



Isanti County Aquatic Invasive Species Report

2022



Isanti County and Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District have worked in partnership to complete actions that will prevent and mitigate the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and provide education and outreach to the public.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Every year the state of Minnesota provides counties with funding to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species through Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid. Isanti County Commissioners then approve an annual work plan and budget. In this report we will highlight the actions completed in 2022.

For questions contact:



Isanti County Zoning
763-689-5165
555 18th Avenue SW
Room Number 1101
Cambridge, MN 55008



Isanti Soil and Water
Conservation District
763-689-3271
110 Buchanan St N
Cambridge, MN 55008

Would you like to get involved in preventing the spread of AIS in Isanti County?
The Isanti SWCD is always looking for volunteers excited to learn about and advocate for AIS prevention. If you want to know ways you, or your group, can get involved please contact Lydia Godfrey with the Isanti SWCD at Lgodfrey@isantiswcd.org.





Watercraft Inspections

Isanti County contracts with Water Guards to provide watercraft inspectors to public accesses during peak use. Watercraft inspectors prevent new AIS infestations by catching species attached to watercraft before they enter or leave a lake.

- 7,866 watercraft inspected in Isanti County.
- 368 times invasive species were prevented from entering or leaving a local lake.
- All Level 1 staff was provided training.

AIS Early Detection

If an AIS infestation does occur, early management can slow the spread and prevent further ecological damage. Therefore, every year we inspect public lakes for new invasive species. *If you believe you have found a new AIS please report it online to EDDMaps and contact Isanti County Zoning.*

- 12 public lakes monitored for AIS with no new infestations found.



Contingency Fund Annual Contribution

Every year Isanti County allocates money towards a contingency funds to assist lake groups reacting to a new AIS infestation. No contingency funds were used in 2022.



Invasive Phragmites Coordinated Eradication

We partner with Anoka Conservation District to survey areas for invasive phragmites near priority waterbodies and offer early detection treatments as applicable. These surveys aim to protect downstream native plant diversity from this invasive weed.

- More than 26 stands of established invasive phragmites have been identified.



Mapping Services and Prevention Treatments

Cost-share is available for Lake Improvement Districts to do assessments, mapping, and treatments for AIS. A cost-share fund is being developed for other lakes which includes services such as early detection assessments, surveys for AIS through consultation, early detection treatments, and follow up assessments.

Spectacle Lake's CD3

A CD3 machine is installed at the Spectacle Lake Boat Access to help boaters effectively clean their watercraft. Due to the presence of zebra mussels in Spectacle Lake, it is important lake users thoroughly clean their boats after leaving the lake.

- The CD3's tools were used a total of 1,251 times over 674 sessions in 2022.
- An educational wrap was added to the CD3 machine this summer.



Education and Outreach

Public AIS education is an effective tool for preventing the spread of invasive species. Therefore, AIS outreach is a key strategy in Isanti County's AIS work plan.

Climb Theatre

Climb Theatre was contracted to offer interactive educational performances aimed at children about AIS. This year, we had CLIMB Theatre do multiple mini-performances at community events. Pictured are performances at Fall Fest at Anderson Park and the Princeton Lion's Ice Fishing Tournament.

- 4 performances throughout Isanti County.
- Total had 124 people attend.



Cambridge-Isanti Fishing Team Presentation

In the spring we presented to CIBluejacketanglers. The presentation was interactive and included a Jeopardy showdown to engage the students.



Social Media and Online Efforts

The internet provides a great tool to reach a wider audience than ever before. We utilized social media and online publications throughout the year to educate about AIS.

- 24 Social Media Posts.
- A New YouTube Video: [How to Identify Eurasian Watermilfoil.](#)
- 2 Stories in the Isanti SWCD's [Quarterly e-Newsletter.](#)
- Expanded AIS educational materials on Isanti SWCD's website.



5th Grade Conservation Day

On May 20th the Isanti SWCD hosted an AIS Prevention Station at the annual 5th Grade Conservation Day organized by Isanti County. Schools all across Isanti County participated. We were able to teach 115 5th Graders the steps they can take to prevent invasive species' spread and why it matters.

Outreach Targeted at Bait Distributors

Concentrating outreach to bait distributors allows us to reach those frequenting lakes. Furthermore, unused bait released into waterbodies can encourage the spread of invasive species and damage our waterbodies.

- Branded bait bags purchased and distributed to local bait shops.
- "Clean, Drain, Dry" education posters provided for local bait shops and popular gas stations.



INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH



Printed Materials

Traditional materials were created to assist in education and reach a varied audience.

- Two newspaper articles published during anticipated times of heavy lake use.
- Isanti County specific flyers created and distributed to local lake groups and key stakeholders.
- This annual report to provide transparency to the public.

AIS Booth at Fleet Farm Fishing Day

Fleet Farm hosts an annual kids fishing day. We were fortunate to have two volunteers there to handout materials and engage with kids and parents.



Initial Review of Response Plan with ICCOLA

A response plan with contingency funds exists to assist lake groups reacting to a new AIS infestation. This year, we reviewed the plan with the Isanti County Coalition of Lake Associations (ICCOLA). In the future, handouts and presentations will be given to educate lake groups about the response plan.

