



Lake Minnetonka Conservation District Newsletter

Near Record Ice Out: Both the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol (Water Patrol) and the Freshwater Society (a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting water resources) declare "Ice Out" on Lake Minnetonka. The following chart highlights their official date offered, as well as their individual methodologies:

Activity	Water Patrol	Freshwater Society
2012 Ice Out Date	March 20th	March 21st
2013 Ice Out Date	May 1st	May 2nd
Methodology	A boat can be piloted through the Narrows channel, around Big Island, and back to their office in Spring Park Bay.	A small boat can be piloted from one shore to another shore, through any passage on Lake Minnetonka.
The Freshwater Society has documented, as far back as 1855, historical ice out dates. This interesting documentation can be found on their website at www.freshwater.org .		

The last recorded May ice out date was in 1965. Either 2013 date offered above is in stark comparison to one of the earliest historical dates in 2012. How might this year's late ice out date affect your use of Lake Minnetonka? Some possibilities include the following:

- **Commercial Lake Service Providers-** A number of Lake residents hire service providers to launch their boat and install docks, boat lifts, and/or water accessory structures. Because of the late ice out, their annual work is being condensed into fewer weeks, or perhaps this service has not yet been provided. If you are going to obtain a hired service provider, please remember the State of Minnesota law requires all to be certified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species (see page 4 for further details).
- **Navigational Buoys-** Hennepin County Environmental Services annually installs and removes the navigational buoys on Lake Minnetonka (to assist the public and to support the efforts of the Water Patrol). During a typical boating season, the buoys are placed by the end of April. Most likely, these buoys will be installed when you receive this newsletter; however, you may have had to navigate Lake Minnetonka prior to their placement. We can all hope as winter approaches that there is not a need to collect the buoys anytime sooner than normal (mid October).
- **Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Growth-** EWM growth can vary from year-to-year (even within the same boating season). No one knows whether the late ice out will impact EWM growth; however, you might want to keep this in mind for 2013. Perhaps we will have a low EWM growth season; that would be good news!

In This Issue

Near Record Ice Out	1
Dock, Boat Storage, and Summer Rules	2
Comprehensive EWM and CLP Plan	3
Aquatic Invasive Species Programs	4
LMCD Adopted Bow Fishing Ordinance	5
Save the Lake Solar Lights Program	5
LMCD Monitoring Water Level Readings	6

LMCD BOARD MEETINGS

2nd & 4th Wednesday (7:00 p.m.)
Wayzata City Hall (600 Rice Street)

Cable subscribers in the Mediacom viewing area can view these meetings on the Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC) Government Channel 20. Air times are listed on their website at www.lmcc-tv.org, under Community TV/Channel 20. Additionally, you may view the meetings on their website under "Video on Demand" by following three simple steps: 1) select "Video on Demand", 2) scroll down to "Other Government Meetings," and 3) select LMCD. Agenda parsing is available with "Video on Demand." Simply click on an agenda item and you will be brought directly to that location on the video file.

Dock Use Area and Watercraft Density Rules

Single Family Residential Sites

LMCD ordinances provide for many of the Lake Minnetonka rules and regulations, which can be found on the LMCD's website at www.lmcd.org, under "Rules and Regulations." Chapter 2 outlines the rules governing the area and number of which docks and boat storage are allowed. A brief description of those rules is provided below. Additionally, the LMCD encourages you to know local and state laws, as well.

Defining Your Dock Use Area (DUA) - See Diagram Below	
Dock Length	Side Setbacks
Width of lakeshore frontage (maximum 100')	0' to 50' dock length out from shore: 10' side setback
Lakeshore frontage between 40' and 60' (in existence on 2/5/70) may extend dock to 60'	50' to 100' dock length out from shore: 15' side setback
Lakeshore frontage less than 40' may extend the dock to 4' of water depth or 60', whichever is less	Canopies (vertical height of the fabric cover exceeds 30 inches); 20' side setback
Dock Standards (Including Decks and Platforms) May exceed 8' in length or width, but not both directions.	Lakeshore frontage with 50' or less (in existence on 2/2/70): 5' side setback
	Side opening slips: depth of the slip w/min. 20' side setback
	Consenting neighbors may combine their DUA for a common dock or adjust interior side setbacks. Exterior side setbacks apply.

