



Lake Washington
Improvement Association
of Meeker County

Summer 2026

Newsletter

Lake Washington Improvement Association

END OF THE DOCK

By Mark Johnson

I recently volunteered to serve as President of the Lake Washington Improvement Association. I look forward to serving alongside our returning Vice President, Mike Wosmek; Secretary, Steve Ullom; and Treasurer, Dan Komerck. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Dave Rathe for his leadership term as President and appreciate that he will continue serving on the Board.

My wife, Laurie, and I purchased our property on Lake Washington in 2013 and quickly fell in love with the peace and beauty of lake life. In 2016, we became full-time residents, and I joined the LWIA Board that same year because it was important to me to help preserve and protect the lake we all enjoy.

One of the greatest joys of living here is sharing Lake Washington with family and friends. We have two adult sons and two grandchildren, and you'll often find us out on the pontoon with our Westie, Josie, and Border Collie, Bruce.

Thank you to our board members, shoreline captains, volunteers, and members whose support makes LWIA's work possible.



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New Threats

SAME RESPONSIBILITY

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) continue to be one of the greatest threats facing Minnesota lakes. While many of us are familiar with zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, a new invasive species is making headlines across the country and serves as a reminder that prevention remains our best defense.

A New Mussel on the Radar

In 2024, North America's first population of golden mussels was discovered in California. Since then, the species has spread rapidly through portions of the state's waterways, prompting emergency declarations and significant concerns from water managers.

Golden mussels are similar to zebra mussels in many ways. They attach to hard surfaces, reproduce quickly, clog water infrastructure, and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. Scientists fear they could follow the same path that zebra mussels took across North America decades ago.



The Good News?

Golden mussels have not been found in Minnesota. The better news? The same prevention steps that help stop zebra mussels also help prevent the spread of new invasive species.

Zebra Mussels Continue to Spread

Unfortunately, zebra mussels continue to expand their range within Minnesota. Once established, zebra mussels are nearly impossible to eliminate.

They filter enormous amounts of water, alter food chains, increase water clarity in ways that can promote nuisance vegetation growth, and can negatively impact fish habitat and native species. Research continues to examine their long-term effects on Minnesota's walleye fisheries.



1 How much water should be drained from your boat before leaving a lake?

- A. Just the live well
- B. Just the bilge
- C. All water-holding compartments
- D. Only if you see plants attached

2 What is the most effective way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?

- A. Wash your boat once a year
- B. Inspect, Clean, Drain, and Dry your watercraft after every use
- C. Only launch at public accesses
- D. Avoid fishing in more than one lake

3 What is one reason invasive species are difficult to control once established?

- A. They often have few natural predators.
- B. They reproduce quickly.
- C. They spread easily between lakes.
- D. All of the Above.



A healthy shoreline benefits more than your property - it supports wildlife, protects water quality and keeps our lake beautiful.

ANSWERS

1

C

2

B

3

D

ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING

By Mike Wosmek

Again this year we are working with the University of Minnesota "Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center". On May 25th I installed 11 zebra mussel sampler plates. It is important that we do not remove the samplers from the water. Leave the samplers undisturbed until I remove them,

In the middle of September I will pick up all the samplers, dry them for 2 days, then disassemble and take photos of both sides of all plates. Reach out if you are interested in helping with this project.

I will also take water hardness test at each location. All the information is passed on to the U of M. The U of M will send a report with all the findings for us to share with our lake members. Also we will get a report that compares our lake to the other lakes in the program.



1

True or False?

Zebra mussel can attach to docks, lifts, boats, and even native mussels.

2

How large can a zebra mussel be when it first settles on a surface?

- A. Size of a marble
- B. Size of a grain of rice
- C. Nearly microscopic
- D. Size of a pencil eraser

3

How many zebra mussels can one female produce in a year?

- A. 100
- B. 1,000
- C. 100,000
- D. Up to 1 million



ANSWERS

1

TRUE

2

C

3

D

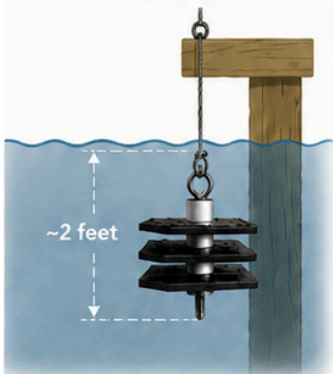


HOW ZEBRA MUSSEL SAMPLERS WORK

Zebra mussel "hotels" give us an early warning system to detect new infestations and track how mussels spread in our lakes.

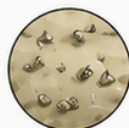
1 DEPLOY

Samplers are fully assembled and hung from a dock so the bottom plate sits ~2 feet below the water's surface.



2 SETTLE

Zebra mussel larvae (veligers) are microscopic and drift in the water. They settle on hard surfaces like the sampler plates.



3 GROW

Larvae grow into juvenile mussels and remain attached to the plates.

