











Le Sueur County's AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2020

Program Summary

Le Sueur County's Aquatic Invasive Species program was unique in 2020. Typical efforts and events were either amended, altered, and/or eliminated due to the pandemic. Education and outreach efforts were impacted the most, but the County was able to provide a few virtual opportunities as well as increase efforts in communication through different media outlets. The County is fortunate to have strong partnerships with local government units, organizations, and businesses to assist with AIS prevention efforts. Funds spent in 2020 were used for watercraft inspections, education, outreach, printing, publishing, advertising, administration, trainings/mileage, and AIS control efforts.

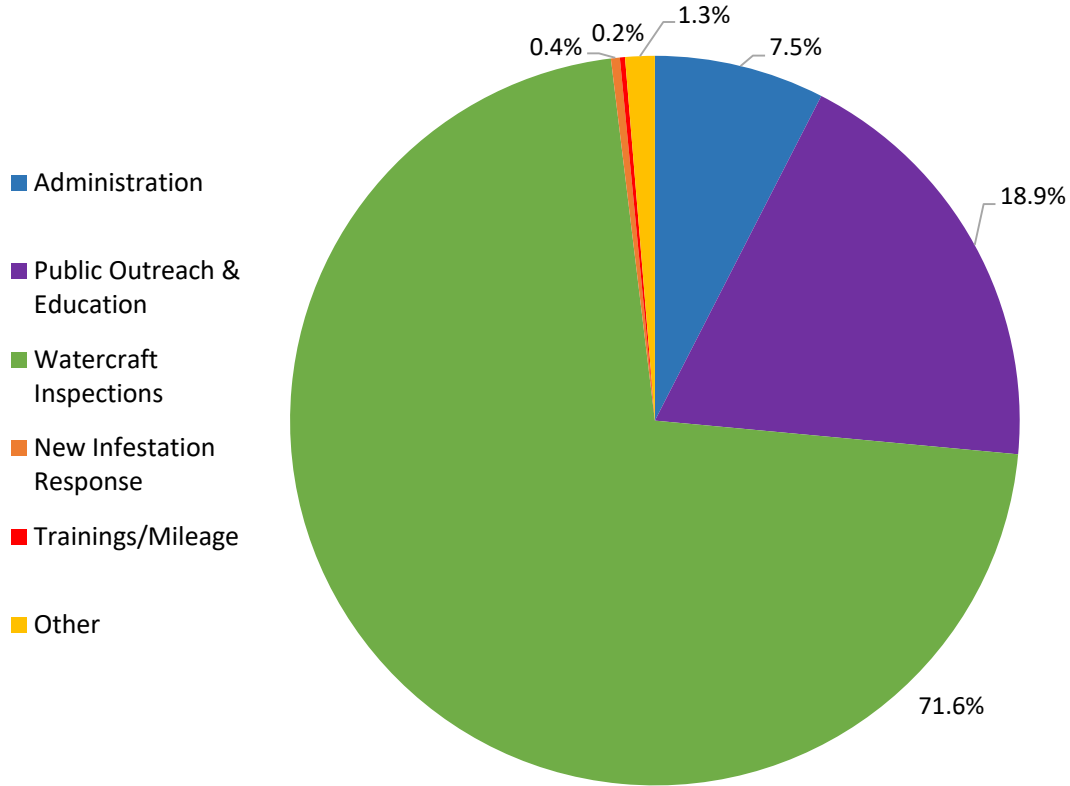
Category	Metrics
 AIS Prevention Aid Used	<p>\$ <u>127,049.97</u> AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2020 \$ <u>74,500</u> saved in a contingency fund</p>
 People Doing AIS Work	<p><u>2</u> full-time staff with 10-25 % of their time dedicated to AIS work <u>26</u> Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors \$ <u>9,577.89</u> of aid used in 2020 for staff wages \$ <u>286.88</u> spent on staff training/mileage</p>
 Partnerships	<p>Organizations engaged and/or actively conducting aid-funded AIS work: <u>4</u> lake associations <u>4</u> public schools <u>3</u> businesses (Climb Theatre, Kare 11, Wildlife Forever, WaterGuards LLC) <u>5</u> local governments (Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department, City of Waterville, Le Sueur County Parks Dept., Becker SWCD, Le Sueur SWCD) Our county has an AIS Task Force or Committee: Yes</p>
 Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged	<p><u>6</u> organizations awarded funds (3 lake associations, Becker SWCD, Climb Theatre, Wildlife Forever) \$ <u>2,085.73</u> in funds contributed by other organizations to directly support aid-funded work (<i>Waterville Lakes Association contribution towards watercraft inspections</i>) <u>1</u> organizations contributing additional funds \$ <u>1,660.50</u> in funds for AIS control project-outlet structure with fish barrier for CD 58 and outlet for Lake Henry</p>
 Communities Engaged	<p>\$ <u>22,554.98</u> spent on Printing, Publishing, & Advertising \$ <u>1,500</u> spent on Education & Outreach <u>8</u> paid advertisements (TV, radio) <u>4</u> virtual school classes about AIS <u>1</u> virtual Kids Fishing Day <u>150</u> children taught about AIS</p>
 Watercraft Inspected	<p>\$<u>90,969.72</u> of aid spent on watercraft inspections (Sherriff's Department, City of Waterville, and WaterGuards LLC) <u>10,895</u> inspections performed <u>3,783.75</u> hours of inspections performed <u>15</u> accesses covered by inspectors <u>13</u> water bodies covered by inspectors</p>

