

AEPP62121

## AIS Education in the Upper KK Watershed

### Final Report

The goal of the project for this education grant was to broaden AIS education and outreach in the Upper Kinnickinnic watershed. We set out to construct boot washing stations and were successful in making 11 stations with installation along access points in the Kinnickinnic Watershed. All these installations have been added to the SWIMS database as I'll also supply a file with GPS coordinates and pictures for each installation. We had originally formatted our budget for only 12 stations and after those were completed, we still had nearly half our funding available so we added a year extension to use up the remaining funds.

Again, within that first year we installed 11 of the 12 stations that were made, as one site in our original plans became unavailable so we have one station that carried over into the next year. The remaining funds were used to purchase and build 5 more boot washing stations, 2 NAISMA interpretive signs with boot scrushers, and 10 NAISMA invasive species signs. One of the NAISMA interpretive signs has been installed in the local School Forest with the K-12 school district as their property is newly available for public access. The details of it's coordinates and a picture will be provided with the final report submission and has been uploaded initially in the SWIMS database. The remaining 6 boot stations, 1 interpretive sign, and 10 NAISMA signs have yet to installed with the intent on expanding the signs through the Kinnickinnic watershed and as AIS Coordinators in Pierce County, there are opportunities within the county. We are currently seeking locations, though we do not have a prospective list currently.

When we originally proposed our grant, we were not entirely aware of the library of AIS materials and content that would be available to us through this grant as well as the LMPN so we did not allocate funds to produce brochures or booklets, neither did we realize the signs used with the boot washing stations would be provided to us from the DNR without any cost. This helped us reserve funds to expand the construction of the stations.

When it comes to outreach, we have participated in ongoing outreach with our responsibilities with the LMPN, but some time we allocated to this grant included a workshop we hosted with the Animal Science course 321: Companion Animal Care and Management which served an audience of 25 students. The lecture was specific to invasive species where we focused on the role the pet trade plays as a method of introduction for invasive species. This was a great collaboration with the Animal Science program and expanded our audience. We did not acquire any survey information from this lecture, only the number in attendance.

We had created a QR code when conducting outreach during the year this grant was awarded, although we were limited with its presentation as we only had a paper copy. The QR code referred to the website we created which can be found here: <https://www.uwrf.edu/PES/AIS-Pierce-County.cfm> . From events we attended, we saw a response to website activity, but we did not procure a survey to gain public perceptions about AIS. We had fairly low engagement with public outreach events so we rather prioritized creating or purchasing as many signs as possible to broaden public awareness about aquatic invasive species. We appreciate the DNR's support in our efforts and will continue our work with the LMPN funding we receive. Thank you!