



Lake Minnetonka Conservation District

2019 AIS WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS PROGRAM SUMMARY

January 13, 2020

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



INTRODUCTION

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) coordinated an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention watercraft inspection program (WIP) on Lake Minnetonka during the 2019 boating season. The primary goals of this program are to:

- Inspect incoming watercraft and equipment to prevent new introductions of AIS into Lake Minnetonka,
- Inspect outgoing watercraft and trailers to prevent the spread of AIS to other waterbodies,
- Take appropriate actions when violations are observed,
- Educate watercraft owners and operators about the importance of AIS prevention, and
- Educate watercraft operators and other lake user about ways they can help prevent the spread of AIS.

This was a cooperative effort of the LMCD, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) and Hennepin County.

NOTE: Information regarding watercraft inspection activity by the MN DNR, Hennepin County, and municipalities is not included in this Report. The information included in this report summarizes the LMCD's WIP activities as they pertain to the LMCD's contract with the TRPD. A report from the MN DNR containing additional watercraft inspection is expected in the first quarter of 2020.

METHODOLOGY

The following three designated public accesses were covered in 2019 by the LMCD's contract with TRPD:

1. City of Deephaven (Carsons Bay);
2. City of Minnetrista (Halstead Bay); and
3. City of Wayzata (Wayzata Bay).

TRPD also covered the public access at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park (West Upper Lake) as an in-kind contribution for a separate agreement between the MCWD and the TRPD.

There were three different watercraft inspection components. These included: 1) LMCD, 2) MN DNR, and 3) TRPD. Further background of each component is detailed below.

WATERCRAFT INSPECTION COMPONENTS

LMCD

The LMCD contracted with the TRPD for up to 1,000 hours of MN DNR trained Level 1 watercraft inspections at three public accesses from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Additionally, the LMCD contracted with the TRPD for training of these inspectors, supervision for these inspectors, uniforms, communication equipment, and mileage between inspection sites. The total of cost for these inspections could not exceed \$20,000. The public accesses targeted included Carson's Bay, Halstead Bay, and Wayzata Bay (Cities of Deephaven, Minnetrista, and Wayzata, respectively). The schedule for conducting incoming and outgoing watercraft

inspection include: 1) Fridays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and 2) Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MN DNR

A Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Lake Minnetonka is anticipated from the MN DNR in the future.

TRPD

In addition to providing the watercraft inspectors to the LMCD, the TRPD provided an in-kind contribution to this program through gate attendants inspecting incoming watercraft/trailers at the Lake Minnetonka Regional Park. Weekends were covered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. prior to the Memorial Day weekend, with seven-day week coverage from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. These gate attendants were conducting inspections which included educational and inspection components. Estimated in-kind hours contributed to this program were 1235. This partnership has continued to work well as it has in years past.

FUNDING SOURCES

The LMCD budgeted \$20,000 of AIS Management Funds that will be used to contract TRPD services for watercraft inspections at Carson's Bay, Halsted Bay, and Wayzata Bay. The funding was made possible through a grant from Hennepin County in the amount of \$20,000. The LMCD greatly appreciates the financial contribution to this program by Hennepin County and the professional services provided by TRPD to help prevent the spread of AIS.



INSPECTION RESULTS

Total Inspections (LMCD only)

	Carson's Bay	Halstead Bay	Wayzata Bay	Totals
Total Inspections	1594	1140	386	3120
Inspection Hours	555	595	467	1617
Inspections/Hour	2.87	1.92	0.83	1.93

Inbound Watercraft Inspections (LMCD only)

	Carson's Bay	Halstead Bay	Wayzata Bay	Totals
Inbound Inspections	1093	713	252	2058
Drain Plug In Upon Arrival	47	29	5	81
Violation Rate	4.3%	4.1%	1.9%	3.9%
Plants/Animals Found on Arrival	63	41	9	113
Violation Rate	5.7%	5.7%	3.5%	5.4%
Decon. Required (Denied Launch)	4	1	0	5
Sent Away to Drain Water	2	2	0	4
Last on Mtka.	794	548	190	1532
Same Lake Rate	73%	77%	75%	74%

Outbound Watercraft Inspections (LMCD only)

	Carsons Bay	Halstead Bay	Wayzata Bay	Totals
Outbound Inspections	501	427	133	1061
Drain Plug In On Exit	26	6	3	35
Didn't Remove When Requested	0	0	1	1
Plants / Animals Found on Exit	144	130	7	281
Decon. Req'd.	1	4	0	5
Next on Mtka.	390	333	96	819
Same Lake Rate	78%	78%	72%	77%
On Lake Less than 24 Hours Rate	463 92%	415 97%	130 98%	1008 95%

SUMMARY

The inspection of incoming and outgoing watercraft has been coordinated on Lake Minnetonka since the early 2000's. The level of watercraft inspection hours has been more comprehensive in recent years and this has occurred because of the partnerships with the MN DNR, TRPD, and Hennepin County. The contracting with the TRPD for watercraft inspectors has been positive.

The final total of inspection hours in 2019 conducted by TRPD was 1,617 hours. The total cost of the 2019 program implemented on behalf of the LMCD was \$20,000. The TRPD performed some additional inspections to meet the intent of the program and prevent the spread of AIS. This program was made possible through a grant by Hennepin County.