne SWCD)



Photo 3: Staff from Carp Solutions explain electroshocking techniques to elected officials during the SWCD Tour of Conservation Practices (Photo by: Sherburne SWCD)



Photo 4: A Carp Solutions crew member shows off a freshly caught common carp from Lake Fremont (Photo by: Sherburne SWCD)



Photo 5: Children enjoy learning about AIS through a performance by CLIMB Theater at the Youth Water Festival (Photo by: Sherburne SWCD)



Photo 6: A Starry Trek volunteer searches for AIS in Lake Orono (Photo by: Shelly Binsfeld)