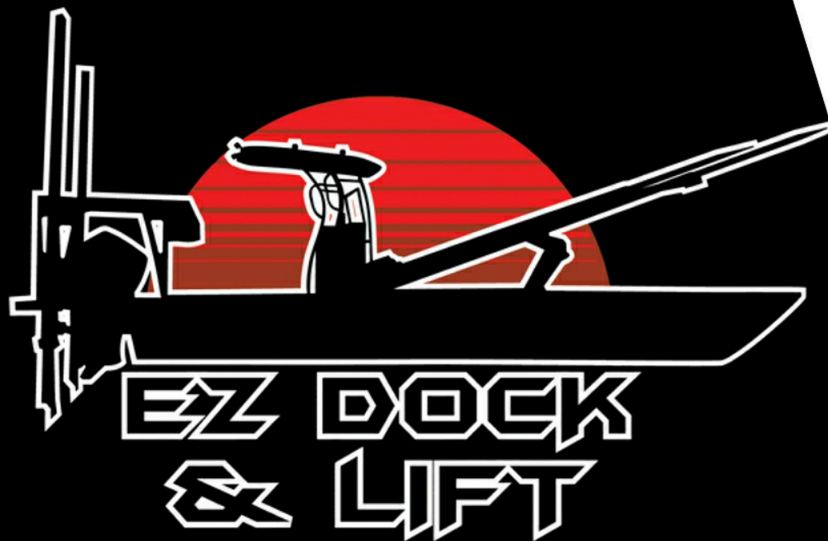


4 CHECK & MONITOR

Samplers are removed from the water (typically once a month) and checked for juvenile mussels. The data help us detect new infestations early and guide management decisions.



Hard, still surfaces are what zebra mussel larvae prefer—which is why our samplers are so effective.



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AIS PREVENTION — WORKS —

Thanks to strong partnerships,
boater responsibility, and
innovative programs,
Minnesota's lakes
ARE BEING PROTECTED.



— BY THE NUMBERS: MINNESOTA AIS SUCCESS —



11,842+

MINNESOTA LAKES

From big and well-known
to small and hidden gems.



378

**LAKES & WETLANDS
WITH ZEBRA MUSSELS**

Only about 5% of Minnesota
lakes have confirmed
zebra mussels.



469,000+

**WATERCRAFT
INSPECTIONS IN 2024**

DNR and local partners
worked together to keep
invasive species out.



87

**COUNTIES
PARTICIPATE**

A statewide network
protecting our lakes
together.



98%

**OF INSPECTED BOATS
ARRIVED FREE OF**

aquatic plants, invasive
species, mud and water.



97%

**COMPLIED WITH
MINNESOTA'S
DRAIN PLUG LAW**

Keeping water in the lake
reduces the risk of
spreading invasives.



THOUSANDS

**OF BOATS
DECONTAMINATED**

Boats and equipment
cleaned before launching
to stop the spread.



90%+

**OF MINNESOTA LAKES
REMAIN FREE OF
ZEBRA MUSSELS**

Thanks to prevention
efforts that
make a difference!



**OVER
95%**

**OF INSPECTED BOATERS COMPLIED
WITH KEY AIS TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS**

High compliance today helps keep Minnesota's
lakes healthy for generations to come.



THE GOOD NEWS:

90%+

More than 90% of Minnesota
lakes remain free of
zebra mussels—**proof that
prevention efforts
make a difference!**



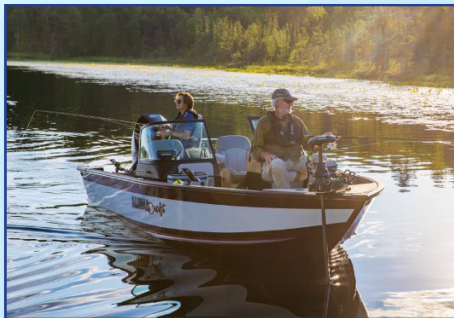
Thank you to our lake
associations, volunteers,
partners, and responsible
boaters—together, we
protect our lakes for
generations to come.



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I-LIDS PROGRAM

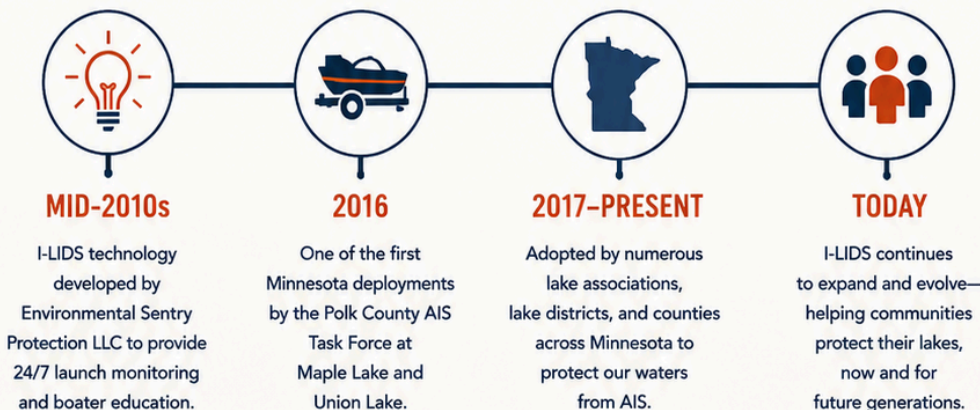
I-LIDS stands for Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor. It is a self-contained, solar-powered camera and sensor system installed at public boat launches. I-LIDS was developed by Environmental Sentry Protection LLC as a way to provide continuous monitoring and education at public accesses. It essentially acts as a "virtual inspector" when human inspectors are not present.

HOW I-LIDS WORKS

I-LIDS uses innovative technology and local partnerships to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.



THE EVOLUTION OF I-LIDS IN MINNESOTA



**CLEAN.
DRAIN.
DRY.
DISPOSE.**



PROTECT OUR LAKES.



