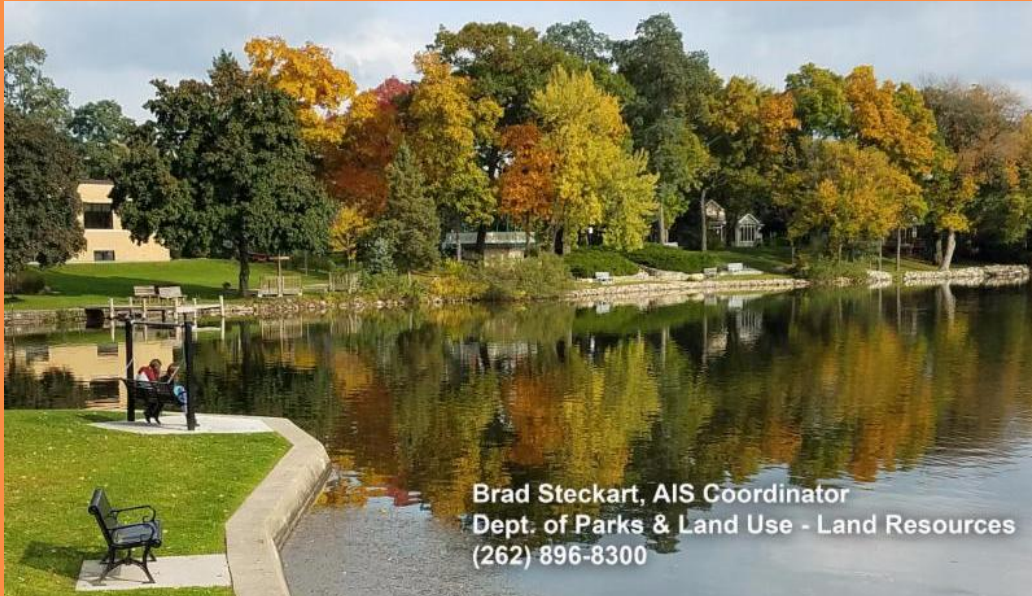


Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Waukesha County



August 2017

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AIS Strategic Plan Underway

On July 26th, a 12 member advisory committee met for the first time to develop a county-wide strategic plan for controlling aquatic invasive species. The goal of the committee is to complete the plan by January of 2018.

The plan is to be available for citizens to use as a reference to AIS presence in lakes, guidance in lake management, and a tool for best management practices.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission presented a draft of the first two chapters of the plan, which include:

[Chapter 1](#)

- The background and purpose of the plan
- Description of aquatic invasive species
- Laws regarding invasive species in Wisconsin
- The strategic planning process

[Chapter 2](#)

- Water resources in the County
- Aquatic invasive species ecology and descriptions
- Potential AIS threats

Drafts of each chapter will be available as a [working document](#) as they are completed.



The AIS Strategic Plan Advisory Committee includes volunteers representing 12 local lakes and conservation organizations.

Since the plan will be accessed online, it opens up opportunities for more advanced AIS lake maps, which are currently under development.

A brainstorming session revealed the importance of certain issues regarding AIS to the committee:

- Prevent the spread of AIS between local waters
- Education
- Collect AIS/Distribute Info/Maintain and Analyze Data
- Reduce, Manage, Control Existing AIS
- Network and Collaborate
- Sustain AIS Strategic Plan Implementation

The next meeting is scheduled in October, when the committee will be discussing the remaining chapters and incorporating ideas generated during the brainstorming session. A special thank you goes out to volunteers serving on the committee! You provide confidence that we are going in the right direction with our strategic plan.

Outdoor Wisconsin

Have you seen the Milwaukee Public Broadcasting Service's television series Outdoor Wisconsin? If you have, you'd recognize hosts, Dan Small or Jeff Kelm promoting Wisconsin's beautiful outdoors while educating viewers on how to sustainably enjoy Wisconsin natural resources. In the upcoming season (premiering in 2018) watch for an episode featuring the Waukesha &

Washington County AIS team on how to prevent and contain aquatic invasive species. The segment will include how to clean and prepare your boat before a lake outing, AIS commonly found in Wisconsin lakes, up and coming AIS to keep an eye out for, and action we've taken through the County's AIS program.



Click the image above to explore the Outdoor Wisconsin website and to view other episodes for the show. It is also a great spot to keep an eye out for the AIS episode.

The team enjoyed shooting above, on, and under Silver Lake in Washington County and are anxious to see the final product. A special thanks to Jeff Kelm and the Outdoor Wisconsin crew for an exciting day and a great opportunity. More information about the episode will follow in future month's newsletters.



Behind the scenes of the interview was also captured on Washington County's Facebook Live.

Japanese Knotweed

The AIS team recently completed an eradication project brought to our attention by a concerned resident in Chenequa. Over the span of two days we were able to cut down around 100 stalks of Japanese Knotweed, an invasive shoreline species.

