Funding Summary

Grant Funds Spent: $8,166.93
Match Funds Spent: $4,990.00
Total Funds Spent: $13,156.93

Grant Project Activities

Since 2017, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) has taken an active role in the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species in its priority lakes. With zebra mussels and starry stonewort recently discovered in Medicine Lake, it’s clear that additional and robust preventative measures are critical to preventing the spread of these AIS to other lakes in the area.

This project augmented and advanced the AIS prevention activities of the BCWMC by 1) working to detect AIS early so that a rapid response is possible and spread is far less likely; 2) training citizens and lake groups to identify and search for AIS; and 3) supporting and assisting lake groups in engaging with their neighbors and other lakeshore owners regarding their personal responsibilities for AIS prevention.

Task 1. Perform Aquatic Vegetation Surveys in 8 Lakes

Activity: Endangered Resources, LLC was hired to perform one point intercept plant survey in each of the 6 lakes not scheduled for regular BCWMC monitoring in 2019 (Parkers, Lost, Twin, Sweeney, Wirth, and Westwood Lakes). Sampling was completed in August 2019 with 125 - 146 points sampled per lake. Two additional lakes were sampled as part of the BCWMC regular monitoring program (match funded) (Northwood and Cavanaugh Lakes).

No new AIS discovered through these surveys. The survey recorded all plant species present and compared plant density between the lake’s last survey and this survey. This activity expanded on existing activities of the BCWMC by monitoring lakes in the years between regularly scheduled monitoring.

Outcome: A complete list of aquatic plants present in each of the 6 lakes was generated along with a statistical comparison of the most recent survey. Graphs of significant changes to plant densities for each of the 6 lakes can be found on pages 4 - 6.

Budget
Grant Funds: Vegetation Surveys 6 lakes = $7,181.00
Match Funds: Vegetation Surveys 2 lakes = $4,486.00
Task 2. Host AIS Early Detection Training Event

**Activity:** Lake residents and users play a critical role in identifying AIS early in an infestation. The BCWMC Administrator assisted with recruiting participants and securing a venue for an AIS Early Detection training by Fortin Consulting. The BCWMC Administrator also attended the beginning of the event to help get participants signed in and to provide a welcome.

**Outcome:** The AIS Early Detection training was held on July 23rd at the Plymouth Library by Fortin Consulting. Approximately 21 people attended, representing residents from several west metro cities and watersheds. See Fortin Consulting reporting for more details.

**Budget**
Grant Funds: $0  
Match Funds: BCWMC Administrator time = $252.00

Task 3. Develop and Distribute Lake-Specific AIS Prevention Educational Materials

**Activity:** Lake-specific AIS identification and education cards were developed for 6 priority lakes in the Bassett Creek Watershed including Parkers, Lost, Northwood, Sweeney, Twin, and Medicine Lakes. These cards are intended for in-person dissemination among lake homeowners (neighbor to neighbor). The cards include photos and descriptions of key AIS that may enter the lake (or those that are already in the lake in the case of Medicine). The cards also include important information on a lake homeowner’s personal responsibility in AIS prevention, including hiring only well vetted Lake Service Providers and making sure docks, lifts, and other objects are AIS free before installation or removal from their property.

Hennepin County staff assisted by providing lists and addresses of lake residents. Cards were printed for each lake according to the number of property owners.

**Outcome:** This activity resulted in a means to engage specific stakeholders in understanding their role in AIS prevention. A total of 950 cards (5.5 x 8.5 inches) were printed for 6 lakes. The cards are included on pages 7 – 13.