CLEAN

Clean watercraft, trailers, and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.



DRAIN

Drain all water from your boat, motor, livewell, ballast tanks, and equipment.



DRY

Dry your boat and equipment for at least 21 days or wipe with a towel before launching in a new waterbody.



DISPOSE

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release bait or plants into Minnesota lakes or streams.

Small actions make a big difference.
Thank you!



Protecting Our Lake

ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

Recent improvements at two watershed sites on the north side of Lake Washington are already helping reduce sediment and debris from entering the lake.



At Site #319, a failing culvert connection was repaired by replacing an undersized 4-inch pipe with a larger 12-inch pipe and T-connect. A screened filter was also installed to help capture debris before it reaches the culvert and eventually the lake.



A second project, located farther west, addressed runoff carrying soil and sediment from nearby fields into the drainage ditch. Working with Lindberg Excavating, Mike Wosmek installed a filtration system.



They built a series of rock weirs to slow the flow of water and trap sediment before it reached the culvert.



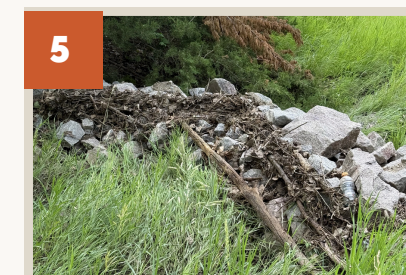
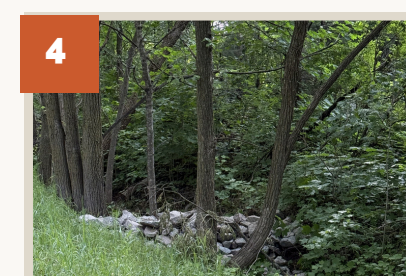
The heavy rains on June 23 provided an unexpected test of the new system. While part of the filter required repair after the storm, the rock weirs performed exactly as intended—capturing sticks, debris, and sediment that would have otherwise washed into Lake Washington.



A special thank you to Mike Wosmek and Gary Daniels for their work on these important watershed improvement projects.



These projects are another example of the behind-the-scenes work LWIA volunteers undertake to protect water quality. By reducing erosion and keeping sediment out of the lake, we help preserve cleaner water and a healthier ecosystem for everyone who enjoys Lake Washington.



Planning Your Shoreline Project

WORKING WITH NATURE



Summer is the perfect time to tackle landscaping projects, repair shoreline damage, and improve your property's appearance. But the choices we make along our shoreline can have a significant impact on Lake Washington's water quality. Healthy shorelines do much more than look attractive.



Native plants, trees, and deep-rooted grasses help stabilize soil, reduce erosion, filter pollutants, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. In contrast, heavily manicured lawns that extend to the water's edge can allow rainwater to carry fertilizer, soil, grass clippings, and other pollutants directly into the lake.



If your shoreline has experienced erosion from ice ridges or wave action, consider restoration methods that work with nature. Properly installed riprap, native plantings, and bioengineering techniques can protect your property while maintaining valuable shoreline habitat.



Did You Know?

Just 10 feet of natural shoreline vegetation can remove up to 80% of phosphorus from runoff before it reaches the lake.



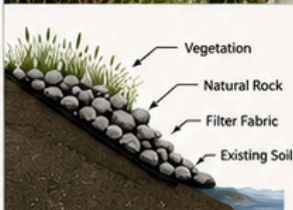
RIPRAP: HELPFUL OR HARMFUL?

Many shoreline owners are dealing with erosion from ice ridges and wave action.



RIPRAP BEST PRACTICES

- ✓ **USE NATURAL ROCK**
Use clean, durable rock that blends with the natural shoreline.
- ✓ **INCLUDE A FILTER FABRIC UNDERNEATH**
Filter fabric prevents soil from washing through the rocks.
- ✓ **MAINTAIN A GENTLE SLOPE**
A gradual slope absorbs wave energy and prevents erosion.
- ✓ **PRESERVE EXISTING SHORELINE VEGETATION**
Plants stabilize soil, filter runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife.



A gentle slope with natural rock and vegetation works with nature to protect your shoreline.



COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ **DUMPING ROCK DIRECTLY ONTO SOIL**
Soil washes out from under the rocks, causing instability.
- ✗ **CREATING A VERTICAL WALL**
Steep walls reflect wave energy and increase erosion.
- ✗ **REMOVING ALL SHORELINE PLANTS**
Without plants, soil erodes and wildlife habitat is lost.
- ✗ **EXTENDING ROCK INTO THE LAKE**
This destroys aquatic habitat and can make your shoreline more vulnerable.



Steep, bare rock does not absorb wave energy and leads to erosion over time.



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WHERE LAND MEETS WATER

Shoreline Restoration and Permitting

Before starting a shoreline project, be sure to check whether permits are required. The Minnesota DNR, Meeker County, and the Meeker SWCD can help guide you through the process and ensure your project protects our lake.



Minnesota DNR Waters Permits

- Shoreline restoration projects that involve work below the ordinary high water level, vegetation removal, riprap installation, or other changes to the shoreline may require a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Meeker County Environmental Services / Planning & Zoning

- County shoreline ordinances may regulate grading, setbacks, bluff impacts, vegetation removal, and erosion-control projects.
- Contact the county before starting work to determine local requirements.



