

2024

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Morrison County

INTRODUCTION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species have the potential to harm fish populations, native aquatic plant communities, water quality, and water recreation. This plan outlines the efforts that Morrison County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Minnesota.

AIS are an emerging issue within Morrison County. Few waters within the County are infested with invasive species at this time (see Appendix A) so the County has an opportunity to implement some prevention strategies to protect the waters within Morrison County. The Comprehensive Water Plan identifies efforts lake associations and lake improvement districts have made to treat invasive species and the importance of that work and highlights the common objective to protect and manage surface water resources including providing for a coordinated effort in fighting AIS.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan was first developed and adopted in 2014 as funds were made available to the County through the Aquatic Species Prevention Aid. The first steps into AIS prevention included ground level education of likely users of Morrison County's water resources as well as a bolstering of the ongoing efforts many lake associations/improvement districts have already undertaken, DNR inspections within Morrison County, and the services provided by permitted Lake Service Providers. In the following years, efforts remained focused on educating lakeshore owners and those who recreate on our waters as well as the youth of our community. In 2016, Morrison County created an AIS Partnership Grant available to lake associations and lake improvement districts to help further their efforts in battling AIS. This grant was made available in 2017-23. This year we hope to continue education efforts, make grant money available, and develop additional strategies to create desired AIS prevention behaviors in those people that enjoy the waters within Morrison County.

ACTIONS

Table 1. Actions that Morrison County plans to implement in order to prevent the spread of AIS include many elements contained within the state plan. In the following table, where applicable, related actions and elements from the state plan are cross-referenced.

Action	How action supports AIS prevention	Element in state plan	Action in state plan
<i>Assess the county's resources and risk of AIS introduction</i>			
Educate County staff to 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 and education.	Prevention – Understand Risks	I-1-c

Action	How action supports AIS prevention	Element in state plan	Action in state plan
Using MNDNR's list of water bodies that are designated as infested in the county, identify linkages to other water bodies.	Some AIS may travel or be more easily transported between infested waters and other connected water bodies; knowing these linkages will help prioritize prevention and education resources.	Prevention – Understand Risks	I-1-c
<i>Increase public awareness and participation in prevention</i>			
Develop informal education materials for events such as the water festival to support youth education about AIS.	Young people can help prevent the spread of AIS through their own actions and by modeling their knowledge and actions to their families.	Prevention – Public Awareness	I-8-g
Develop and distribute AIS prevention messages targeting riparian landowners who launch watercraft from their own private residential access	Many watercraft enter lakes and rivers from private residential property and are not reached by education and prevention efforts directed at public accesses and cooperating private non-residential accesses	Prevention – Public Awareness	I-8-a & e
Collaborate with other counties, watershed groups, and/or jurisdictions whose water bodies connect to the county's to develop a regional education campaign.	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	I-9-a
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	II-8-d
Develop tailored messages aimed at lake-related businesses (e.g., home builders, developers, resorts) regarding AIS prevention.	Ensuring that individuals are aware of AIS prevention measures that they can take in the course of their daily work will help to reduce the risk of AIS spread.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Public Awareness	II-8-f

Action	How action supports AIS prevention	Element in state plan	Action in state plan
Coordinate with the MNDNR to publicize new infestations at access sites, in lake association newsletters, 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 II-8-i	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Risk Reduction II-15-c
Assist with funding local outreach and monitoring efforts by entities other than the county.	Overall AIS prevention efforts can be strengthened by supporting the capacity of other local organizations to conduct AIS outreach and monitoring activities.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection II-1-h	
<i>Increase available resources and leverage partnerships</i>			
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	IV-3-a
Establish a grant program to support local efforts to prevent the spread of AIS.	By leveraging existing capacity of other local organizations, the county can maximize the effectiveness of its AIS prevention funds.	Leadership and Coordination - Local	IV-3-c
<i>Broaden knowledge of and participation in early detection and rapid response activities</i>			
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 maximizes the chance of early detection.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Detection	II-1-b

