

2019 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Polk County

Guidelines for using Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid (MN Statute 477A.19)

INTRODUCTION

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are threatening Minnesota waters. These nonnative species harm fish populations, water quality, property values and water recreation. This plan outlines the efforts that Polk County will undertake to help prevent the spread of harmful AIS within Minnesota.

ACTIONS

The following categories will provide a template for implementing action items in order to prevent the spread of AIS in Polk County.

- **Education/Public Awareness**
- **Decontamination**
- **Inspections/Enforcement**
- **Special Projects**
- **Emergency Response**
- **Administration/Coordination**

Education/Public Awareness

Public Service Announcements – Conduct radio, television, newspaper, billboard, and other media ads promoting the awareness and prevention of AIS in the County.

Educational Handouts – Work with local agencies to distribute information on AIS prevention through educational handouts including but not limited to constructing signs, billboards, and information stands at water access sites across Polk County.

Youth Outreach – Work with schools around Polk County to provide an educational information/presentations to school age children to learn about the prevention and control of AIS. Develop a project/essay contest for school age children within Polk County.

Public Outreach – Establish a presentation/information stand and or program that may be used for special events across Polk County like the Polk County Fair. Develop and distribute promotional pamphlets and material to distribute around Polk County.

Collaborate with lake associations, local and state agencies to conduct outreach, education and monitoring of AIS related activities.

Decontamination

Investigate the cost and feasibility of purchasing high pressure wash/decontamination units for use in cleaning boats and equipment used in lakes within Polk County.

Establish a priority list and plan to purchase and maintain decontamination units within Polk County, including but not limited to site improvements, training, signage, installation, operation and maintenance of those units. Project may be implemented this year in 2019, or may again be carried over to 2020.

Inspections/Enforcement

Program has been created to conduct watercraft inspections at water accesses using authorized inspectors. Three seasonal staff will be hired in 2019 to conduct watercraft inspections and a plan will be established to determine what accesses within the county will be inspected. Priority will be given to high priority water accesses and peak usage times.

Train and use peace officers to monitor and enforce state regulations by ensuring peace officers are properly trained to deal with AIS laws and by increasing patrolling and monitoring of waterways in Polk County.

Zebra mussel monitoring kits will be developed and setup at public water access sites within the County. AIS staff will monitor sites and report any new infestations of zebra mussels. AIS staff may conduct surveys on lakes to check for new invasive species.

In 2017 Polk County purchased two I-LIDS systems for Maple Lake and Union Lake to help with the inspection and enforcement program. Polk County will continue to maintain and operate these two units in 2019 and beyond.

Special Projects

Allow local units of government and or lake associations to apply for grant funding from the County to utilize the AIS funding for special projects as long as it is directly tied to the spread and/or prevention of AIS across Polk County.

Emergency Response

Continue to develop and improve management strategies to detect new invasive species infestations and limit the spread of established populations of AIS within Polk County and to other waters of the state. In 2017 a rapid response plan was approved in hopes of limiting spread or eliminating new outbreaks of AIS. 2019 will focus on carrying over a set amount of funding that will be available to implement rapid response measures.

Administration/Coordination

Administration and coordination of AIS funding and the AIS taskforce will be handled by the Polk County Environmental Services Department (PCES). PCES will be the lead in implementing projects, coordinating meetings, and providing financial oversight.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

It is again the intent of the AIS Taskforce that in 2019 education and public awareness will be given the highest priority. Work will be done to make sure the AIS message is properly advertised around Polk County. Special projects will also be funded and allocated funding. While achieving adequate public awareness measures, Polk County will continue to focus more on inspection efforts. Decontamination efforts within the County will be evaluated and may be pursued in 2019. As our inspection program continues to grow within the County we will have a better idea for the best options for decontamination.

Polk County will utilize all of the 2019 AIS funding dollars by the end of 2019 for projects noted herein. Polk County plans to carry over approximately 3% of funding from 2018 to add to the emergency response fund. Additional funding will continue to be allocated to this fund in 2019 and beyond.

Any remaining 2018 grant funds shall be carried over and utilized with 2019 grant funds in order to have enough funding available to continue to build on the inspection and decontamination programs within Polk County in 2019 and beyond. 2018 funding may also be utilized in 2019 for other projects relating to the Polk County Action plan.

UPDATING AND AMENDING THE PLAN

This plan will be reviewed annually by the Polk County AIS Committee and updated as needed.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Polk County will track and monitor progress made by the Polk County AIS Taskforce in an effort to achieve measurable goals and actions laid out within this plan. A copy of projects completed will be kept on file at Polk County Environmental Services and reviewed by the Polk County AIS Taskforce as needed.