Conservation Assistance

- The Meeker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) can often provide guidance on shoreline restoration best practices, native plantings, and erosion control opportunities.



1

How much phosphorus can a single pound of fertilizer contain?

Enough to grow:

- A. One square foot of algae
- B. One basketball court of algae
- C. Several acres of algae
- D. An entire lake of algae

2

True or False

A phosphorus level increase can contribute to algae blooms.



Just 10 feet of natural shoreline vegetation can remove up to 80% of phosphorus from runoff before it reaches the lake.



ANSWERS

1

C

2

TRUE

SHORELINE IMPROVEMENT BEST PRACTICES

1



Maintain or establish a buffer of native plants near the shoreline.

2



Leave natural vegetation where possible.

3



Direct downspouts away from the lake.

4



Sweep grass clippings and fertilizer off driveways and sidewalks.

5



Use phosphorus-free fertilizer unless a soil test indicates otherwise.

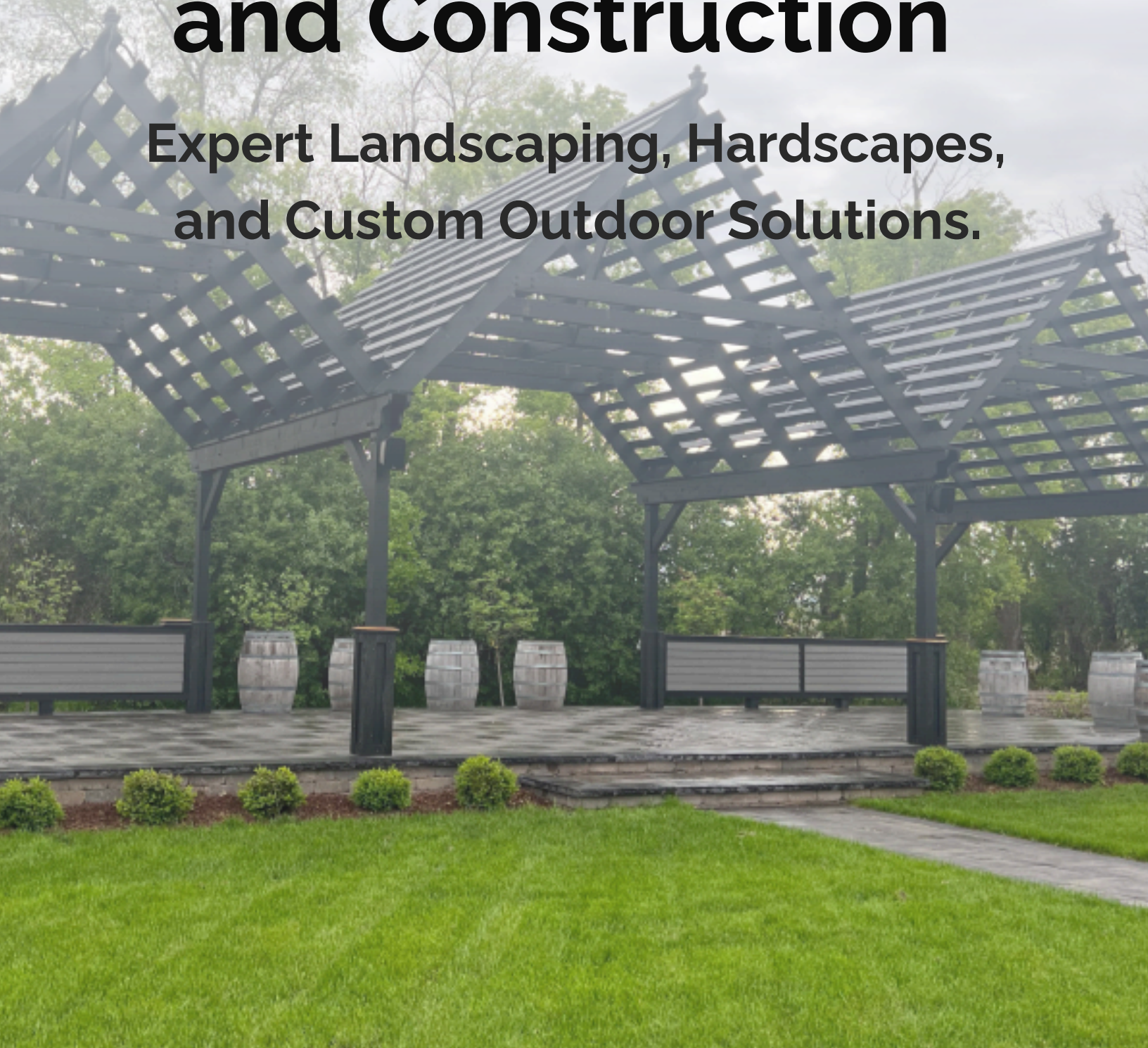
6



Preserve shoreline trees and shrubs that help hold soil in place.

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MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

By Dave Rathe

Lake Water

The May water test conducted on the 18th (at Site 101, the deepest part of the lake) had 23.1 mg/L of Total Phosphorus and 6.2 mg/L of Chlorophyll-a with a clarity reading of 8.0 feet.

Chlorophyll-a was in-line with historical numbers for May of 6.06 mg/L. Total Phosphorus was lower than the historical numbers of 28.8 mg/L and almost half of the reading in 2025. Water clarity in May is 7 feet on average. The water clarity was better on the 1st of June with a reading of 8.5 feet, which was better than the historical average of 5.59 feet for June. Water temperature for both dates were right in-line with historical averages of 62.4°F and 73.2°F.