Category	Metrics
 Law Enforcement Supported	<u>8</u> local law enforcement officers trained in 2020 on AIS laws <u>8</u> local law enforcement officers conducting AIS work
 Monitoring Conducted	<u>2</u> total lakes and rivers surveyed for AIS. Surveys included: Curly leaf pond weed and Eurasian watermilfoil <u>2</u> aquatic plant surveys conducted on <u>2</u> water bodies <u>1</u> volunteers trained and/or active as AIS Detectors
 New Infestation Response Planning	<u>1</u> new infestation response(s) coordinated Our county has a new infestation response plan: Yes \$ 500 of aid spent on New Infestation Response Treatment-Chemical
 Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM)	<u>6</u> water bodies with aid-funded IAPM activities <u>3</u> groups involved or conducting aid-funded IAPM work \$ 29,912 in other organization funds used for IAPM work <i>(IAPM grant awarded to Waterville Lake Association and match funds for the grant from the Waterville Lake Association provided for chemical treatment, funds provided by the Greater Jefferson German Lake Association members for chemical treatment, funds provided by Lake Francis Association for chemical & mechanical treatment)</i>

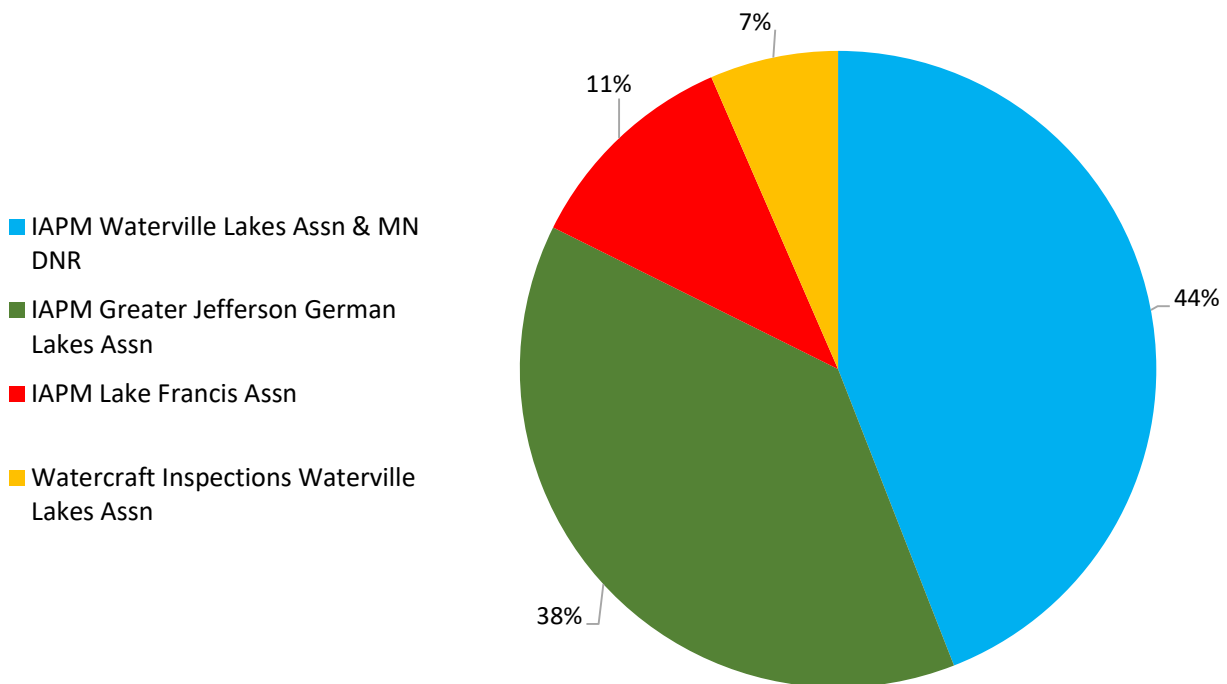
Program Spending Summary

Budget Category	AIS Prevention Aid Spent in 2020	Description
Administration	\$9,577.89	
Public Outreach and Education	\$24,054.98	Expenses included TV and radio advertisements, virtual classes through Climb Theatre, virtual kids fishing day, promotional items for events such as aquaweed sticks, bait bags, stickers, bobbers, can cozies, hats, key chains, and drawstring backpacks.
Watercraft Inspections	\$90,969.70	WaterGuards LLC, City of Waterville, and Sheriff's Department
New Infestation Response	\$500	New infestation of EWM on Upper Sakatah Lake-small infestation, used 2,4-D to treat
Trainings/Mileage	\$286.88	
Other	\$1,660.50	CD 58-Lake Henry Structure-outlet with fish barrier
Budget Category	Other Funds Leveraged	Description
Invasive Aquatic Plant Management	\$14,100	Waterville Lakes Association & MN DNR -Treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed. Treatment method included chemical. Award IPAM grant & also provided match.
Invasive Aquatic Plant Management	\$12,248	Greater Jefferson German Lake Association Members-Treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Watermilfoil. Treatment method included chemical.
Invasive Aquatic Plant Management	\$3,564	Lake Francis Association -Treatment Eurasian Watermilfoil. Treatment methods include mechanical (hand pulling) and chemical.
Watercraft Inspections	\$ 2,085.73	Waterville Lakes Association-contribution towards watercraft inspections for Upper Sakatah Lake and Lake Tetonka.

