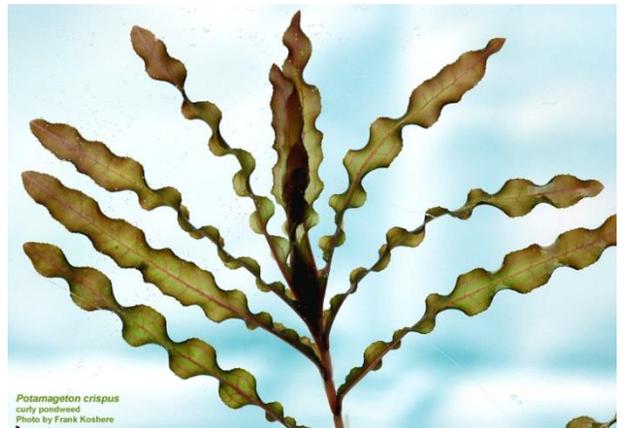




# Scott County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan 2021 – 2022



Photo source: U of M



*Potamogeton crispus*  
curly pondweed  
Photo by Frank Koshorek

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## AIS Plan Review Committee

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD)

Cedar Lake Improvement District (CLID)

O’Dowd Chain of Lakes Association

## **Introduction**

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species harm fish populations, water quality, and water recreation. They are defined in MN Statutes as a nonnative species that: (1) causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; or (2) threatens or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state.

This plan is made possible by the State of Minnesota taking steps to ensure our water resources will be enjoyed by future generations by committing to AIS prevention efforts. The 2014 Legislative Session enacted Law Chapter 308 to provide Minnesota Counties with Aquatic Invasive Species Aid. Under the program, counties are tasked with aiding in the prevention of aquatic invasive species through activities that “may include but are not limited to, site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the county finds necessary to achieve compliance.” The state administered \$4,500,000 for the year of 2014, and \$10,000,000 in 2015 and each year thereafter if statute remains unchanged. The amount designated to each county is based on the number of public water accesses as well as the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within the county.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework to facilitate county-wide coordination and cooperation on AIS, and this plan outlines the efforts that Scott County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Minnesota. We hope to accomplish a greater public awareness of AIS and prevent any new discoveries in Scott County’s waterbodies. There is a main strategy that the Scott WMO has in its watershed plan to manage AIS, they are: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), that involves management of curlyleaf pondweed and rough fish control through cost sharing with local organizations.

This plan is led by the Scott County Natural Resources office and partners on activities and projects listed in this plan with the following agencies and organizations: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District, Cedar Lake Improvement District, and O’Dowd Chain of Lakes Association.

## **Updating and Amending the Plan**

This plan will be reviewed annually by the plan development committee and updated as needed.

## Current Status of County Waters

As of October 15, 2020 the following waters in Scott County were listed as infested with AIS by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

<b>Waterbody Name</b>	<b>AIS listed for</b>	<b>Year Listed as Infested</b>	<b>DOW number</b>
Cate's	Eurasian watermilfoil	2007	70-0018
Cedar	Curlyleaf pondweed	1980	70-0090
Cleary	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0022
Cynthia	Curlyleaf pondweed	Unknown	70-0052
Fish	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0069
Lower Prior	Eurasian watermilfoil	1995	70-0026
Lower Prior	Zebra mussel	2009	70-0026
Lower Prior	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0026
McColl	Eurasian watermilfoil	2009	70-0017
McMahon	Eurasian watermilfoil	2007	70-0050
McMahon	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0050
Murphy	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0010
Murphy	Eurasian watermilfoil	2020	70-0010
O'Dowd	Eurasian watermilfoil	2002	70-0095
O'Dowd	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0095
Pike	Eurasian watermilfoil	2014	70-0076
Pike	Curlyleaf pondweed	Unknown	70-0076
Quarry	Eurasian watermilfoil	2016	70-0343
Spring	Curlyleaf pondweed	1982	70-0054
St. Catherine	Curlyleaf pondweed	Unknown	70-0029
Thole	Eurasian watermilfoil	2001	70-0120
Thole	Curlyleaf pondweed	1995*	70-0120
Unnamed wetland	Eurasian watermilfoil	2009	70-0153
Upper Prior	Eurasian watermilfoil	2000	70-0072
Upper Prior	Zebra mussel	2009	70-0072

\*Observation date found in EDDMaps Midwest website ([www.eddmaps.org/midwest](http://www.eddmaps.org/midwest))

Exact observation year unknown

Unknown: Exact observation year unknown

## **Plan Objective**

The purpose of this plan is to present the ongoing efforts that Scott County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Minnesota and Scott County and is not intended to be an exhaustive discussion of AIS strategies. AIS prevention is a relatively new field to water resource management and is continually changing and developing. Scott County will take an adaptive management approach that involves learning from experiences and outcomes and adjusting strategies as they become better understood. Due to uncertainties of long-term AIS funding, County Natural Resources and Water Management staff will review this plan on a yearly basis. At that time, amendments will be made and priorities identified.