This summer's cost of the 5 test samples to be analyzed by RMB will be around \$690 including shipping. 2025 cost was around \$550, the 2026 cost increase was split between shipping and analysis.

Inlet Water

We are planning to test water from 6 Inlets this summer. Samples will be evaluated for Total Phosphorus and Suspended solids. We are waiting for work to be completed on several of these Sites. Current planned Sites are 302, 304, 306, 312, 319, and one other. Stella (Site 309) water flow rate was measured at 701,000 gallons per hour on May 18th.

2026 Monitoring Program



5 Deep Water Samples (May – Sept.)



6 Inlet Monitoring Sites



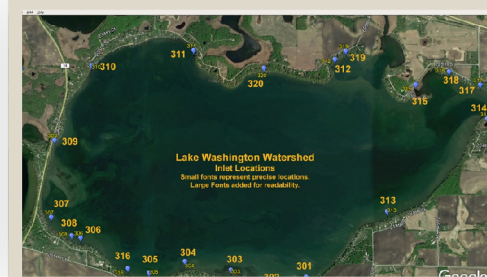
Monthly Phosphorus Testing



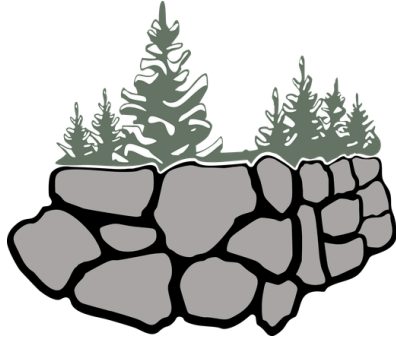
Water Clarity (Secchi Disk) May – Sept)



Temperature Profiles (May & June)



Board Members, Mike Wosmek, Brett Rasmussen and Dave Rathe conducting water samples.



BACKYARD REFLECTIONS

DESIGN/BUILD LANDSCAPING



Contact us for a consultation!

Annandale: 320-274-6336

Pequot Lakes: 218-454-1065

www.backyardmn.com

YOUR SHORELINE

Is a Wildlife Habitat

When we think about wildlife management, we often picture fish, ducks, loons, or deer. But one of the most important wildlife habitats on Lake Washington may be right in yards.

The area where the water meets the shore is known as the shoreline buffer. Native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees in this zone provide food, shelter, nesting sites, and travel corridors for many species of wildlife.

They also help stabilize shorelines, reduce erosion, filter runoff, and improve water quality. Native plants support birds, butterflies, bees, frogs, turtles, and countless other species that depend on healthy lakeshore habitat.

Even small changes can make a difference:

- ✓ Leave a section of shoreline in natural vegetation
- ✓ Plant native wildflowers and grasses
- ✓ Reduce pesticide use when possible
- ✓ Preserve shrubs and trees for cover habitat



LAKE WASHINGTON CHALLENGE

Take a Walk Along Your Shoreline



Count how many different birds, butterflies, turtles, frogs, or other wildlife you can spot.

You may be surprised by how much habitat exists right in your own backyard!



Could you convert a small section of lawn into native habitat? Even a modest planting can help create a healthier shoreline and a healthier Lake Washington.



BIRDS



BUTTERFLIES



TURTLES



FROGS



TRUE OR FALSE



Loons build their nests in trees.

FALSE – Loons build nests at the water's edge and need undisturbed shoreline habitat to successfully raise their young.



Dragonflies can eat hundreds of mosquitos in a single day.

TRUE – These aerial hunters are one of nature's best mosquito controls.



Fallen trees along the shoreline are always harmful to fish habitat.

FALSE – Submerged logs and woody debris provide shelter for young fish and feeding areas for many aquatic species.

Did You Know?



Just 50 feet of natural shoreline can provide important habitat for ducks, turtles, frogs, and songbirds.



Native wildflowers along the shoreline support pollinators like bees and butterflies.



Minnesota's painted turtles often return to the same nesting areas year after year.



Bald eagles, once endangered in Minnesota, are now a common sight around lakes thanks to conservation efforts.

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FULL SERVICE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

FERTILIZATION AND WEED CONTROL

WEEKLY MOWING

SPRING AND FALL CLEANUPS

AERATION AND OVERSEEDING

WEEKLY BEACH CLEANUP

HEDGE TRIMMING

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

AND MORE!



Social Events Update

By Sandy Wosmek

Oh for Minnesota Lake Washington weather — As I write this article, there was little rain last night, a beautiful day today with a little breeze — a great day to be on the lake. The weather prediction for tomorrow is rain, and then a beautiful weekend.

For our next get together, we are trying something different this year, hoping more people will be able to attend as the weekends get so busy for all.



What: Annual Pot Luck and National Night Out



Where: Dassel Rod & Gun Club



When: Tuesday, August 4



Time: Social Hour - 4:30 p.m.
Pot Luck Meal - 5:30 p.m.

Meat sandwiches, root beer floats, lemonade and water will be provided by the lake association. EZ Dock & Lift is once again paying for this so please thank them when seeing them. Please bring something to share, along with your beverage and your own plates and utensils.



There will be a speaker and door prizes. Open discussion will follow if any questions or concerns need to be discussed. The regular monthly board meeting will follow if you wish to stay and attend.

