Welcome to Hubbard County... as Visitors and Residents of Hubbard County, it is your privilege to enjoy some of the cleanest, clearest lakes in Minnesota. Along with everyone’s right to enjoy our lakes, comes the responsibility to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species like Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed, Zebra Mussels and Spiny Waterfleas.

Tips for Water Recreationists to Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers:
- **INSPECT** and **REMOVE** aquatic plants and animals before entering/leaving access
- **DRAIN** water before leaving access
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait in the trash, not in the water or on land
- **SPRAY** and **RINSE** or **DRY** boats for 5 days before launching in another water body

Learn to identify Aquatic Invasive Species:
- **SAVE** a suspected invasive plant or animal in a sealed plastic bag
- **REPORT** location of suspected invasive species to the DNR Invasive Species Program Office in the Park Rapids area at 218-699-7293
- **VISIT** [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives)

**Know the Rules/Laws:**
- Do not transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, other prohibited invasive species
- Do not launch a boat or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other prohibited invasive species attached
- Do not transport water from infested waters (bilge, live well, bait buckets, etc)
- Use **TIP** line to report violations: **1-800-652-9093**
- Transporting prohibited invasive species in Minnesota is subject to a **$250 civil penalty**, launching is subject to **$500 to $1000 civil penalties**

**Protect Your Waters:** Visit one of the websites listed below for further guidelines
- **VISIT** [www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola](http://www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola)
- **VISIT** [www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

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**Economic Impacts:**
- Hurts tourism, a **$9 billion dollar/year industry** in Minnesota.
- Loss of water quality = loss of property values = loss of taxes for local communities, counties, and the state.
- Lakeshore property values in Minnesota are over **$250 billion**.
- Zebra mussels clogging the water intakes of St. Cloud, St. Paul and Minneapolis water supplies and industrial water cooling intakes could cost millions to control.
- Lake associations are shouldering the costs of managing AIS. For example: the Bay Lake Association raises **$120,000 per year** to control Eurasian watermilfoil.

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**Ecological Impacts**
- Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed have the potential to displace native plant communities that are essential to lake health and fish habitat.
- Curlyleaf pondweed degradation = increased nutrients = devastating blue green algae blooms and oxygen depletion = loss of recreational use and impacts to fish populations.
- Zebra mussel infestations can lead to changes in water clarity, impacts to fish populations.
- Rusty crayfish feed on walleye spawn potentially impacting the fishery.

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*MINNESOTA WATERS PUBLIC POLICY*
These impacts diminish the “lake experience” that Minnesotans value, both today and for future generations.
HUBBARD COUNTY COLA IS . . .

- A non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the water quality and health of our lakes and rivers for present and future generations.
- An organization comprised of 30 lake associations with a total of 40 lakes and over 2,000 citizen members.

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA IS ACTIVE IN THE HEALTHY LAKES AND RIVERS PARTNERSHIP WHICH HAS LED TO THE FORMATION OF...

- Eleven (11) lake associations developing lake management plans.
- And the formation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to coordinate a countywide effort to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

THE AIS TASK FORCE PREVENTION EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY DNR PREVENTION GRANTS AND HAVE FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES...

- Awareness/education signage program
- Resort education/communication project
- Volunteer inspection training and launch awareness events
- Lake Emma Township/DNR Watercraft Inspectors
- Public service announcements
- Stronger partnerships among citizens, local and state agencies, local units of government, law enforcement and state legislators

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA PARTICIPATES IN THREE ANNUAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT LAKESHORE AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT...

- Provide financial and volunteer support to the Children’s Freshwater Festival
- Order and distribute shoreline trees/shrubs for lake associations in Hubbard County
- Coordinate the Water Quality Monitoring program for MPCA and DNR

**Aquatic Invasive Species Present In Minnesota’s Lakes and Streams**

- Curlyleaf pondweed
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Flowering Rush
- Purple loosestrife
- Zebra mussels
- Rusty crayfish
- Spiny waterflea
- New Zealand mud snail

**Aquatic Invasive Species that Are a Threat to Minnesota’s Lakes and Streams**

- Hydrilla
- Water chestnut
- Didymo (invasive algae)
- VHS (fish virus)
- Asian carp
- Snakehead