

Le Sueur County Environmental Services



NEWSLETTER

January 4, 2022

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Summary of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Efforts in 2021

Program Summary

Le Sueur County's Aquatic Invasive Species program for 2021 grew in many ways; especially when it comes to education and outreach and watercraft inspections. Public education and outreach efforts were able to get back on track with in person meetings and events. Some of the education and outreach efforts were still virtual. The County is fortunate to have strong partnerships with local government units, organizations, and businesses to assist with AIS prevention efforts. Funds spent in 2021 were used for watercraft inspections, education, outreach, printing, publishing, advertising, administration, trainings/mileage, and AIS control efforts.

Sneak Peek into the 2021 Aquatic Invasive Species Aid Accomplishments

Le Sueur County partnered with 24 organizations in 2021 to support AIS related work such as watercraft inspections and education/outreach efforts. A total of \$63,888 of additional funds were leveraged from numerous organizations to help support the work that was completed as a partnership.

A majority of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid funds within Le Sueur County were spent on watercraft inspections; 68.3%. There was a total of 3,513.45 hours of inspections. 25 accesses and 24 waterbodies were covered by inspectors throughout the inspection season.

2021 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID METRICS

To review the entire report, please visit the following website:

<https://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/301/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>

Or email the Le Sueur County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us

Ice Fishing and Aquatic Invasive Species



Aquatic Invasive Species laws still apply to those anglers who brave the cold and go out on the ice. The good news is because of the frigid temperatures; most aquatic invasive species have a pretty difficult time surviving under these conditions. Despite this, please make sure you are cleaning off all of your equipment of any plants, animals, and debris.

Additionally, please do not dump your live bait into the water! Live bait should be disposed into the garbage. Bait water should also be disposed of correctly. Please not dump your bait water into the lake or bring lake water (to keep your bait alive) from one lake to another.

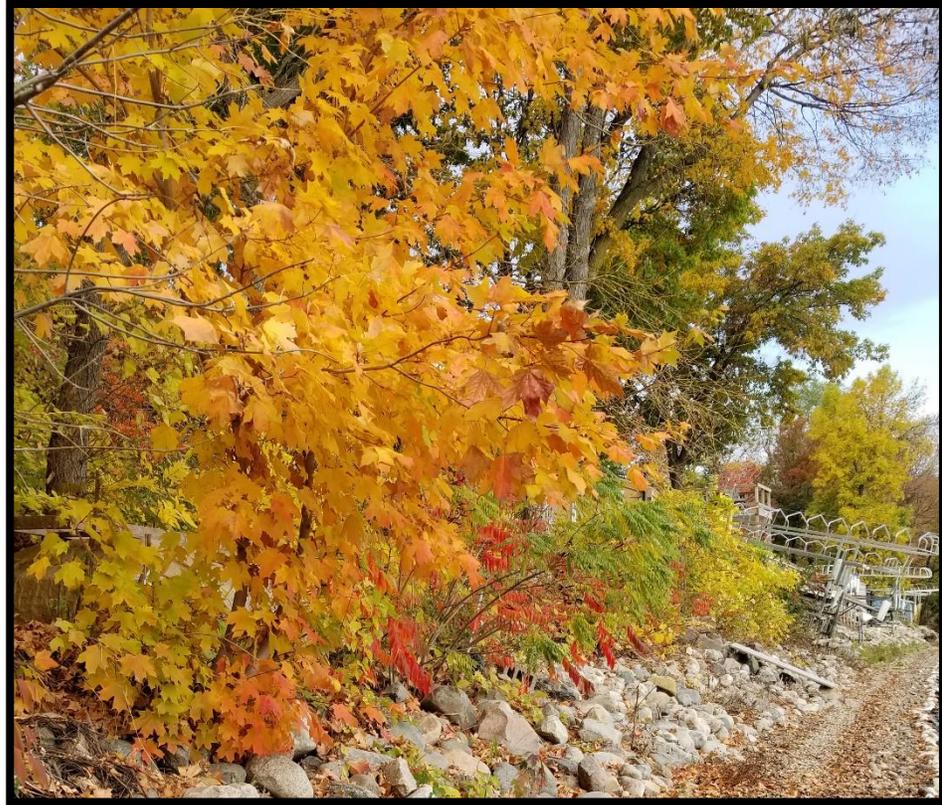
Grants and Programs Currently Available

Currently there are no local cost-share grants and programs available through Le Sueur County. Please check back in the spring!

Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Sales

If you are looking for trees and shrubs to purchase, the Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District is having their tree sale for 2022! They have a variety of different species to choose from! Some species are sold in bundles and others are sold individually. If you have questions or would like to submit your tree order, please contact the Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District. Their phone number is 507-419-0365 and their physical address is 181 W Minnesota Street, Le Center, MN 56057.