Here's hoping that you are able to attend the pot luck. Looking forward to a fun night of visiting with all the lake neighbors.

Have a HAPPY and SAFE SUMMER!!!



Thank You!

The annual meeting and pork chop meal in May was well attended. Thanks to those who came and thanks to B&B Sports in Hutchinson for once again paying for the pork chops.



2026 Pork Chop Dinner and Annual Meeting

Guest Speakers were:

Kristan Maccaroni, DNR Hutchinson Area fisheries Supervisor, and Eric Kätzenmeyer, Regional AIS Specialist



Membership Update

By Laurie Johnson

Lake Washington is more than just a destination—it's home. Today, our lake is made up of nearly 400 shoreline properties, evenly split between year-round residents and seasonal homeowners. While about half of our property owners call Lake Washington home every day, the other half return on weekends, throughout the summer, or whenever they can escape to enjoy the lake they love.

Our community extends well beyond the shoreline. Property owners come from Hutchinson, the Twin Cities, southern Minnesota, and even other states, yet we all share a common commitment to preserving the beauty and health of Lake Washington.

Currently, 186 households—nearly one out of every two property owners—support the Lake Washington Improvement Association through membership. Their annual dues make it possible to monitor aquatic invasive species, test water quality, educate shoreline owners, promote healthy wildlife habitat, and bring our community together through events and communication.

Whether you live here year-round or spend your summers at the lake, your membership helps ensure that Lake Washington remains a healthy, vibrant place for generations to come. Together, we're protecting the lake we all call home.



Show Your Lake Pride

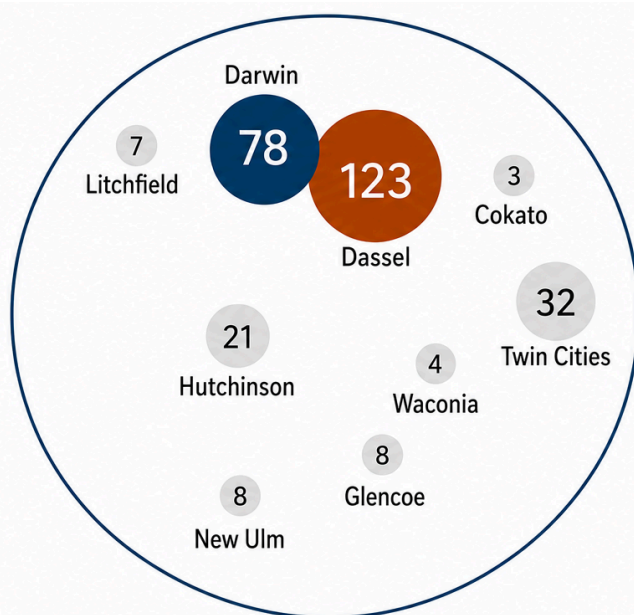
Nearly one out of every two Lake Washington property owners is an LWIA member.

As a thank you, each member receives a 2026 LWIA sticker delivered by their Shoreline Captain.

Display yours proudly—it lets your neighbors know you're helping protect Lake Washington.

WHERE LAKE WASHINGTON PROPERTY OWNERS CALL HOME

Our lake community spans near and far.



90%

Lake Washington property owners live in Minnesota



51%

Lake Washington property owners are full-time residents



1/2

Lake Washington property owners are LWIA Members

Thank you to our 2026 Members

The Lake Washington Improvement Association is proud to recognize the individuals and families who have invested in the future of our lake through their 2026 membership. We are grateful for your commitment to our lake and our community. The names listed below reflect memberships received as of the publication of this newsletter. Together, we're making a difference—one membership at a time.