Action	How action supports AIS prevention	Element in state plan	Action in state plan
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	II-1-d
Cultivate partnerships with organizations interested in AIS prevention (e.g., lake associations) to support AIS surveys in water bodies (infested and non-infested) and on docks and lifts.	Leveraging the resources of existing organizations will help to find new AIS infestations more efficiently and to prevent further spread of those AIS.	Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment – Prioritize	II-3-b
<i>Management of Invasive Species</i>			
Reduce the negative impacts of AIS by managing their populations through risk assessment, prioritization, implementing management strategies, evaluating success, and restoring native species where applicable.	Invasive species can cause economic and environmental harm and negatively impact the way we are able to utilize our natural resources. Managing AIS in waterbodies that are experiencing impacts will improve our resources.	Management of Invasive Species	III-1, 2, 6, 8

IMPLEMENTATION

Morrison County began AIS work in 2015 and shall continue as funding and partnerships become available. The Morrison County Land Services Department shall be responsible for the implementation of these activities related to AIS prevention. The Land Services Department shall partner with outside agencies and stakeholders as deemed appropriate to further its' AIS work.

UPDATING AND AMENDING THE PLAN

This plan will be reviewed annually by the Land Services Department and updated as needed.

Annual Review and Adoption:

2015 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 16, 2014
 2016 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 1, 2015
 2017 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 8, 2016
 2018 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 12, 2017
 2019 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 11, 2018
 2021 AIS Prevention Plan – no change from 2020 plan
 2022 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 21, 2021
 2023 AIS Prevention Plan adopted on December 20, 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Morrison County Water Bodies infested with AIS

Appendix B: Riparian Property Ownership in Morrison County

Appendix C: Morrison County Public Access Map

Appendix D: List of Permitted Lake Service Providers in Morrison County

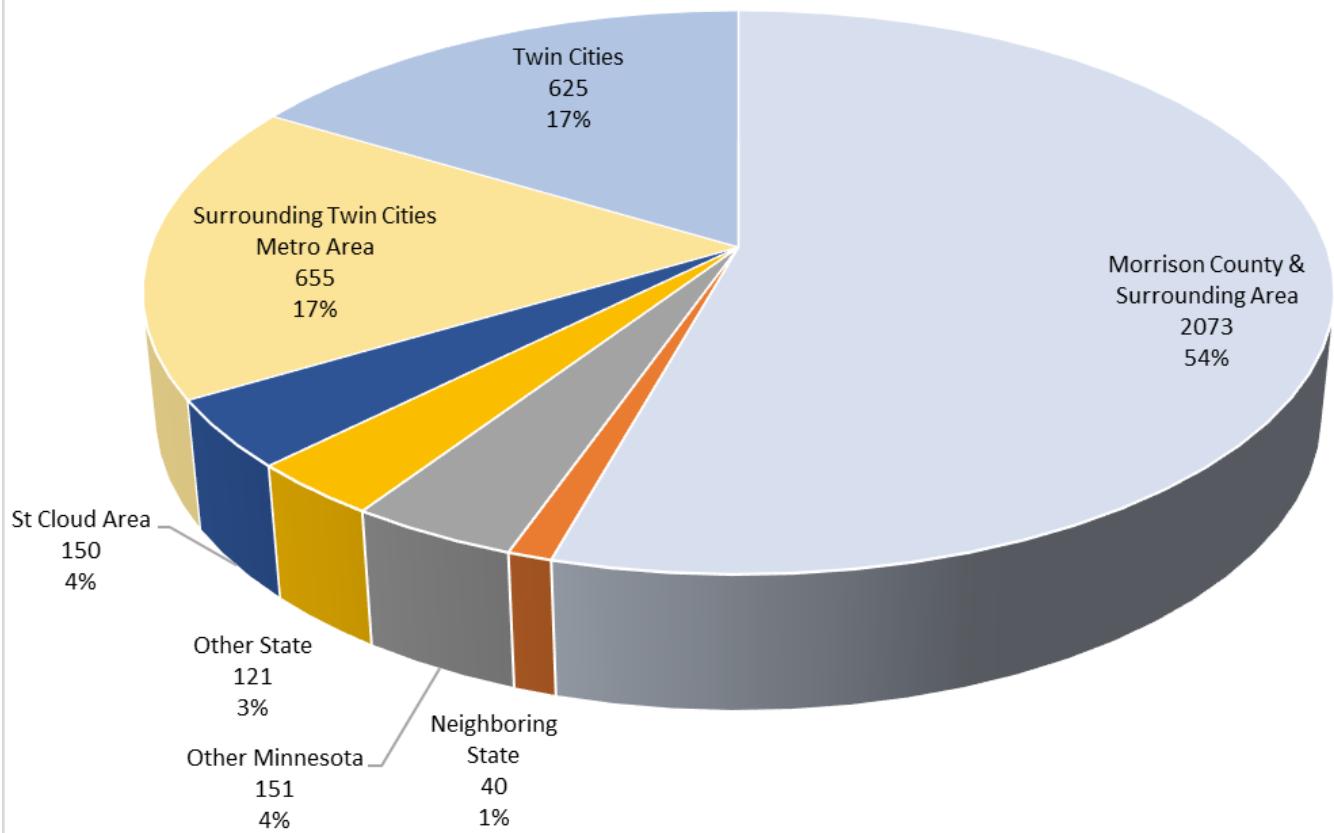
Appendix E: DNR 2022 Planned Inspection Hours at Morrison County Accesses

