

# Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program - 2024

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Carver County Water Management  
Org. Citizen Advisory Committee

Nov. 28, 2023



# Agenda

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- What are AIS?
- Importance of AIS  
Prevention
- AIS Program History
  - 2024 AIS Plan



# Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic organisms that INVADE ecosystems beyond their natural, historic range.

Not all non-native species are invasive to a particular eco-region.

Different role than NATIVE species which are established over long periods of time.

# Why so Invasive?

ADAPTABLE, COMPETITIVE,  
ECOLOGICALLY DISRUPTIVE

- Fast growth
- Rapid Reproduction
- High dispersal
- Lack of predators
- Ability to adapt to environmental changes - **Generalists**
- **Displace native species** by utilizing limited resources more





# Impacts

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- Biodiversity
  - *Second major contributor to biodiversity loss*
  - *Reduce plant, fish, and animal populations*
  - *Degrade ecosystems*
- Economic
  - *Reduce property values*
  - *Damage boats & equipment*
- Human Health
  - *Toxin production*
  - *Parasites*



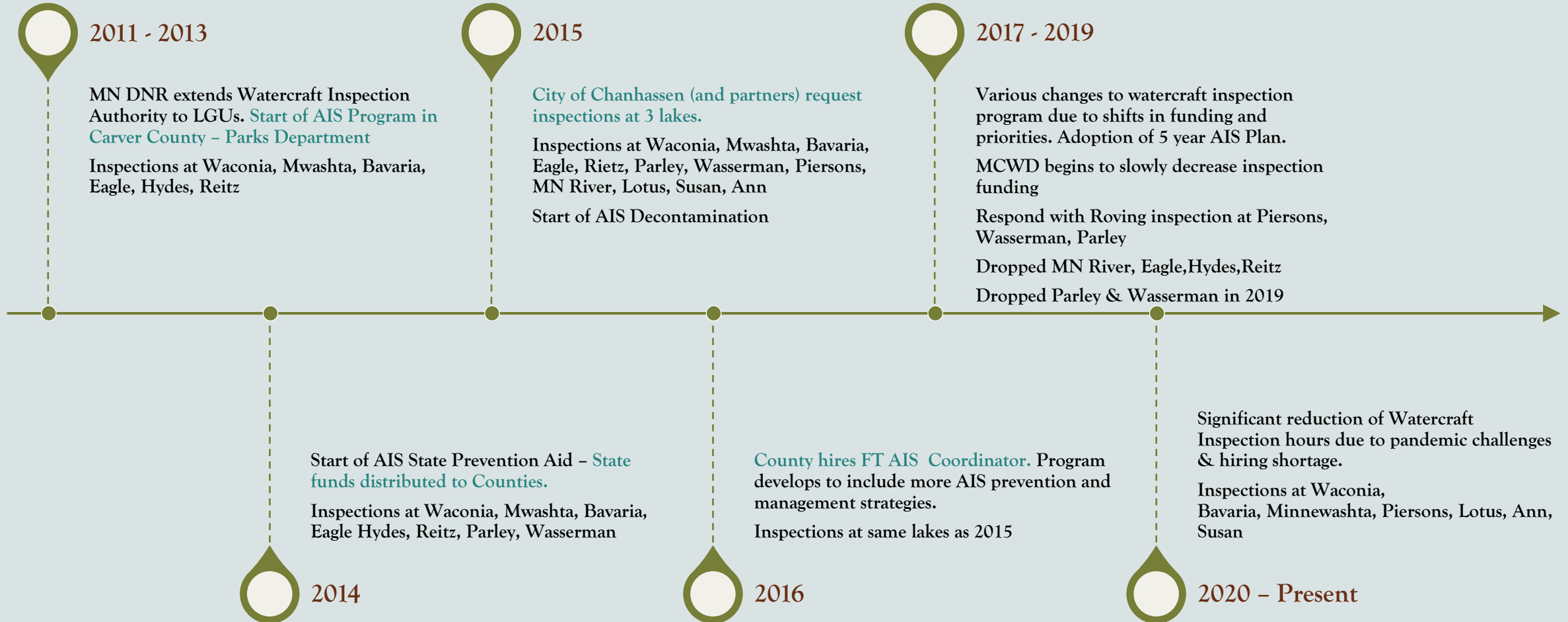
## Local Impact

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- Decline in native mussel & snail populations
- Displacement of native vegetation
- Impact on fish populations
- Reduction in zooplankton diversity
- Decline in native frog species
- Alteration of wetland ecosystems

*ALL LEAD TO BIODIVERSITY LOSS & ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE*

# AIS Program History – Watercraft Inspections



# 2024 AIS Program



## A Summary of Changes:

1. Prevention
2. Outreach
3. Management





# Prevention Changes

## WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

- Fewer inspection hours due to staffing challenges last 3 years
- Reduced dedicated inspections on Lake Bavaria
- Revisiting Roving Inspections
- Fewer lakes with dedicated inspection service but more coverage county-wide

Insp. Hours	2022 Completed	2023 Budgeted
Waconia	1402	1500
Minnewashta	1138	1500
Lotus	1691	1500
Piersons	591	500
Bavaria	253	500
Ann	70	225
Susan	98	225
Decontamination	519	650
TOTAL	5762	6600

# Preliminary Watercraft Inspection Hours

## WMO LAKES

- Waconia: 1,500
- Bavaria: 280 + Roving

## MCWD LAKES

- Minnewashta: 1,500