2020 AIS Prevention Aid Budget

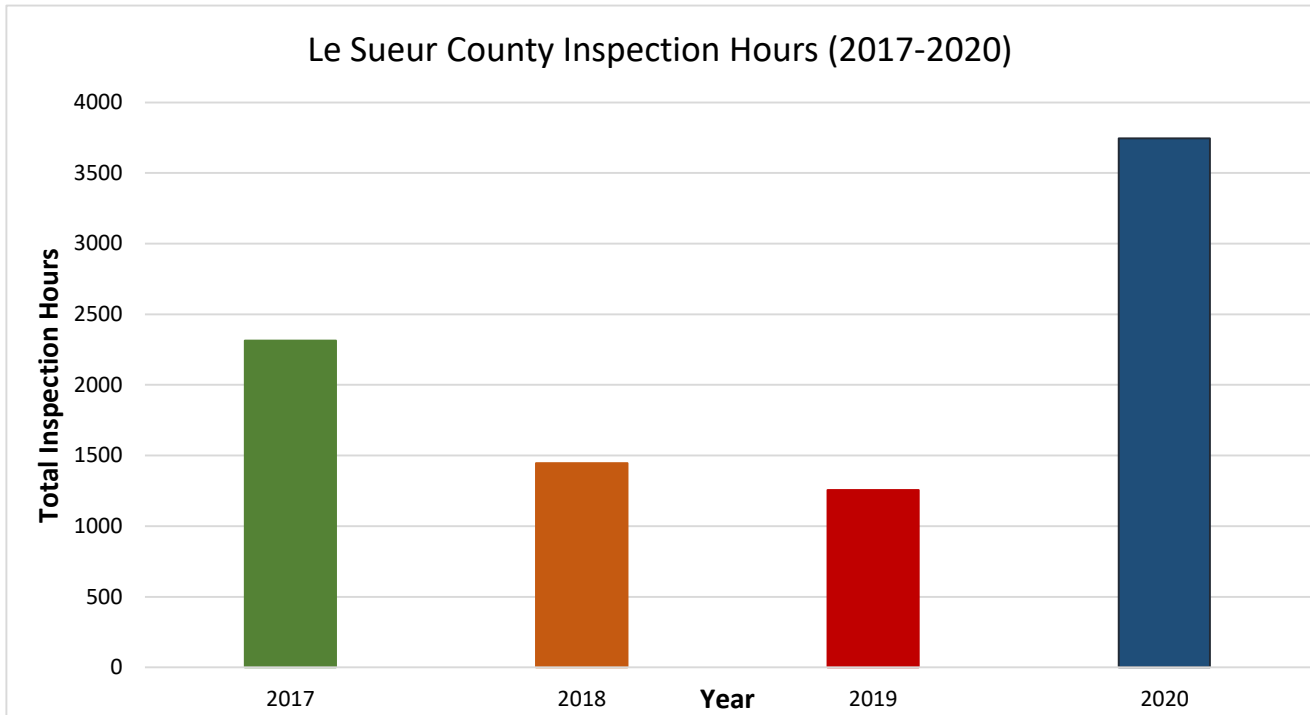


Other Funds Leveraged for AIS Activities



Success Stories

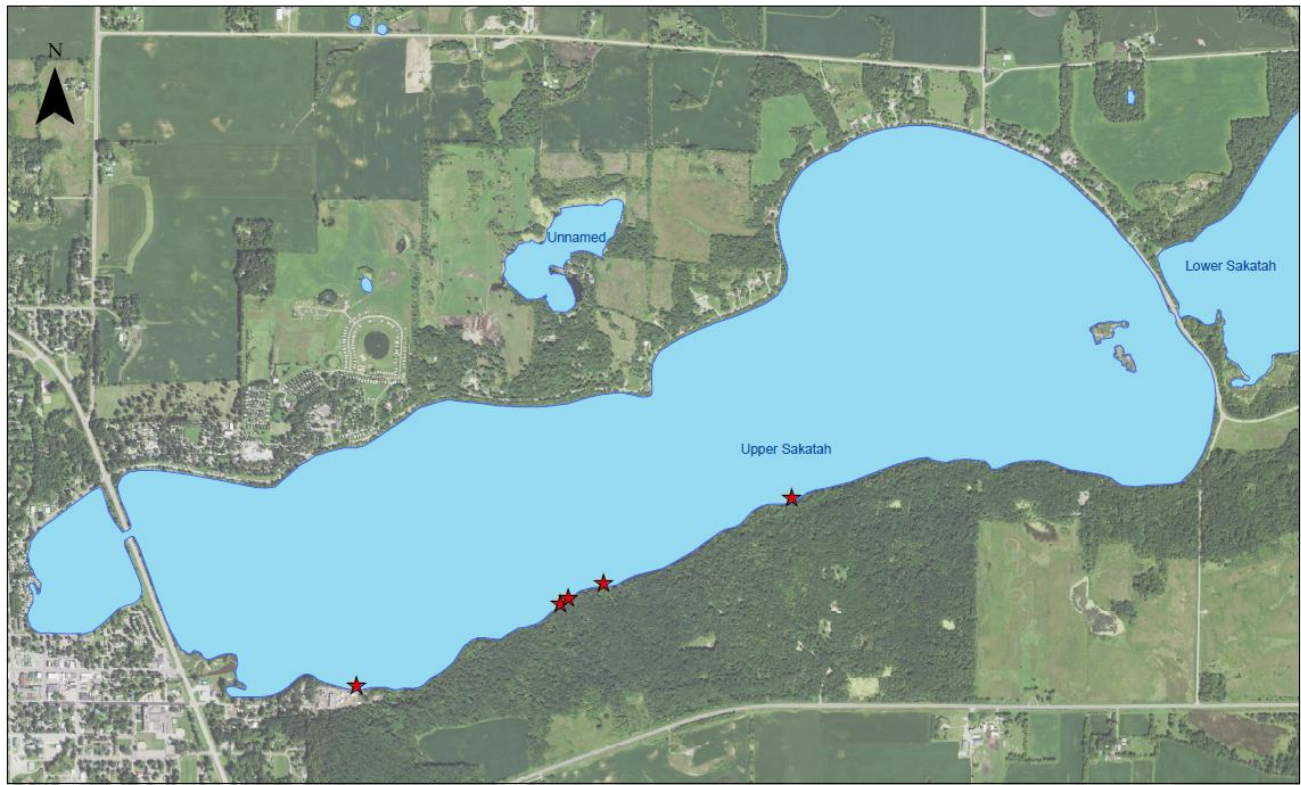
Le Sueur County increased their watercraft inspection program significantly this year. Compared to the previous 3 years, 2020 had 38.2% more inspection hours than 2017, 61.4% more inspection hours than 2018, and 66.5% more inspection hours than 2019. Also in 2020, Le Sueur County added inspectors at 7 additional accesses compared to previous years. The increase in inspection hours came at a time when boater activity also increased due to the pandemic.



A new infestation of Eurasian Watermilfoil was found on Upper Sakatah Lake this late summer. The infestation was small and sparse. Plants were present in relatively shallow water along the southern shoreline. Le Sueur County, Minnesota DNR, and the Waterville Lakes Association worked together to come up with plan to address the new infestation. Neighboring Counties and Soil & Water Conservation Districts, lake associations, and watercraft inspectors were notified immediately from Le Sueur County. Additionally, an article was posted in the local newspaper. Notification, permitting, and treatment were completed within a 4-week timeframe. The communication efforts as well as responses from all organizations involved made the response to the new infestation quick and effective. There will be follow up surveys from the Minnesota DNR next year to see if the chemical treatment was successful.

Reports and Products

Upper Sakatah, Le Sueur Co. New Eurasian Watermilfoil Infestation August 2020



Legend

★ Eurasian watermilfoil

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

Map created by Carli Wagner
9/1/2020

Survey of New Eurasian Watermilfoil Infestation on Upper Sakatah Lake created by Minnesota DNR, AIS Specialist, Carli Wagner.