Appendix A: MN DNR List of Infested Waters in Morrison County

Water body	Species	DOW Number
Alexander	Eurasian watermilfoil Zebra Mussel	49-0079
Shamineau	Eurasian watermilfoil	49-0127
Fish Trap	Zebra Mussel	49-0137
Crookneck	Zebra Mussel Eurasian watermilfoil	49-0133
Fish Trap Creek from Fish Trap Lake to the Long Prairie River	Zebra Mussel	NA
Crow Wing River Downstream of the confluence of with the Long Prairie River to the Mississippi River	Zebra Mussel	NA
Crow Wing River from Highway 87 in Hubbard County downstream to the confluence with the Mississippi River, including 500 feet upstream into its tributaries	Faucet Snail	NA
Mississippi River from 500 feet upstream of the mouth of the Pine River in Crow Wing County to upper St. Anthony Falls, including 500 feet upstream into its tributaries	Zebra mussel	NA
Long Prairie River including 500 feet upstream into its tributaries	Zebra Mussel	NA

Appendix B: Riparian Ownership within Morrison County (Source: Morrison County Land Services.
Updated 12/14/2021)

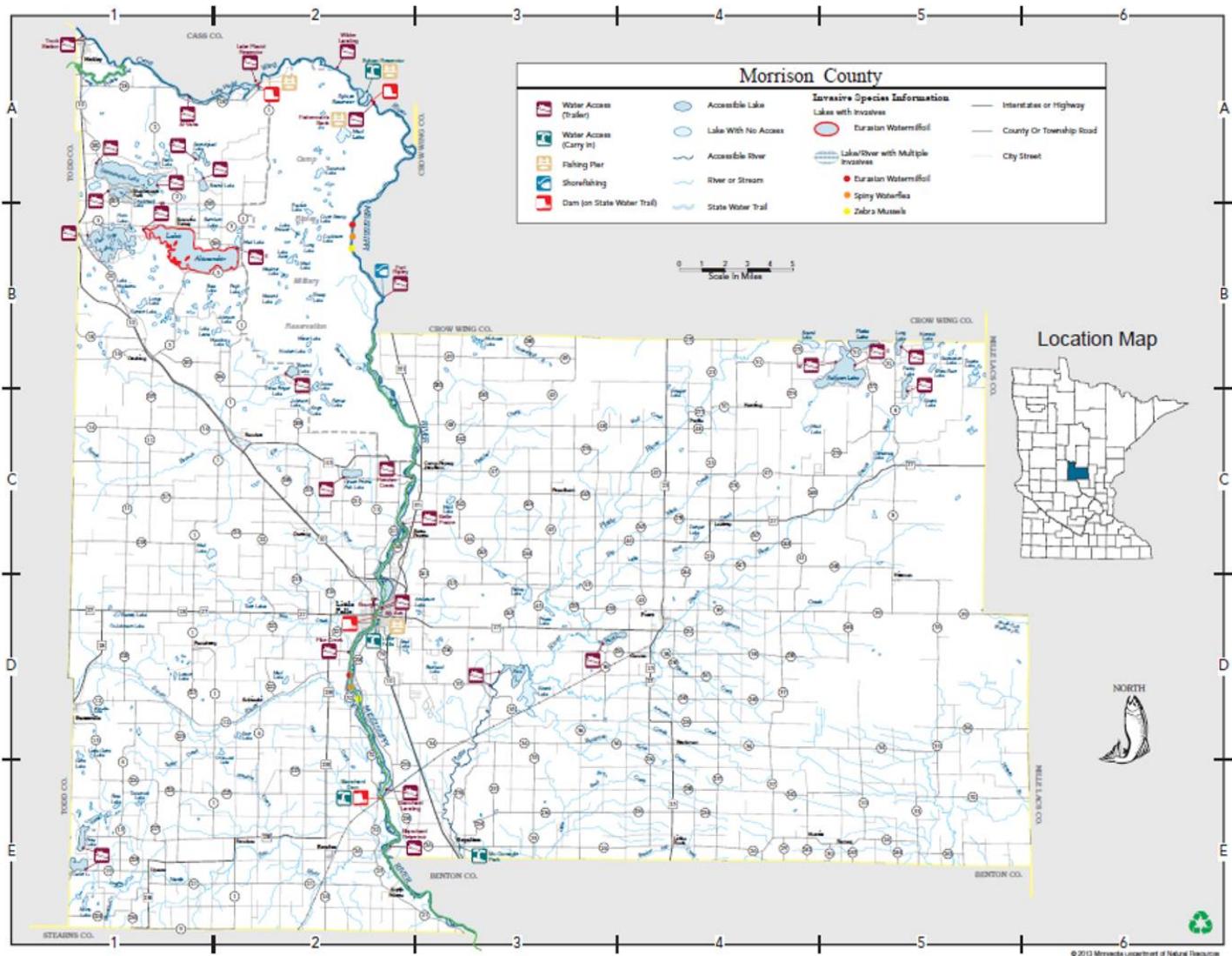
Breakdown of Riparian Property Owners in Morrison County
12/14/2021



This chart represents properties that are next to protected lakes in Morrison County, as well as the Mississippi River and Crow Wing River.

In the breakdown, Morrison County and surrounding area are zip codes that begin with 563xx and 564xx. Twin Cities are zip codes that begin with 551xx and 554xx. Surrounding Twin Cities Metro are 550xx and 553xx. St Cloud are parcels with St Cloud, St Augusta, Waite Park, Sartell and Sauk Rapids listed as mailing address city. NOTE** this is not a 100% correct way to categorize but should provide reasonably accurate information.

Appendix C: Morrison County Public Access Map and Access Administrators



Source: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/water_access/counties/morrison.pdf