To review the 2022 tree order form, please visit the following link: <http://www.lesueurswcd.org/tree-sales.html>.



Where to Purchase Native Vegetation?

Are you interested in starting a pollinator garden? Or do you have a spot in your yard that is wet year round? Maybe you want to plant a native buffer on your lakeshore lot? Or maybe you are tired of mowing your grass and want some type of lawn grass that requires less maintenance? There are a variety of native vegetation species as well as eco grass that can help meet your landscaping goals as a landowner.



There are numerous vendors out there that sell native species and eco grass. The plants you order even will be delivered to your front door! You can purchase seeds or plugs (plants that started growth). Many vendors now have kits for lakeshore buffers, rain gardens, and pollinator gardens! If you are interested in purchasing native vegetation, I would recommend contacting Holly for the Le Sueur County's native vegetation vendor list. Her email address is hkalbus@co.le-sueur.mn.us.



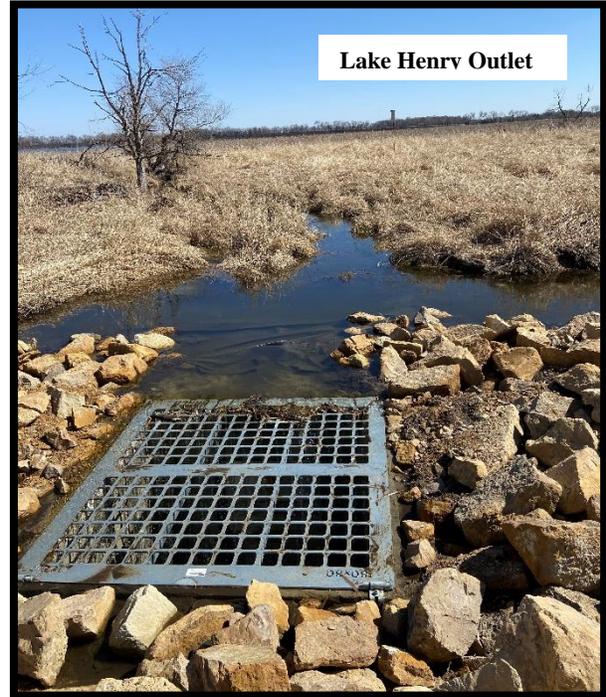
Most vendors do a really good job describing what species they have and what conditions they would thrive best in. If you want to the best selection of plants, I recommend ordering them now! Plants go quick!



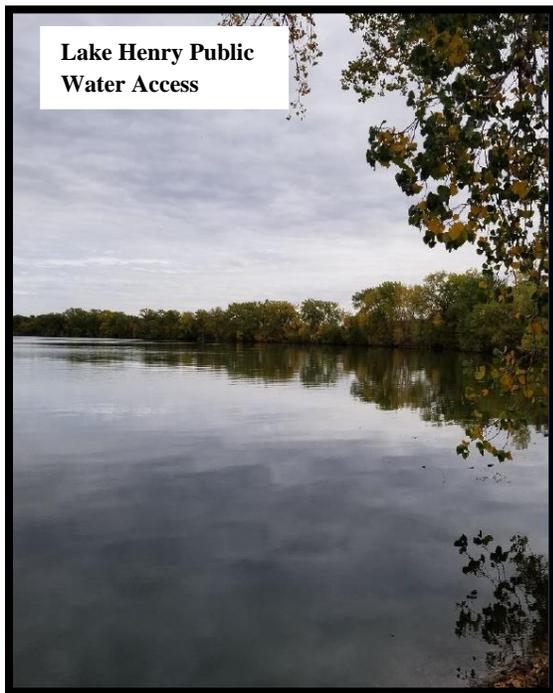
Water Resource Spotlight

This week we are spotlighting Lake Henry!

Lake Henry is located just north of West Jefferson Lake. The lake has a surface area of roughly 360 acres, and a maximum depth of 6 feet. The landscape around the lake is predominately agriculture, but there are some areas that contain wetlands or woods. There is very little development; just a few houses and a DNR public access. Lake Henry’s outlet structure was recently replaced in 2020.



Lake Henry Outlet



Lake Henry Public Water Access

Lake Henry is located within the Middle Minnesota River Watershed. Currently, the lake is not meeting state water quality standards and is considered impaired. Lake Henry is considered a shallow lake, and shallow lakes tend to have higher nutrient loading. Despite this, the lake is far exceeding state water quality standards. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, it is recommended that Lake Henry should reduce phosphorus loads by roughly 83%! There are numerous practices that can be implemented in order to help reduce nutrients for Lake Henry. Examples of practices include, but are not limited to: cover crops, reduced tillage, nutrient management, native shoreline buffers,

updating septic systems, selling abandoned wells, stabilization riparian areas, and in lake treatments (drawdowns, alum treatments, rough fish control).