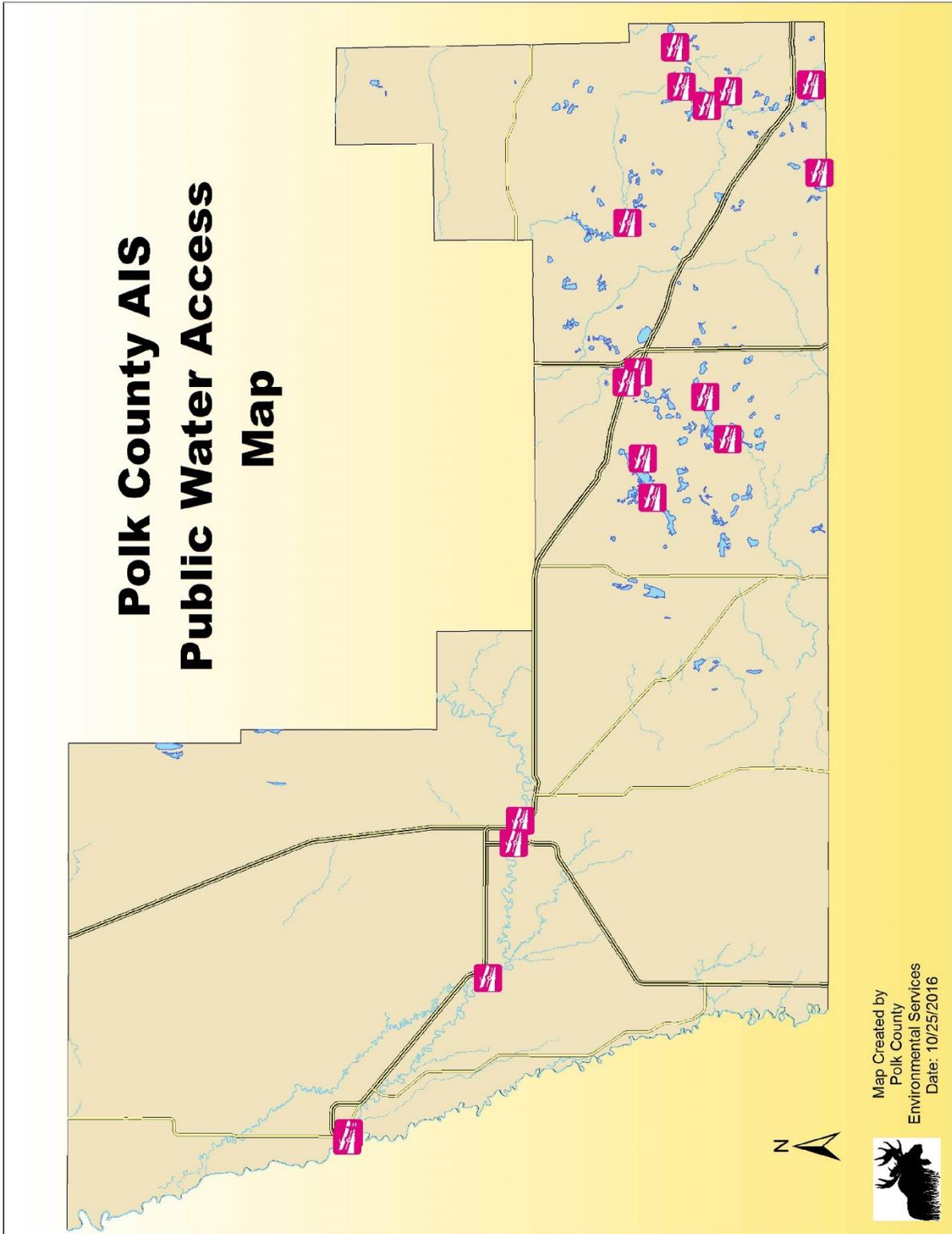
APPENDICES

- A. Polk County AIS Committee**
- B. Polk County Lake and River Public Access Map**
- C. List of Public Accesses within Polk County**
- D. Budget Plans**

A. Polk County AIS Committee

Committee Members	Contact	Alt. Contact
Polk County Board	Joan Lee	
East Polk SWCD Board	Al Bauer	Ken Pederson
West Polk SWCD Board	Vacant	
Township Official	Ilane Rue	Steve Tischman
Maple Lake Improvement District	Loren Able	Mike Schultz
Union-Lake Sarah Imp. District-Union	Richard Rock	Lonnie Paradis
Union-Lake Sarah Imp. District-Sarah	Daryl Halverson	Rolland Gagner
Polk County Sheriff	James Tadman	
Polk County Sherriff's Office	Scott Bixby	
Polk County Environmental Services	Jon Steiner	
Polk County Planning and Zoning	Jacob Snyder	
Polk County Public Works	Rich Sanders	
East Polk SWCD	Lisa Newton	
West Polk SWCD	Nicole Bernd	Aaron Habermehl
Red Lake Watershed District	Ashley Hitt	
Youth Outreach	Margo Bowerman	
Other Members – TBD	River Watch, Other Watersheds, DNR	

B. - Polk County AIS Map



C. - Polk County Public Access Sites

Lake Access	Ramp Type	Ownership
Turtle Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Sand Hill Lake State Water Access Site	Dirt	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Cross Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	Polk County
Cameron Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	City of Erskine, Parks Department
Hill River Lake State Water Access Site	Dirt	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Maple Lake East State Water Access Site	Concrete	Polk County
Maple Lake County Park Water Access Site	Concrete	Polk County
Whitefish Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Red Lake River, Red River Rec. Area State Water Access Site	Concrete	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Red River, LaFave State Water Access Site	Concrete	City of East Grand Forks, Parks Dept
Red Lake River, Fisher Landing State Water Access Site	Dirt	City of Fisher, Parks Department
Red Lake River, Central Park State Water Access Site	Concrete	City of Crookston, Parks Department
Red Lake River, Hwy 75 By-pass State Water Access Site	Concrete	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Spring Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	City of Lengby, Parks Department
Union Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Sarah Lake State Water Access Site	Concrete	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
Badger WMA State Water Access Site	Dirt	DNR Division of Parks and Trails
<u>Mule John WMA State Water Access Site</u>	<u>Dirt</u>	<u>DNR Division of Parks and Trails</u>