Bruce Adams Alisha Ahlgren Susan Albright Curt & Pennie Anderson Keith & Wendy Anderson Randy & Mary Anderson Idle Wave Association Mel & Marilyn Bahr Richard & Carla Bahr Jane Ballard James & Annette Barnes John & Jeanette Barsness Kris & Dean Becker Clarice & John Bengtson David & Sue Bengtson Charles & Sharon Benjamin Gary & Cindy Benson Keith Benson Tim & Anastasia Benz Paul & Jan Betker Mark & Dani Bigelbach Jeff & Amy Blake Jon R Blake Jane Bollman Pam Boorsma Jim & Kim Bottema Grace Brinkmann David & Lori Broll Ben Brown Ronald & Rita Bubany William & Shirley Bull Neil & Patty Burgstahler Steven & Diana Burt David & Amy Buss Daryl & Lynn Cacka Ben & Naseen Caplette Darlene Rotzien Cartwright Rodger & Pam Coppa Bev Cowan Gary & Sharon Daniels Scott & Pam Danielson Mark Determan Scott & Donna Drew Mike & Sheri Ellis Terrie Erickson Joyce Evenski Rick & Abby Fernstrom Nancy & Bob Finkenaur Phil Flores	Timm Gabrielson Tom & Jo Ann Gayner Brice & Chantel Gillman Judy Gramentz Mary Griep Robert & Dianne Griffith Sara Griffith Scott & Kay Haag Andy & Marcia Haefner Paul & Angela Haiden Paul & Heather Halonen John & Donna Hammers Anthony Hanson Patricia & Larry Hanson Tom & Patty Hauer Darryl Heck Duayne & Sue Heimerl Daniel & Sheila Herd Jeff Hesse Troy & Cindy Hewitt Mark & Lisa Hoffman LuAnn Hoffmann Jeff & Denise Horacek Donald Hoversten Dennis & Kristin Jans Jeff & Renae Jensen Josh & Rachael Jenson Adam & Jennifer Johnson Bruce & Barb Johnson Keith & Laurie Johnson Mark & Laurie Johnson Ryan Johnson Gene & Julie Kadelbach Kraig & Kelly Kaiser Bob & Marnie Kane Dave & Bev Karlson Susan Keeler Robert & Ruth Kerstein Steve & Jenny Kjell Ruth Lotsof & Dan Komarek Jim & Megan Koski Beth Kost Larry & Gloria Kotila Joel & Cathy Kraft Eric & Tara Labraaten Carl & Kristin LaPlante Steven Larson Lynne Lindquist	Tom & Cindy Longhenry Kelly & Holly Loosbrock Jeri Lueneburg Fritz & Jo Lukes Todd & Carlynn Lundeen Lisa & Jeremy Luthens Marilyn Macho Craig & Bobbi Mackedanz Tom & Sarah Madison Brett & Lisa Rasmussen Gary & Robyn Rasset Dave & Sue Rathe Tim & Mary Jo Read Mark & Lynn Reed Kenny Madson & Anne Reinke David Maercklein Mark & Ronda Matthias Linda McGraw Colin McKimm Mike & Renae McKimm Luke & Erin McLain Jason & Amber Melby Michael & Cheryl Messner Paul & Elizabeth Milne Kevin Moorhead Karl Terning & Cammy Moses Jean Nathe Tom & Karen Newbarth Ron & Joyce Nielsen Terry & Jenna O'Brien Lori & Michael O'Shea Daniel G. & Sheryle Ohme Mark & Dianne Olsen Field & Cynthia Olson Bev Ooley Jeff Oestmann & Rose Perich Robert & Sheila Paulsen David & Connie Paulson Timothy & Candace Paulson Emmanuel Penkert Craig & Lynn Peterson John & Beth Peterson Mike & Brenda Phelps Kyle & Leah Plath Ron & Kristina Polzin Douglas Quast Reagan Quinn	DuWayne & Janet Rettke Georgia Rettman John & Brenda Rogers David & Joyce Rohy Dan & Abby Rothstein Vernon & Renee Ruschmeyer Kalin & Nancy Samson Mark & Wendy Schierman Michael & LuAnne Schiller Tom & Linda Schmids Mark & Margaret Schmit Marian Schmitz Ken & Kathy Schrempp Doug & Kathy Schroeder Dennis & Sandy Schuette Joachim & Leanne Schugel George & Sue Schwinghammer Dale & Jane Settergren Jeanette Shaner Alan & Charlene Sherwood Arlen Stark Kevin & Darla Stebbins Owen & Mary Steiner Arlene Strom Russ & Lois Stueber Loren Tenold Sean & Kristin Thorson Randy Tieg Allan & Susan Trautman Steve & Christine Ullom Mark Vacek Steve & Joyce Verby Lyle & Georgiann Walker Bruce Wallace Denny & Pat Wanzek Jean & Steve Ward Leon & Shirley Wendinger Dave & Karen Westlund Ryan Williams Lynn Wood Paul & Rebecca Woolverton Michael & Sandra Wosmek Dale & Shari Zieman
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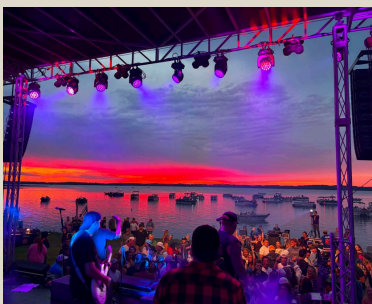
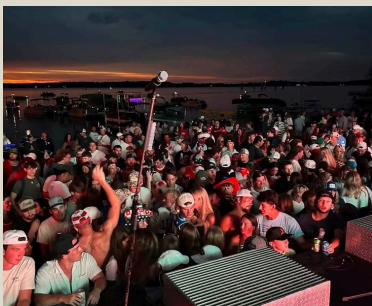
Celebrating 250 Years

From the annual boat parade to live music and neighborhood gatherings, Independence Day is one of the most anticipated weekends of the summer on Lake Washington. The photos below capture just a few of the memories made over the holiday weekend.

Annual Boat Parade



IV Play on the South Side



Gabby Road Project on the North Side





Boating Safety & Etiquette

As boating traffic increases, here are a few Minnesota boating laws and common-sense etiquette reminders worth keeping in mind.



Know the Rules

- ✓ Watercraft, tubing, wake surfing, and similar activities are prohibited from one-half hour after sunset until sunrise.
- ✓ Personal watercraft (Jet Skis) may only operate between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset.
- ✓ When towing a skier, tuber, or wake surfer, operators must have either a spotter onboard or an approved review mirror.
- ✓ The MN DNR recommends staying at least 200 feet from shoreline, docks, and other structures when possible to reduce wake impacts.



Practice Good Lake Etiquette

- ➔ Even when activities are legal, courtesy goes a long way.
- ➔ Be mindful of swimmers, angler, kayakers, and boaters.
- ➔ Avoid repeatedly circling in the same area.
- ➔ Give docks, lifts, swimming areas, and shoreline space.
- ➔ Consider reducing speed near shore to minimize erosion and dock damage.
- ➔ If creating larger wakes, move farther offshore if possible.
- ➔ Keep music at a level that allows all to enjoy the lake.
- ➔ Remember that early mornings and evenings are often valued by anglers, paddlers, and residents enjoying the peace and quiet.



