

Rock Lake Clean Boats, Clean Waters - 2017 Effort & Results

The goal of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. Through this program, inspectors are trained to educate boaters at boat launches on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride on boats and fishing/boating equipment. They also explain to boaters the laws associated with removing plants, animals and water from boats and equipment. The inspectors perform boat and trailer checks, distribute brochures, and collect and report any new water body infestations.

The Town of Lake Mills has received the Department of Natural Resources grant each year since 2014. The City of Lake Mills has received the grant every year since 2016. The 2014-2016 grants required a minimum of 200 hours of inspection at one launch. The 2017 grants required a minimum of 200 hours combined at the North End and Ferry Park launches; and a minimum of 200 hours combined at Sandy Beach and Mill Pond launches. However, additional time is spent at the other launches to ensure that boaters are contacted by inspectors.

The Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department trained the watercraft inspectors, answered their questions, and supplied them with handouts to provide to boaters. The inspectors generally work from May through September. In addition to working at the boat launches and entering data, the inspectors may also attend events and lake meetings to educate participants.

Hours at Boat Launches

	Elm Point	Ferry Park	Mill Pond	North End	Sandy Beach	Totals
2013 Hours (prior to grant)	0	0	1	13	1	15
2014 Hours	6	48.5	43.25	200.25	66	364
2015 Hours	3.75	13.5	5.25	204	40	266.5
2016 Hours	10	26.5	45.75	200	201	483.26
2017 Hours	0	81	87	170.25	126.75	465

All hours at launches include hours put in by DNR, paid inspectors, and volunteers.

Summary of 2017 Data Collection at the Rock Lake Boat Launches

	North End	Mill Pond	Sandy Beach	Ferry Park	Totals
# boats entering/leaving water	445	173	430	110	1,158
# people contacted	859	289	822	183	2,153
# boats using another water body within 5 days of launching on Rock Lake*	41	26	27	13	107

* Not everyone answered this question.

Boaters are asked by the inspectors if they have used their boat on another water body within the last 5 days. This is an important question because some invasive species can be viable up to 5 days out of water. Of the people who answered the question, 107 boats were used on a different lake/river in the last 5 days. Some of the boaters indicated the lake or river where they had used their boats in the last 5 days. Many of these waters have documented aquatic invasive species that are **NOT** found in Rock Lake. These include spiny water flea, flowering rush, freshwater jellyfish, phragmites, pennywort, yellow floating heart, sacred lotus, and ornamental water lilies.