



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY OPENS AIS DECONTAMINATION STATION IN CROSSLAKE

The Crow Wing County aquatic invasive species (AIS) decontamination station in Crosslake opens for the season beginning Friday of Memorial Day Weekend to help stop the spread of AIS. The station is located at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility off Highway 3 at 13870 Whipple Drive. After Memorial Day weekend, it will be open and fully staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday through the end of September. There is no on-call availability at this location.

Watercraft decontamination consists of a very hot water rinse used to kill zebra mussels and if needed a high pressure spray to remove material from boats, motors, trailers and personal gear. No soaps, bleaches, or chemicals are used during the process. The station is operated by DNR-trained and certified inspectors who ensure the process effectively and safely removes or kills AIS. During the COVID-19 pandemic and in keeping with CDC guidance, social distancing strategies will be implemented during the decontamination process to limit person-to-person contact including inspectors wearing masks and maintaining a minimum 6 feet of distance between boat users.

“Working in partnership with the City of Crosslake, this decontamination station will provide a useful service to boaters,” stated Jake Frie, Crow Wing County Environmental Services Supervisor. “The entire process takes a short time and is a valuable tool for limiting the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers,” he added.

Decontaminations are available to boaters free of charge, with priority given to boaters who have been referred for decontamination by watercraft inspectors or law enforcement present on area landings. Under DNR guidelines boaters will be referred for decontamination when AIS or other unknown items or materials are discovered, the watercraft has been in the water for more than 24 hours, the watercraft is being transported to a new water body within 24 hours, or if undrainable or unverifiable water is present.

Information about Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts, including interactive maps to search for the status of area lakes can be found on the web at www.crowwing.us/AIS

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County’s extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or land.services@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota’s favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.