## **Strategies**

The following describes the strategies Scott County and its partners will implement to meet the Objective of this Plan.

### **Partnerships**

Achieving prevention in the spread of aquatic invasive species to our water resources is a shared responsibility between state and local government and the public. We will consider partnering with various groups and organizations to meet our Plan objective.

- Collaborate with other counties, watershed organizations, lake associations and improvement districts, sportsman's groups, bait shops and marinas on implementing this Plan.
- Seek additional funds or funding from state or federal agencies to implement unfunded actions in the County Prevention Plan
- Facilitate the establishment of volunteers to create partners and build capacity in implementing the AIS Plan
- Cultivate partnerships with organizations interested in AIS prevention (e.g., lake associations, sportsman's groups) to support AIS surveys in water bodies (infested and non-infested) and on docks and lifts.
- Scott County staff will attend trainings and regional meetings with the state focused on achieving the state's objective of preventing the spread of AIS.

### **Education & Public Outreach**

Education and outreach will focus on engaging audiences and raising awareness about aquatic invasive species through newsletter articles, radio ads, brochures, and messaging close to the location where the action should take place.

- Develop tailored messages at high traffic public accesses aimed at boaters regarding the clean, drain, dry messaging with new MDNR AIS signage
- Work with the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers campaign to strengthen awareness of AIS issues in the county.
- Explore partnership opportunities with existing outreach efforts developed by the MDNR and the Minnesota Sea Grant Program.
- Develop educational materials targeted to buyers and sellers of aquatic plants and animals.

- Work with lake related businesses to educate and create awareness of stopping the spread of AIS
- Educate the public on emerging aquatic invasive species in our region

### **Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination**

The MDNR's goal to prevent the spread of invasive species within Minnesota is through boater education, watercraft inspections and watercraft decontaminations at various public water accesses. The MDNR dedicates ~50 inspector hours per year at Upper and Lower Prior Lake access & ~ 50 – 60 hours at several other lakes (see Inspection Program Allocation Hours table on page 10)

- Work with MDNR annually to announce times and locations of the MDNR decontamination station for lake users ([www.mn.dnr.gov/decon](http://www.mn.dnr.gov/decon))
- Apply for additional MDNR grant funding (if available) for extra inspector hours at Upper and Lower Prior lakes
- Allocate \$15,000 per year to the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District for watercraft inspections

### **Monitoring & Early Detection**

Finding new infestations of AIS early is key to preventing further spread and ensuring that many people who use our water resources know what AIS to look for. This will also ensure that local discoveries of AIS are quickly communicated and a rapid response is deployed.

- Continue the zebra mussel volunteer monitoring program
- Continue aquatic plant surveys on Cedar, McMahan, O'Dowd & Thole lakes for early detection
- Encourage county staff, businesses, and individuals to submit samples of suspected AIS to the MDNR
- Encourage volunteers to participate in the AIS Detector Training program offered by the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). This plan would allocate up to \$3,000 to pay the registration fee for

volunteers wanting to become an AIS Detector. (<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detector>)

- Write an early detection and rapid response program plan with the assistance of the MDNR.

### **Managing Existing Populations of AIS**

The AIS *Potamogeton crispus*, or curlyleaf pondweed, was first detected in Scott County lakes as early as 1980. The Scott Watershed Management Organization completed a Total Maximum Daily Load study and Implementation Plan on Cedar & McMahon Lakes in 2012 and have been implementing curlyleaf control on several lakes since 2012. Currently, the only lakes infested with zebra mussels in Scott County are Upper and Lower Prior Lakes. At this time, there is no cost-effective treatment for the management of zebra mussels except preventing their spread to other lakes.

- Coordinate with the MDNR for information on management of AIS, and adopt control plans utilizing safe and cost-effective techniques.
- Allocate up to \$12,000 to the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District and Scott WMO for curlyleaf pondweed control

### **Rapid Response**

This strategy ensures that new infestations are properly communicated and a rapid response is deployed to maximize prevention efforts.

