

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 124-D**

Preventing the Spread of AIS with Decontamination Units

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**Category:** D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 455,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2.5 years, November 2017 - October 2

**Summary:**

Seven decontamination units would be deployed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species on Forest Lake (3), Square Lake, Big Marine Lake, Lake Elmo, and the Saint Croix River.

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**Name:** Colin Kelly

**Sponsoring Organization:** Washington County

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Washington

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The visual illustrates the seven public water access sites in Washington County where decontamination units would be deployed, along with some images of public water access best management practices and Zebra mussels discovered in Forest Lake in 2015.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



**PROJECT TITLE: Preventing the Spread of AIS with Decontamination Units**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

Once established, aquatic invasive species (AIS) can have a profoundly negative impact on water quality, species diversity, recreation opportunities, and local economies. The State of Minnesota is taking a proactive approach to this critical issue and began providing funding in 2014 to counties to prevent the spread of AIS at the local level. One of the most effective tools in preventing the spread of AIS is decontamination units.

The goal of this project is to stop the spread of AIS from entering uninfested waters or exiting infested waters by employing decontamination units at key public water access sites. By implementing this project, the direct outcomes would include the maintenance of water quality, species diversity, high-quality recreation opportunities, and robust local economies. Decontamination units would be employed at seven Washington County public water access sites, including Lakeside Park, Willow Point, and Hagberg on Forest Lake; Big Marine Park Reserve; Square Lake Park; Lake Elmo Park Reserve; and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Beyond the ability to physically remove and kill microscopic AIS attached to watercraft or trailers, decontamination units and their operators represent a key education opportunity.

In the first year of implementing the state’s Local AIS Prevention Aid, Washington County provided funding to the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District to review the boat launches on Forest Lake. The County also provided funding to the Washington Conservation District to review the boat launches in county or regional parks. In addition to recommending AIS “activity areas” that include signage, compost bins and pavement stencils, the boat launch studies recommend the use of either permanent or temporary decontamination units.

Beyond these planning efforts, the funding available has largely been applied toward raising public awareness, controlling infestations, and watercraft inspections. However, the funding needed to supply decontamination units and staffing at these seven sites exceeds the funding available to the county. This project would give inspectors the tools necessary to properly clean and decontaminate watercraft entering or exiting waterways, and educate boaters about aquatic invasive species. Washington County aims to be a leader in implementing effective solutions to this critical issue.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** Purchase seven portable decontamination units for use of five water bodies. **Budget: \$140,000**

Through a competitive bid process, purchase seven (7) portable decontamination units to be placed at Lakeside Park, Willow Point, and Hagberg public water accesses on Forest Lake; and at Big Marine Park Reserve, Square Lake Park, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Purchase seven (7) portable decontamination units.	12/31/17

**Activity 2:** Hire, deploy Level 2 watercraft inspectors to operate decontamination units over a two-year period. **Budget: \$315,000**

Hire seasonal staff to provide 5,833 hours of inspection at the seven public water access (PWA) sites.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Hire and train Level 2 watercraft inspectors between February and March, 2018	4/30/18
2. Staff seven PWAs with Level 2 watercraft inspectors between April and October, 2018.	10/31/18
3. Staff seven PWAs with Level 2 watercraft inspectors between April and October, 2019.	10/31/19



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

### 2017 Main Proposal

**Project Title:** Preventing the Spread of AIS with Decontamination Units

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

Project Partners Receiving Funds:

- Washington County: decontamination unit purchase, project management.
- Washington Conservation District: as part of a countywide watercraft inspection program, hire, train and coordinate watercraft inspections at Washington County Park locations.
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District: hire, train and coordinate watercraft inspections at Forest Lake public water access points. The watershed district may also be able to contribute funds to this effort.

Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: coordinate watercraft inspections to provide additional coverage at high priority public water access sites

#### B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The purchase and use of seven decontamination units at public water access points is part of a broader, long-term strategy to prevent the spread of AIS into or out of Washington County water bodies, and to model best management practices. Zebra mussels are present in Forest Lake and the St. Croix River, and the goal is to contain them to those locations while effective eradication methods are researched and developed. Moreover, Square Lake Park – considered a “Special Recreation Feature” by the Metropolitan Council due to its water quality, clarity, and limited shoreline development – is not infested by AIS. The goal is to keep any AIS from infesting Square Lake.

