

REDWOOD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

AIS PREVENTION PLAN

Aquatic Invasive Species prevention plan for
Redwood County

11/10/2016



**Redwood County
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan
Task Force Members**

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Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Redwood County

INTRODUCTION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species harm fish populations, water quality, and water recreation. This plan outlines the efforts that Redwood County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Redwood County and greater Minnesota. This plan will primarily focus on the Minnesota, Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers, with a secondary focus on the few lakes within the county. The Implementation of this plan and any amendments will be guided by the Redwood County AIS Task Force (Task Force). Members of the AIS Task Force will be appointed by the Redwood County Board of Commissioners.

Guidelines for Using the AIS Prevention Aid

In the 2014 Session Law Chapter 308, the State of Minnesota Legislature authorized a new annual funding stream, Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid (Minnesota Statute 477.A19). A county that receives a distribution under this section must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county. Statewide distribution was \$4.5 million in 2014 and will be \$10 million in 2015 and years after. The amount designated for each county is based half on the number of watercraft trailer launches and half on the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within each county. Redwood County was allocated \$9,418 in 2014, \$20,929 in 2015, \$20,846 for 2016, and \$19,966 for 2017. In subsequent years Redwood County will continue to receive similar amounts to the 2017 allotment.

MAIN CONCERNS

In Minnesota there are many aquatic invasive plants and animals. Well known AIS include: Zebra Mussels, Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, and Eurasian Watermilfoil.

ACTIONS

Actions that Redwood County plans to implement in order to prevent the spread of AIS. This action plan will be amended by the Task Force as necessary.

1. Assess the County's resources and risk of AIS introduction

Action		Rationale	Element in state plan
1.1	Understand the variety of pathways of introduction to local waters.	Knowing the common pathways by which AIS can be spread is essential to effective prevention.	Prevention – Understand Risks
1.2	Using MNDNR's list of water bodies that are designated as infested in the county, identify linkages to other water bodies. Work with GIS resources to complete this.	Some AIS may travel or be more easily transported between infested waters and other connected water bodies; knowing these linkages will help prioritize prevention resources.	Prevention – Understand Risks
1.3	Install traffic counters at all public accesses.	This action will help the county prioritize resources in the future by quantifying the use at different water bodies.	Prevention – Understand Risks

2. Increase County enforcement resources

Action		Rationale	Element in state plan
2.1	Ensure that the county's peace officers have been trained to enforce AIS laws.	This action will extend the capacity of local enforcement to ensure compliance with AIS laws.	Prevention – Enforcement

3. Increase public awareness and participation in prevention

Action		Rationale	Element in state plan
3.1	Train county field staff (e.g., zoning, septic system, land department, parks) on practices to avoid spreading invasive species.	County staff can take simple steps to prevent AIS spread or new introductions, and can also set an example for businesses and individuals in the county.	Prevention – Research and Technologies
3.2	Collaborate with other counties, watershed groups, and/or jurisdictions whose water bodies connect to the county's to develop a regional approach to AIS prevention.	Because AIS and the individuals who could transport them do not stay inside county borders, effective coordination is necessary to prevent AIS spread.	Prevention – Regional Approaches
3.3	Train county field staff (e.g., zoning, septic system, land department) on management practices that will maintain and/or create diverse, native landscapes that are resilient to	Making the environment more resistant to AIS can help prevent AIS infestation.	Prevention – Manage for Prevention

	invasive species.		
3.4	Work with the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign and obtain other educational materials to strengthen awareness of AIS issues in the county.	Consistent messaging such as that from the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers ads may help educate individuals about their role in AIS prevention.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness
3.5	Explore partnership opportunities with existing outreach efforts developed by the MNDNR and the Minnesota Sea Grant Program.	Leveraging existing communications materials ensures that the public receives accurate messages about rules and best practices related to AIS prevention.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness
3.6	Coordinate with the MNDNR to publicize new infestations at access sites, and other local publications.	Timely and accurate notice of new AIS infestations empowers the public to help prevent the further spread of AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment Public Awareness

4. Increase available resources and leverage partnerships

Action	Rationale	Element in state plan	
4.1	Seek additional funds to implement unfunded actions in county prevention plan.	The effectiveness of AIS prevention actions can be limited by inadequate financial resources.	Prevention – Funding
			Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Funding
			Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Funding
4.2	Develop and maintain contacts with other local organizations, businesses, and government entities.	The participation of local partners is necessary for a county’s AIS prevention plan to be effective.	Leadership and Coordination - Local

5. Broaden knowledge of and participation in early detection and rapid response activities

Action	Rationale	Element in state plan	
5.1	Obtain and distribute Watch ID cards from the Minnesota Sea Grant Program.	Finding new infestations of AIS early is key to preventing further spread, and ensuring that many people who use water resources know what AIS to look for	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection

		maximizes the chance of early detection.	
5.2	Encourage county staff, businesses, and individuals to submit samples of suspected AIS to the MNDNR.	The county can support early detection and prevention efforts by helping the MNDNR to quickly confirm new infestations of AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection
5.3	Augment communication and reporting mechanisms for citizen monitoring of lakes and rivers.	Ensuring that local discoveries of AIS are quickly communicated to the right people will maximize prevention efforts related to new infestations.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection

6. Manage existing populations of aquatic invasive species

Action	Rationale	Element in state plan
6.1	Where appropriate, use integrated pest management to control populations of high priority aquatic invasive plant species (e.g., Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, flowering rush, purple loosestrife).	Management of Invasive Species – Implement IPM Plans
6.2	Coordinate with the MNDNR for information on management of AIS, and adopt control plans utilizing safe and cost-effective techniques.	Management of Invasive Species - Coordination/ Communication
6.3	Contract with private vendors that possess the equipment, knowledge, and expertise to facilitate management of AIS in water bodies the county deems impaired or damaged by aquatic invasive species.	Management of Invasive Species - Implement IPM Plans

IMPLEMENTATION

Funds will be expended as needed to accomplish the actions listed below. Budget to be amended as the Task Force deems necessary.

Estimated breakdown of expenditures is:

Prevention/Education: 55%

Tracking/Detection: 30%

Enforcement: 10%

Management: 5%

UPDATING AND AMENDING THE PLAN

This plan will be reviewed annually by the Task Force and updated as needed.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Plan participants

A list of organizations partnering with Redwood County to implement the AIS prevention plan will be developed in the coming years.

Appendix B: County water resources

Characterization of Water Resources in Redwood County.

Number of lakes more than 10 acres in size	2
Number of lakes designated as infested with aquatic invasive species	0
Total number of public water accesses	7
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by the MNDNR	5
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by MnDOT	0
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by the county	1
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by a township	0
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by a city	1
Estimated number of non-public water accesses	??