Appendix C: continued

Public Water Accesses in Morrison County

Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator	Water Body Name	Map Grid Location	Ramp Type	Fish Species	Administrator	
Alexander Lake (West)	B1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,SB,W	DNR	CROW WING RIVER	Peavy Lake	C5	concrete	LB,N,S,W	DNR
Alexander Lake (East)	B2	concrete	C,LB,N,S,SB,W	DNR		Pierz Lake	D3	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Cedar Lake	E1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR		Pine Lake	E1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Crook Neck Lake	A1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR		Rice Lake	D3	earth	N/A	DNR
Truck Station	A1	concrete	Various	DNR		Platte River	D3	earth	Various	DNR
Al-Vah's	A1	concrete	Various	DNR		Platte River (McGonagle Park)	E3	carry in	Various	City
Lake Placid Reservoir	A2	concrete	Various	DNR		Round Lake	A1	gravel	Various	DNR
Lake Placid Reservoir	A2	fishing pier	Various	DNR		Round Lake	B2	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Wilder's Landing	A2	concrete	Various	DNR		Shamineau Lake	A1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Sylvan Reservoir	A2	carry in	Various	DNR		Shamineau Lake	A1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	Township
Fisherman's Bank	A2	concrete	Various	DNR		Stanchfield Lake	A1	earth	N,W	DNR
Green Prairie Fish Lake	C2	concrete	C,N,S	DNR		Sullivan Lake (E)	B5	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR
Fish Trap Lake	B1	concrete	C,LB,N,S,W	DNR		Sullivan Lake (W)	B5	gravel	C,LB,N,S,W	Township
Long Lake	B5	earth	C,N,S,W	Township						
Fort Ripley Landing	B2	concrete	Various	DNR						
Fletcher Creek Landing	C2	concrete	Various	DNR						
Belle Prairie	C2	concrete	Various	County						
Lt. Falls, 4th Av Landing	D2	concrete	Various	City						
Lt. Falls - LeBourget Park	D2	concrete	Various	City						
Little Falls	D2	fishing pier	Various	City						
Lt. Falls below Dam	D2	earth	Various	City						
Pike Creek	D2	concrete	Various	County						
Blanchard Dam	E2	concrete	Various	MPL						
Blanchard Reservoir	E2	concrete	Various	MPL						
Blanchard Landing	E2	concrete	Various	MPL						

Administrator: DNR - MN Dept. of Natural Resources
MPL - Minnesota Power and Light

Fish Species: C — Crappie, LB — Largemouth Bass, N — Northern Pike, S — Sunfish, SB — Smallmouth Bass, W — Walleye, N / A — Not Available



Source: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/water_access/counties/morrison.pdf

Appendix D: Permitted Lake Service Providers in Morrison County (Source: MN DNR 12/15/2021)

City	Business Name	Personnel	Phone
CUSHING	KS DOCK AND LIFT/ ACTION DOCK	KYLE KALIS	218-575-2422
CUSHING	STAPLES SPORTS LINCOLN	GREG HANSON	218-575-2086
CUSHING	SWEETWATER RESORT	CINDY BREY	218-575-2744
HILLMAN	B&B SHORE SERVICE	T.J. BLOCK	320-630-5059
LITTLE FALLS	BOATER'S DREAM LLC	BRANDON MARCYES	320-632-8152
LITTLE FALLS	SHIRLEY MAE'S OUTFITTERS LLC	JOHN CARPENTER	320-414-0382
MOTLEY	LI'L JOE'S DOCK SERVICE	RICHARD SHORTEN	320-412-6514
MOTLEY	SHAMINEAU ACRES RESORT	LYNDEN CARTER	218-575-2254
PIERZ	AJ'S DOCK SERVICE	ANDY JANSON	320-630-0654
PIERZ	KOLTON'S DOCK/LIFT SERVICES	KOLTON EISCHENS	320-237-2890
PIERZ	TED STAMMS REPAIR LLC	THEODOR STAMM	320-630-9097

Appendix E: 2022 MN DNR statewide inspection program allocation. (Source: MN DNR – watercraft inspection season goals reflect those goals outlined in the *2015 watercraft inspection Plan for allocation of Level 1 Hours.*)

Access Name	Water body	Infested?	Species	MNDNR Hours
Fish Trap Lake	Fish Trap Lake	Yes	EWM, ZM, INVASIVE CARP	38.5
Alexander East	Alexander	Yes	EWM, ZM, INVASIVE CARP	38.5
Alexander West	Alexander	Yes	EWM, ZM, INVASIVE CARP	38.5
Shamineau West	Shamineau	Yes	ZM	38.5

Adopted December 29, 2023



Jeffery J. Jelinski
Board Chair
Morrison County Board of Commissioners



Matt LeBlanc
County Administrator