What is Japanese Knotweed?

Japanese knotweed is a perennial shrub native to East Asia. It grows near water and can be 5-10 feet tall. It can be identified by its heart-shaped leaves, white flowers in the late summer, and bamboo like stalks. Japanese Knotweed crowds out native vegetation and spreads its seeds through streams and wind, expanding rapidly.

I've got Japanese Knotweed near me, how do I treat it?

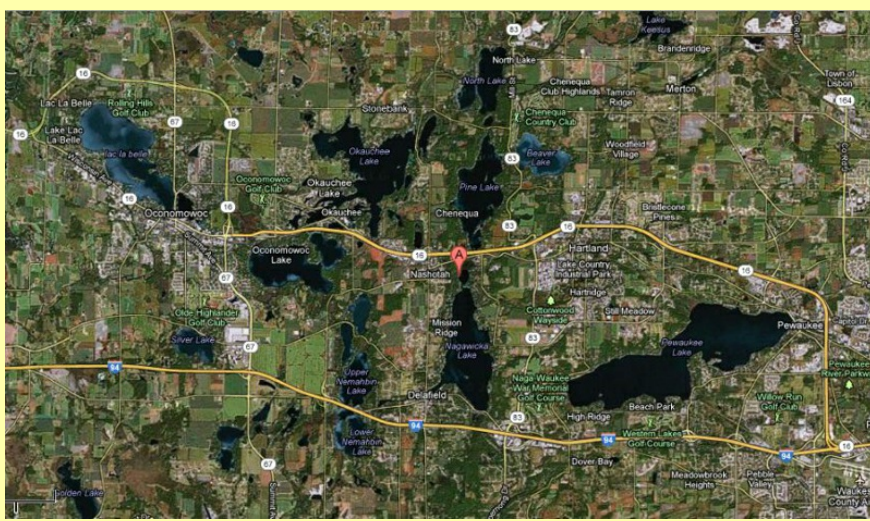
The WDNR recommends that if you choose to pull the plant by hand, you make sure to remove the root structure and rhizomes completely from the soil. This is important because the plant can resprout with only a few inches of root left in the soil.



Click above to watch our progress! Otherwise open our newsletter in your browser to watch it automatically!

FUN FACT

Did you know Wisconsin has 15,081 lakes? Waukesha County has 80 of them!



An aerial photo of Waukesha's Lake County reveals the expansive network of water in the County.

AIS July Spotlight

This month we'd like to recognize our AIS intern Jenna Bales for her hard work this summer! This is Jenna's second summer working for Waukesha County.

Jenna's relationship with the parks staff all over the county is one of Jenna's outstanding summer highlights. Our Parks partnership is essential to implementing the AIS program and we want to thank Jenna for bridging that connection.

Another one of Jenna's highlights is her crucial presence at the lakes in the lower half of the county. The lakes in Muskego (Big Muskego Lake and Little Muskego Lake) are known to have a newer invasive species called starry stonewort. Each weekend Jenna spends time at the public boat launches educating boaters about how they can prevent and contain the spread of starry stonewort and her efforts do not go unnoticed!

On her day off, you may encounter her on her quest to find the best chicken dumpling soup in the county. Either way, feel free to ask her questions you may have about invasive species or just say hello.

Thanks again for your hard work, Jenna. You inspire us all with your passion for protecting our lakes!



Jenna Bales collects Galericucella beetles at Prarie Springs Environmental Station

Lake of the Month

We're introducing a "Lake of the Month" segment to our monthly newsletter. August's lake of the month is Silver Lake in Summit. Silver Lake is 220 acres and reaches 40 feet deep. Silver Lake has a public boat launch which is supervised by Clean Boats Clean Waters staffers on weekends during the summer. If you're on Silver Lake for the day you might catch some largemouth bass or walleye, but we didn't pick this lake because of its fishing. We selected Silver Lake for lake of the month because of its fantastic volunteers! Specifically, two volunteer residents who go above and beyond to prevent and contain AIS on their lake are Nate and Jessica Rice.



[Click the Photo above to visit the DNR page for Silver Lake](#)

In addition to educating their neighbors and friends on the lake about how to protect its aquatic life, Nate and Jessica volunteer their time at the public boat launch and educate boaters as well.

This summer they've logged about 94 hours of Clean Boats Clean Waters, a watercraft inspection program.

Nate and Jessica also facilitated a Eurasian Watermilfoil handpull project for a patch of EWM they were concerned about. This project brought together

scuba divers, the AIS team, and local lake residents. They also participate in Adopt-A-Highway, the AIS Snapshot Day, and are always willing to lend a helping hand to the AIS team conducting surveys. In total with all these activities they have volunteered a total of 171.25 hours!

Thanks Nate and Jessica for all you do, you motivate us to do the same on lakes near us.

If you're looking to participate on your lake in a way that's greater than the average resident (perhaps like Nate and Jessica) feel free to contact the AIS team about getting involved.

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