

Stearns County FiveStar Lake Service Provider Initiative

FiveStar is a strategy to create positive, trust-based relationships between shoreline property owners and Lake Service Providers (LSPs) while showing AIS prevention safeguards are practiced by those LSPs. Thank you to lake associations that have joined this initiative! For those that have not, please consider joining! Learn more by visiting the website below.

<https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/1512/FiveStar-Lake-Service-Provider-Intiative>

Resources for use regarding AIS

Stearns County maintains a host of resources for the public to use regarding AIS. Below are some examples:

- Inspection and Cleaning Guidelines: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/818/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>
- Guidance on AIS Aquatic Plant Surveys: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/820/Aquatic-Plant-Surveys>
- Response Plan for AIS Infestation: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/1508/Response-Plan>

Reminder: Minnesota's 21-day dry law & transport law

- Cannot transport any watercraft or water-related equipment with AIS or aquatic plants attached.
- MN Law requires water-related equipment (ex. docks, boat lifts, rafts) to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another body of water.

2021 Stearns County AIS Program Report

Annually, Stearns County compiles a report on the AIS Program. You can find a copy of the 2021 report, and previous years' reports, here: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/819/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Reports>.

Opportunity: AIS Detector Core Course – Community Member

Early detection of a new AIS infestation is critical in achieving successful control of spread in our waters. Stearns County AIS Program is offering to reimburse the cost for six citizens to complete the University of Minnesota Extension and MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center AIS Detector Program. The cost of this program is \$150, which will be reimbursed upon supplying copies of both course registration and proof-of-completion. The County AIS Program is offering this reimbursement to lake associations in Stearns County to assist with their AIS prevention efforts, including early detection, education/outreach and other opportunities. Learn more about this program (including registering) here: <https://maisrc.umn.edu/detectors-core>.

If you or someone from your association is interesting in this reimbursement opportunity, contact me before signing up so I can place that person on the reimbursement waiting list (first come, first serve). To hold a person's place on that list, I will need a copy of the course registration. Once a person completes the program and supplies me with proof-of-completion, the county will reimburse you the program cost. Program must be completed by 12/01/2022.

Invitation: Serve on Stearns County AIS Committee

The Stearns County AIS Committee advises and assists the county on all aspects of the County AIS Plan's implementation and Management. The AIS Committee is made up of stakeholders in AIS prevention and we are looking for volunteers to serve on the committee. Please note members are limited to one person per entity, so if your association already has a member serving on the committee, that limit is reached. You can find a list of current members, as well as the responsibilities of members, here: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/818/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>.

If interested in serving on the committee, [please contact me to discuss!](#)

2022 AIS Prevention Aid Grant Awards to Partners in Stearns County

Annually, Stearns County awards grants to entities undertaking AIS Prevention activities in the county. Learn more here: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/826/Request-for-Proposals>.

Learning Opportunities

- Clearwater River WD's AIS Forum, 04/07/2022 5-6:30pm
| <https://www.crwed.org/aiseducation.html>
- MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates – past webinars include various water quality topics
| <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/webinars/>
- MN AIS Research Center – past webinars focused on AIS research
| <https://maisrc.umn.edu/webinars>
- Setting up early detection efforts
 - Guidance for conducting AIS Early Detection/ Baseline Monitoring in Lakes
| https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/prevention/ais_detection-baseline-monitoring.pdf
 - Searching for Zebra Mussels
| https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/prevention/search-zebra-mussels.pdf
 - List of AIS with limited distribution in Minnesota
| <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/earlydetection.html>

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