- Piersons: 450 + Roving

## RPBCWD LAKES

- Lotus: 1,500
- Ann: 280 + Roving
- Susan: 280 + Roving
- *\* Subject to partner budget approvals*
- *\*Potentially additional hours on Ann due to 2023 zebra mussel listing if partners agree*

Roving Inspections: 600 hours distributed among County lakes with public boat access

# Education & Outreach Changes

## RE-ALLOCATED FUNDS

- Stakeholders emphasized need for Education as watercraft inspection funds are re-allocated
- Staff will work with Stakeholders and Advisory Committee to brainstorm options for the use of funds
- Hope is to Pilot something 2024

# Education & Outreach Changes

## RE-ALLOCATED FUNDS

- Options
  - Incorporate more education into Watercraft Inspections
  - Other AIS Priorities?
    - Pet/aquarium trade
    - Docks and lifts
    - Bait shops
    - Pop-up AIS Booth for festivals and community events
    - Other

# Management Changes

## IN-HOUSE MANAGEMENT

- Staff with non-commercial Pesticide License
- Ability to control some AIS populations in-house vs. Contractor
- Starting with Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife

## RE-ALLOCAETD FUNDS FOR VEGETATION MGMT

- ~ \$20,000
- Stakeholders emphasized veg mgmt as a priority for funds shifting from Watercraft Inspections
- Staff will determine best use for funds in 2024
  - May have different priorities in years to follow.
  - Staff will continue to include Stakeholders and Advisory Committee in development

# Management Changes

## RE-ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR VEGETATION

- Options
  - Grant match for larger vegetation control project(s)
  - Pass-through or Cost Share grants to non-profits (lake associations, homeowner associations, etc.)
  - Phragmites & Purple Loosestrife control
  - Public access boat launch clean-up (weeds on and around boat launch area, dock, beach, etc.)
  - Other Ideas?



## Questions & Discussion

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### **Staff requesting a motion to recommend the 2024 AIS Program**

- Recommendation includes the following changes:
  - Revisiting Roving Inspections
  - Slight reduction of dedicated inspection hours
  - Use of re-allocated Education & Outreach dollars
  - Use of re-allocated dollars for Vegetation Mgmt
  - Staff to perform in-house mgmt. of Purple Loosestrife, Phragmites, and/or other introduced species



Thank you

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