Minnesota Native Plant

Spotted Touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*)

Spotted Touch-me-not, also known as Jewelweed, is an annual that is a part of the Balsaminaceae (Balsalm) family. It grows 2 to 5 feet tall with numerous stems that comprise one plant. The leaves are wide, oval to egg-shaped, and have serrated leaf margins (leaf edge). The inflorescence (flower head) is orange with red spots on the

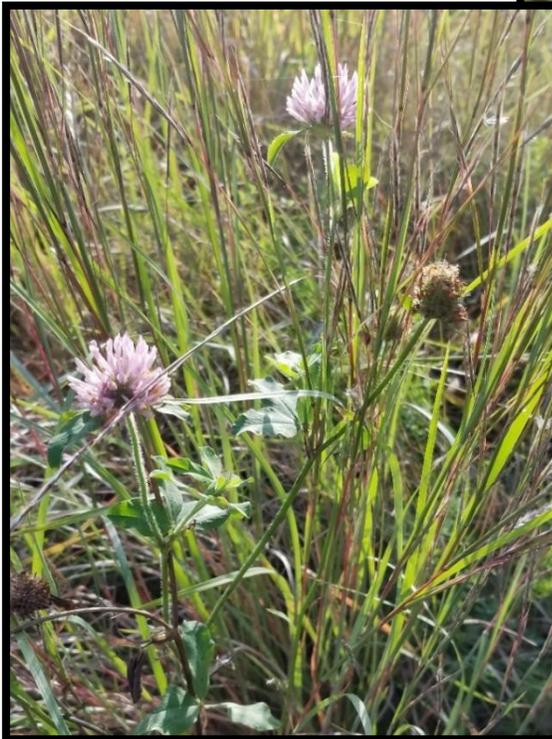
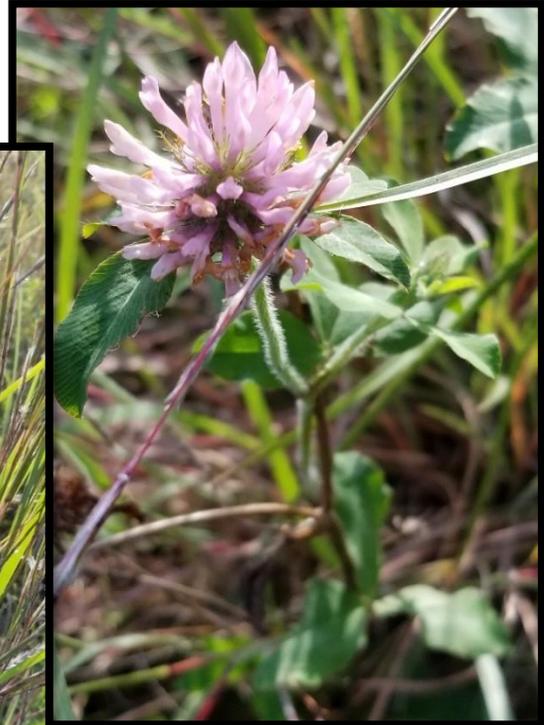


inside of the flower. The flower blooms from June through September. Spotted-Touch-me-not prefers moist soils and full to partial sun. You'll find this plant thriving in wetlands and along shorelines. Historically, this plant has been used for medicinal purposes. The sap from the stem and leaves can relieve itching and pain from skin irritation, poison ivy, and stinging nettle.

Non Native Plant

Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*)

Red Clover is a perennial that is a part of the Fabaceae (Pea) family. It originates from Europe, Asia, and Africa and was originally introduced for agricultural forage purposes. It is considered a weed, but is not on Minnesota's noxious weed list. The plants grow roughly 0.5-2 feet tall. The leaves are compound and have an alternate arrangement on the stem. Typically, there will be a light colored "V" pattern in the middle of the leaf. The flower ranges in color from dull pink to purple, and blooms from June to September. Red Clover prefers dry soils and full sun, and tends to thrive in roadsides, fields, and open areas. These plants are not overly aggressive which allows natives to grow. Red Clover is a common legume used for cover crop mixes due to its nitrogen fixing abilities. This plant is edible, and also has been used for medicinal purposes.



Contact Information

Environmental Services Department

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Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

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To see which DNR staff is the Area Hydrologist for your region, please click on the following link:
https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/area_hydros.pdf