

## Wright County Regional Watercraft Decontamination and Inspection Program

### Trailers picking up watercraft on Sylvia, John, or Pleasant require an inspection before launch

In a first for the state of Minnesota, Wright County has established a regional watercraft decontamination and inspection program. From October 11<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, **if you wish to launch a watercraft (includes a trailer to pick up a watercraft) into Lake Sylvia (east and west), Lake John, or Pleasant Lake in Wright County, a free entrance inspection is required.** The regional site is located in the Annandale Business Park --1300 Business Blvd in Annandale, MN. The hours are sunup to sundown seven days a week.

This time of year, those with watercraft resident on the Lake Sylvia, Lake John, or Pleasant will be using trailers to remove their watercraft. If the trailer is transported over public roads, and is picking up a watercraft on the three lakes in the pilot, an inspection of the trailer is required. After inspection, and if needed decontamination, the user will receive a Proof of Inspection to place in their tow vehicle and the trailer will have a zip-tie seal affixed. When launching the trailer to pick up the watercraft, the user will place the zip-tie seal in a collection box at the lake access.

Also, a reminder that your Proof of Inspection and watercraft zip-tied to the trailer is good until the zip-tie is broken. So, if you complete an exit inspection this fall, retain the Proof of Inspection form and as long as the watercraft is zip-tied to the trailer, you are ready for next spring.

We remind all watercraft users to follow all Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- Clean aquatic plants and animals from watercraft;
- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft; and
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

After October 31<sup>st</sup>, the regional inspection station will be closed for the season and lake users can trailer and launch as usual.

The program is a pilot to increase the percentage of boats inspected prior to launch and to improve the cost-effectiveness of inspections in Wright County.

Courtesy inspections and decontaminations continue to be available to anyone wishing to use any Wright County lake.

The Wright County Regional Watercraft Decontamination Inspection Program is a joint effort between the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Annandale, the Greater Lake Sylvia Lake Association, the Pleasant Lake Association, and the Lake John Association. Significant financial support has been provided by the Initiative Foundation Aquatic Invasive Species Program (Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council). For more information contact Alicia O'Hare [AIS@wrightswcd.org](mailto:AIS@wrightswcd.org) or visit [http://www.wrightswcd.org/Water\\_Management/wrip.html](http://www.wrightswcd.org/Water_Management/wrip.html).



**Given the common practice of borrowing trailers to remove watercraft during this time of year, inspecting trailers prior to picking up watercraft will help reduce the chance of spreading aquatic invasive species.**