

What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and why are they a threat?

AIS are aquatic plants and animals that are not native to Minnesota. They disrupt ecosystems, cause harm to native species, negatively impact recreational opportunities and are expensive to manage. Examples of AIS include zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and curly leaf pondweed. When an AIS invades a lake, it is almost impossible to remove.



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Help Protect Minneapolis Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species!



For more information visit:
minneapolisparcs.org/ais



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Protect Minneapolis Lakes!

Make sure your *SCUBA* equipment is **CLEAN, DRAINED and DRY.**

CLEAN aquatic plants and mud from mask, snorkel, wetsuit, fins, buoyancy compensator, weight belt, flags, and any other dive equipment. Be sure to check not only the exterior of your equipment, but the interior of pockets and clothing as well.



DRAIN water from all equipment, including buoyancy compensators, regulators, air tank boots, weight pockets, and any other water-carrying locations.

Know your equipment—where will water collect?

1. For up-to-date information regarding AIS and SCUBA permit requirements in Minneapolis waterbodies, visit the MPRB website at: minneapolisparks.org
2. Help us search for new invaders! If you suspect that you've found a zebra mussel or other aquatic invasive species in a previously uninfested lake, take a specimen to a MPRB watercraft inspector at the Bde Maka Ska, Lake Harriet, or Lake Nokomis boat launch.

DRY all of your clothing and equipment that has been in the water after visiting infested waterbodies.

3. Plan your dive schedule accordingly and visit uninfested lakes before infested lakes. It is your responsibility to know and plan your trips accordingly. An up-to-date infested waters list is maintained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at: bit.ly/DNR-AISInfested