- Coordinate with the MDNR to publicize new infestations at access sites, in lake association newsletters, and other local publications.
- Allocate \$50,000 in reserve of AIS prevention funds in case of a new AIS detection such as zebra mussels, starry stonewort, spiny water flea, etc.

### **Enforcement**

This action will extend the knowledge of local law enforcement to ensure compliance with Aquatic Invasive Species laws.

- Ensure the county's & cities peace officers, including water safety patrol staff have been trained to enforce AIS laws on roadways

## Plan Participants

Organization	Contact(s)	Role(s)
State government (e.g., MDNR, MDA, MPCA, BWSR, University of Minnesota Extension)	MDNR Trails- Rachel Hintzman MDNR - Keegan Lund	Training of law enforcement, Implementation support, Response to infestation reports
Tribes	Scott Walz- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	Education
Scott County Sherriff – Water Patrol	Jeff Swedin	Enforcement/Education
Neighboring counties/SWCDs	Le Sueur SWCD, Rice SWCD, Dakota SWCD	Education
Townships	Helena Twsp; Cedar Lake Twsp; Spring Lake Twsp; Sand Creek Twsp; Louisville Twsp	Education, Report new infestations
Cities	Shakopee Parks & Recreation Dept.; Prior Lake – Pete Young	Education, report new infestations
Lake Associations	Cedar Lake Improvement District; O'Dowd Lake Chain Association; Prior Lake Association; Spring Lake Association	Education, report new infestations
Sportsman Clubs	New Prague Sportsman Club; New Market Sportsman Club	Education, report new infestations
Lake service providers	Knotty Oar Marina	Education, report new infestations, possible decontamination opportunity
Environmental learning centers	Savage Environmental Learning Center – Jon Allen	Education

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b>Role(s)</b>
Realtors		Education
Property owners		Education
Other organizations as appropriate	Citizen Engagement Committee (Prior Lake)	Education

**MDNR Statewide Inspection Program Allocation in Hours  
(By DNR staff 2019)**

<b>Access name</b>	<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>AIS Species</b>	<b>MDNR Inspection Hours</b>
Cedar – East	Cedar	CLP	35
Spring	Spring	CLP	13.75
Lower Prior/Sand Pt	Lower Prior	Zebra Mussels, EWM	642
Upper Prior Lake	Upper Prior	Zebra Mussels, EWM	569
McMahon	McMahon	EWM	0
O’Dowd	O’Dowd	CLP, EWM	31

## Characterization of Lakes in Scott County

Number of lakes more than 10 acres in size	<b>126</b>
Number of lakes designated as infested with aquatic invasive species	<b>9</b>
Total number of public water accesses	<b>18</b>
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by the MDNR	<b>11</b>
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by MDOT	<b>0</b>
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by the county	<b>2</b>
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by a township	<b>0</b>
Number of public water accesses owned or operated by a city	<b>6</b>

## Acronyms

AIS:	Aquatic Invasive Species
CLP:	Curlyleaf pondweed
BWSR:	Board of Water & Soil Resources
EWM:	Eurasian watermilfoil
MDA:	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDNR:	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MPCA:	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MDOT:	Minnesota Department of Transportation
SWCD:	Soil & Water Conservation District

## Budget

Scott County has been receiving the AIS Prevention funds from the Minnesota Legislature since 2014. Each year we have not spent the entire allocation due to the anticipation of more guidance on Community Based Social Marketing strategies for prevention. The MDNR completed a study on public behaviors towards AIS which we will use moving forward and may increase our budget in some years to start to use some of the surplus held in the AIS general fund account as we discover new strategies to change the public's behavior on the spread of AIS.

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Partnerships/Coordination	\$3,000	\$3,000
Education & Public Outreach	\$2,500	\$2,500
Watercraft Inspections	\$45,000	\$45,000
Monitoring & Early Detection -Aquatic plant surveys -AIS Detector Program -Zebra mussel monitoring	\$7,800	\$7,800
Managing Existing Populations of AIS -Curlyleaf Pondweed treatments	\$24,000*	\$24,000*
Rapid Response	\$50,000**	\$50,000**
Enforcement -Sherriff's Dept training on AIS laws	\$100	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$82,400</b>	<b>\$82,400</b>
Fund Balance	\$175,400****	\$175,400****

\*\$12,000 for PLSLWD & Scott WMO for curlyleaf treatment. PLSLWD has not used all \$12,000 in any year.

\*\*\$50,000 in Rapid Response funds is held in the AIS Prevention General Fund account until needed and carries over in the budget annually

\*\*\*\*Balance includes \$50,000 dedicated to Rapid Response