By preventing the spread of Zebra mussels out of Forest Lake and the St. Croix River, any other lakes or rivers not infested with Zebra mussels are protected from this harmful species. Further, by taking all possible measures to keep Square Lake from being infested by AIS, a treasured, high-quality water body is protected.

In combination with the other best management practices being implemented in 2016, if the use of decontamination units and Level 2 watercraft inspectors prove to be an effective suite of strategies in preventing the spread of AIS, these strategies could be replicated across the state of Minnesota to create stronger statewide protections from AIS. Having a consistent set of tools, messages, signage and trained staff at all public water accesses in Minnesota is likely to be one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of AIS.

Additional funding would be required to outfit the remainder of Washington County’s public water access points with decontamination units and to staff them seasonally with Level 2 watercraft inspectors. Once all County public water access points are outfitted with decontamination units, the cost to implement this project would decrease significantly and could be funded through Local AIS Prevention Aid and other sources.

Washington County currently directs a substantial portion of its Local AIS Prevention Aid funds to coordinated watercraft inspections and would continue to do so beyond the sunset of any funding made available through this grant. Project partners, including the Washington Conservation District and the Forest Lake-Comfort Lake Watershed District, may also provide funding to the effort as would other watershed districts and lake associations.

#### C. Timeline Requirements

If funded, the project will initiate in the summer or fall of 2017 and continue through the fall of 2019.

## 2017 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title: Preventing the Spread of AIS with Decontamination Units**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b>	N/A
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b>	
Hiring, training, and coordination of Level 2 watercraft inspections at three (3) Forest Lake public water accesses for two (2) boating seasons (late May through early September)(\$27/hour x 2,500 hours x 2 seasons)	\$ 135,000
Hiring, training, and coordination of Level 2 watercraft inspections at four (4) Washington County Park public water accesses for two (2) boating seasons (late May through early September)(\$27/hour x 3,333 hours x 2 seasons)	\$ 180,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	
Seven (7) decontamination units (\$20,000 each)	\$ 140,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	N/A
<b>Travel:</b>	N/A
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	N/A
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 455,000</b>