- 1 How far must a boat stay from a swimmer or anchored boat when traveling faster than slow-no wake speed?**
 - A. 50 feet
 - B. 100 feet
 - C. 150 feet
 - D. 200 feet
- 2 What is the most courteous thing to do when approaching someone fishing?**
 - A. Speed up and pass quickly
 - B. Stay on plane but move closer to shore
 - C. Slow down and give plenty of space
 - D. Honk your horn
- 3 Which activity creates the largest wake?**
 - A. Slow-no wake speed
 - B. Mid-range transition speed
 - C. Full planing speed
 - D. Drifting



- 1** It is legal to waterski after sunset if you have navigation lights on your boat.
- 2** Jet skis should avoid jumping directly behind boats that are towing skiers, tubers, or wakeboarders.
- 3** Large wakes can contribute to shoreline erosion.



Answers



Trivia

- 1. C
- 2. C
- 3. B



True or False

- 1. False
- 2. True
- 3. True



Grant Program Update

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Officer

The Meeker County Board approved the request for financial support for the I-LIDS maintenance project in the amount of \$2,666.67 on April 27, 2026. Maintenance expenses need to be completed and sent to Meeker County prior to August 15th. Along with the expenses a record of in-kind hours, invoices, and copies of checks paid need to be sent in as well.



Please forward this information to me prior to August 10.

To all the volunteers that help work on projects during 2026 please email me your "in-kind" volunteer hours as well as any receipts for expenses as soon as a project is completed. My email address: sdaniels@grdaniels.com. I will then forward the receipts to Meeker County for reimbursement of grant funds awarded to us.



Thanks!

to all those that volunteer
their time and efforts to keep
our lake at its best!



Contact Us



Lake Washington Improvement Association
PO Box 68 Dassel, MN 55325



www.lwiaonline.com



info@lwiaonline.com



Lake Washington Improvement Association
Submit your lost & found here



Pat's Corner

By Pat Hanson

As I enjoy reading our daily Star Tribune, the Willmar Tribune and Litchfield's weekly Rail I ran across an article in the Star Tribune. It was about an ancient fish that we still have in some of Minnesota waters! It is a rough fish and is vital to our ecosystem.

Do you know what it is? It's the gar. It has its lineage of the long nose gar and the alligator gar. It's been around about a hundred million years. Professor Solomon David works at the "Gar Lab" at the University of Minnesota. The author of this Sunday's article, David M. Perry for the Star Tribune was fishing on the St. Croix River. He happened to see about a foot below the surface a gar, 18 inches, swimming.

Gabrielle Gonzalez is a graduate student from the U of M. He does electrofishing on the Minnesota River and on a sunny day in June, he wanted get a better understanding of the gar. They got 20 gar in the live well. Yes, they also got a couple keeper size walleye. Did he keep them? No. He threw them back!



Derek J. Sauer is a scientist from the Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota and he did a study. Gar seems to be able to repair their DNA, that's a theory. I hope scientists will continue to do the research on fish such as the gar. So much to learn. Enjoy your summer on Lake Washington folks.

Sources & Resources



The information in this newsletter comes from trusted experts and organizations dedicated to protecting Minnesota's lakes and natural resources. We encourage you to explore these resources to learn more.



Aquatic Invasive Species

Prevention, early detection, monitoring, and research to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
AIS Program — dnr.state.mn.us/invasives
University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species
Research Center (MAISRC) — maisrc.umn.edu

"Prevention remains the single most effective tool for protecting Minnesota lakes."

— Minnesota DNR



Watershed & Shoreline Management

Guidance on healthy shoreline, erosion control, buffers, native plants, and protecting Minnesota's lakes

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Shoreland Management — dnr.state.mn.us/shoreland
University of Minnesota Extension — extension.umn.edu
Meeker Soil & Water Conservation District —
meekercountymn.gov/273/Soil-Water-Conservation

"Natural shorelines are one of the most effective ways to improve lake health."

— University of Minnesota Extension



Water Quality Management

Lake monitoring methods, water quality standards, and what the numbers mean for our lake.

RMB Environmental Laboratories — rmbblabs.com
Minnesota Control Agency (M PCA) — pca.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Lake Monitoring Program — dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind

"Even small areas of native shoreline vegetation provide valuable habitat."

— Minnesota DNR



Wildlife Management

Habit protection, native plants, pollinators, and wildlife-friendly shorelines.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Nongame Wildlife Program — dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife
University of Minnesota Extension Pollinator Initiative —
extension.umn.edu/pollinators

"Everything that happens in the watershed eventually affects the lake."

— Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Boating Safety & Etiquette

Boating laws, safety tips, and etiquette for everyone to enjoy Minnesota lakes.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Boating Guide — dnr.state.mn.us/boating

"Safe boating begins with courteous boating."

— Minnesota DNR



Support Your Lake Become an LWIA Member



Protect Water Quality

Support projects that keep our lake clean and healthy.



Fight AIS

Help prevent and control invasive species in our lake.



Support Education

Fund programs that inform and engage our community.

Scan to
join today!



Save the Date!



ANNUAL POTLUCK & NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4

Dassel Rod and Gun Club



4:30 PM

Social Hour



5:30 PM

Potluck Meal
+ Speaker



7:00 PM

Board
Meeting