**Budget**
Grant Funds: BCWMC Education Consultant time $725.00 + Printing $260.93 = $985.93  
Match Funds: BCWMC Administrator time = $252.00
### SUMMARY STATS: WIRTH LAKE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of sites visited</th>
<th>125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites with vegetation</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of occurrence at sites shallower than maximum depth of plants</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simpson Diversity Index</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum depth of plants (ft)**</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sites sampled using rake on Rope (R)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of all species per site (shallower than max depth)</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of all species per site (veg. sites only)</td>
<td>3.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of native species per site (shallower than max depth)</td>
<td>2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of native species per site (veg. sites only)</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species Richness</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species Richness (including visuals)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species Richness (including visuals and boat survey)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean depth of plants (ft)</td>
<td>7.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median depth of plants (ft)</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean rake fullness (veg. sites only)</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEE "MAX DEPTH GRAPH" WORKSHEET TO CONFIRM**
Mussels attached to rocks, docks, plants, etc. are invasive. Our native mussels don’t attach to things. They are found slightly buried in lake and river bottoms.

**Starry Stonewort**

**Identification**
Usually bright green and smooth, the star-shaped bulbils (see photo) are attached to clear, root-like filaments. The length of leaf-like branchlets can be highly variable on a single plant.

**Quagga & Zebra Mussels**

**Identification**
Mussels attached to rocks, docks, plants, etc. are invasive. Our native mussels don’t attach to things. They are found slightly buried in lake and river bottoms.

**Our Lake Doesn’t Have**

**Spiny Waterflea**

**Identification**
Often found on fishing line or other equipment in clumps that resemble a gelatinous blob with a texture of wet cotton.

**Flowering Rush**

**Identification**
Without flowers it resembles native bulrush. The emergent form of flowering rush has three-angled fleshy leaves and may produce a cluster of pink flowers.

**Let’s Keep It That Way!**
INVASIVE SPECIES NOT WELCOME

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) aren’t native to Minnesota and cause economic and environmental harm. Since Medicine Lake already has zebra mussels and starry stonewort, it is up to us to prevent them from spreading!

It’s up to

INDIVIDUALS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES.

Make sure no AIS are being transported to or from your lake. Everything that enters and leaves the lake should be free of mud, plants, animals, and WATER—including privately or professionally sold or installed equipment. Even if you hire a lake service provider, ensure THEIR boats and equipment are also free of AIS. All watercraft and equipment should be dry for 20 days or adequately pressure washed.

Report new infestations. If you suspect a new infestation, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and contact the AIS specialists in your region: MN DNR or Brian.Vlach@ThreeRiversParks.org

Stay informed. Text MNDNR AIS to 468311 to subscribe to text updates or sign up for email updates at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html

Clean, drain, dry for 20 days and use decon stations.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD through Facebook and Nextdoor

Join Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens (@AMLAC) on Facebook
Follow Bassett Creek Watershed Commission @BCWMC and share AIS posts
Post to your neighborhood on Nextdoor

Developed by Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission with grant funds from Hennepin County
IN LOST LAKE

OUR LAKE DOESN’T HAVE THESE HARMFUL AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).

LET’S KEEP IT THAT WAY!

STARRY STONEWORT

IDENTIFICATION
Usually bright green and smooth, the star-shaped bulbils (see photo) are attached to clear, root-like filaments. The length of leaf-like branchlets can be highly variable on a single plant.

QUAGGA & ZEBRA MUSSELS

IDENTIFICATION
Mussels attached to rocks, docks, plants, etc. are invasive. Our native mussels don’t attach to things. They are found slightly buried in lake and river bottoms.

FLOWERING RUSH

IDENTIFICATION
Without flowers it resembles native bulrush. The emergent form of flowering rush has three-angled fleshy leaves and may produce a cluster of pink flowers.

SPINY WATERFLEA

IDENTIFICATION
Often found on fishing line or other equipment in clumps that resemble a gelatinous blob with a texture of wet cotton.
Aquatic invasive species (AIS) aren’t native to Minnesota and cause economic and environmental harm. Since AIS are in nearby lakes, it is up to us to prevent them from spreading!

**It’s up to INDIVIDUALS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES.**

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**SPINY WATERFLEA**

**IDENTIFICATION**

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**MOST UNWANTED IN NORTHWOODS LAKE**

### Starry Stonewort

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