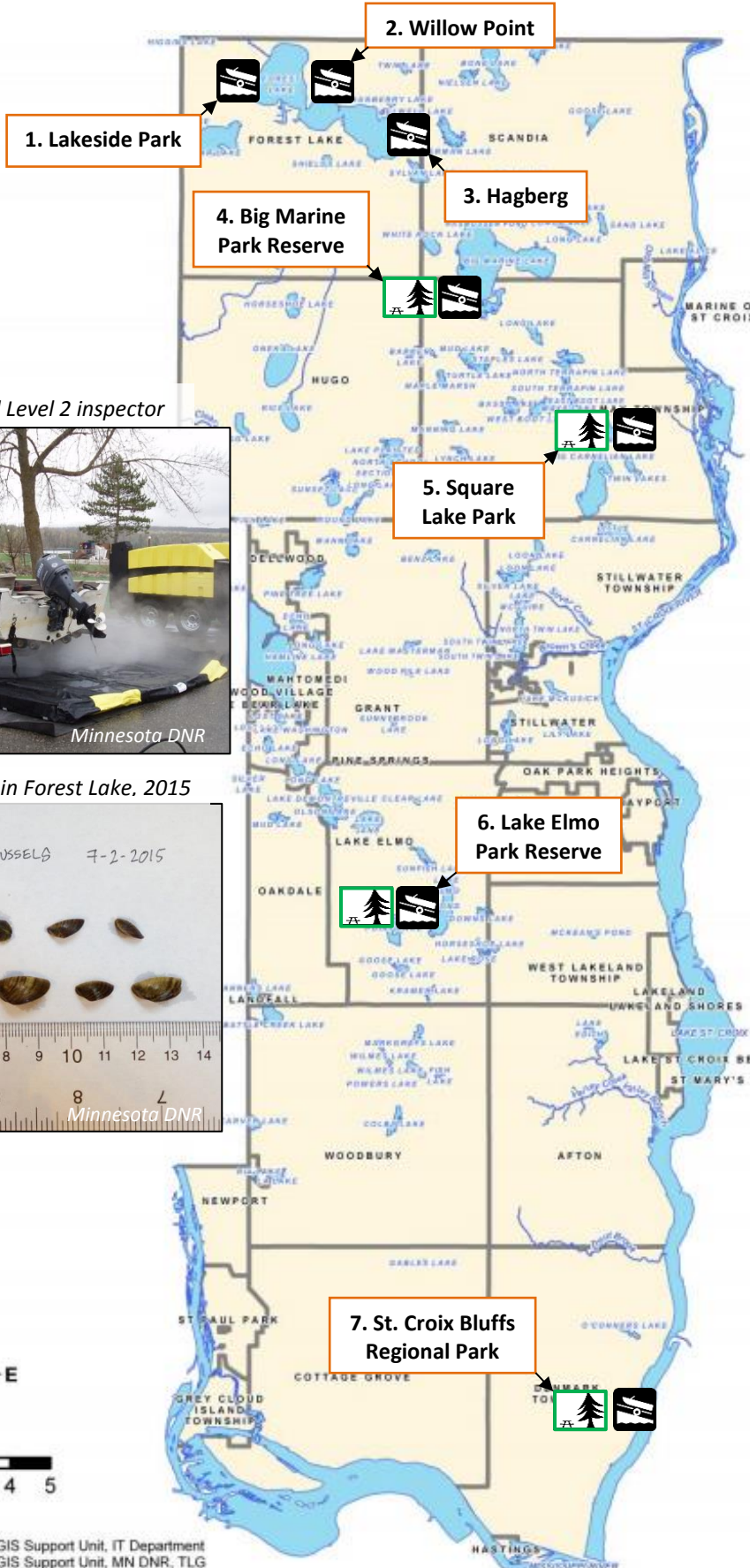
### V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>		
Washington County: Purchasing, project oversight	\$5,000	Secured
Washington Conservation District: Coordination of countywide watercraft inspections	\$2,500	Pending
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District: Coordination of Forest Lake-based watercraft inspections	\$1,250	Pending
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Coordination of countywide watercraft inspections	\$675	Pending
<b>Funding History:</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	N/A	N/A

**Preventing the Spread of AIS with Decontamination Units**

*Public Water Access Sites for Project Implementation*

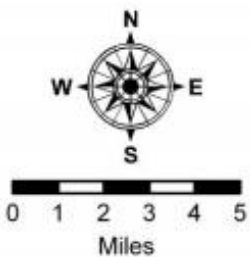
Key elements of a robust AIS prevention program: watercraft inspections, information kiosks, compost bins, and pavement stencils



Decontamination unit and Level 2 inspector



Zebra mussels discovered in Forest Lake, 2015



## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

### **2017 Main Proposal**

**Project Title:** Preventing the Spread of AIS with Decontamination Units

### **Project Manager Qualifications**

#### **Colin Kelly, Senior Planner/Strategic Planning Project Manager, Washington County**

Mr. Kelly has worked as a professional planner and project manager in Minnesota for the last nine years. In his current role, he coordinates the implementation of the county's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid program and the county's Strategic Plan. Prior to his work at Washington County, Mr. Kelly worked at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as both Senior and Principal Planner in the Division of Parks and Trails. He is a recent graduate of the state's Emerging Leaders Institute, and holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning/Ecological Land Use Planning and a Bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology.

### **Organization Description**

Washington County was established October 27, 1849, in the Territory of Minnesota. As one of Minnesota's original nine counties, Washington County is on the eastern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, composed of 423 square miles of land. The county seat is located in Stillwater, Minnesota, along the St. Croix River.

Washington County's Main Campus is the Government Center, Law Enforcement Center, and Courthouse located in Stillwater, Minnesota.

The vision of Washington County is to be "a great place to live, work, and play...today and tomorrow." This vision is realized through the day-to-day focus on the county mission

The mission of Washington County is to provide quality services through responsible leadership, innovation, and the cooperation of dedicated people.