Defining Unrestricted Watercraft (Unlimited within DUA)
16' or less in length and unmotorized or which uses a motor of 10 hp or less
20' or less in length and unmotorized and which is propelled solely by human power

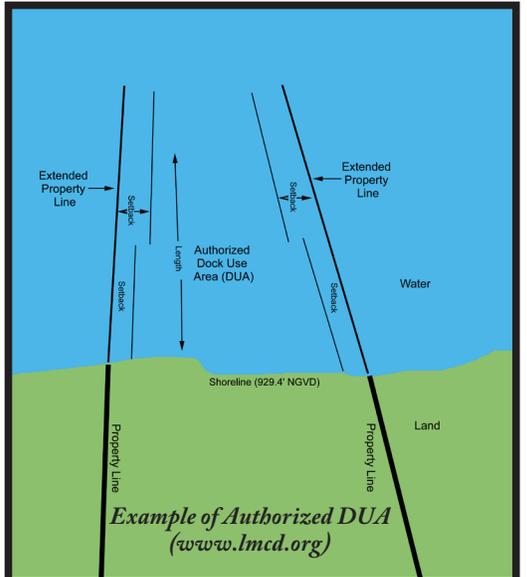
Watercraft Density for Restricted Watercraft (Includes Personal Watercraft)
The General Rule is one restricted watercraft for each 50' (1:50') of continuous shoreline. Reference to ownership is not required, but five or more watercraft require a license by the LMCD; or,
Unless a greater number is allowed by the General Rule, up to two restricted watercraft may be allowed at a residential site in existence on August 30, 1978. Reference to ownership is not required; or,
Up to four restricted watercraft may be moored or docked at a site, provided specific conditions are met. Some of which include: 1) single family residence only, 2) exclusive dockage rights by site's owner, and 3) all restricted watercraft owned by and registered to persons living on site.

LMCD Summer Rules

It is the responsibility of the watercraft operator to comply with all Lake Minnetonka rules. Signage with a drop box holding summer rule pamphlets are installed at most major public accesses. As always, feel free to call the LMCD with questions or to have a summer rules pamphlet mailed to you.

Understanding "Minimum Wake"

"Minimum wake" means the wave moving out from a watercraft and trailing behind is in a widening "V" of insufficient size to affect other watercraft or to be detrimental to the shoreline. Please observe "Minimum Wake" through channels; within 150' of shore, docks, divers, swimmers, and fisherman; in designated Quiet Water areas, all areas marked "Slow Minimum Wake", and during a High Water Declaration.



Lake Minnetonka

Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-Leaf Pond Weed Plan

Background: In March, the LMCD adopted a Comprehensive Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Plan (Plan) for Lake Minnetonka. This Plan was a result of five years of work by the LMCD's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force. Professional representatives that serve on this Task Force include currently appointed and former LMCD Board members, Hennepin County Environmental Services, Lake Minnetonka Association, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Three Rivers Park District, and other stakeholders.

Five-Year Demonstration Project: The LMCD partnered on a whole bay herbicide treatment demonstration project on Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bays from 2008 through 2012. The two primary goals for this project were to evaluate whether: 1) EWM and CLP could be managed with lower herbicide dosages on a whole bay and 2) the treatments would damage the native plants. The AIS Task Force served as the technical committee for this project, assessing it based on goals and objects spelled out in their drafted and Board approved 2007 Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP).

In April of 2012, the AIS Task Force assessed the results of the treatments from 2008 through 2011 based on the LVMP's goals and objectives. The consensus of the Task Force was that the LMCD should not extend treatments on the three bays beyond 2012, or expand the project to other bays, until a Comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan was developed for all of Lake Minnetonka. The LMCD Board concurred with this recommendation. *Table 1 (below) provides a summary of the expenses incurred on this five-year project, with Table 2 outlining public sector contributions:*

Table 1 (Summary of Total Expenses)

Year	Carmans Bay	Grays Bay	Phelps Bay	Totals
2008	\$48,553	\$66,557	\$60,857	\$175,967
2009	\$0	\$64,399	\$70,150	\$134,549
2010	\$57,277	\$8,683	\$34,535	\$100,495
2011	\$44,863	\$0	\$51,517	\$96,380
2012	\$11,724	\$59,099	\$33,022	\$103,845
Total Costs	\$162,417	\$198,738	\$250,081	\$611,236

Table 2 (Public Sector Contributions)

Year	LMCD	MN DNR	Cities	Totals
2008	\$30,000	\$24,999	\$24,000	\$78,999
2009	\$20,000	\$24,788	\$21,000	\$65,788
2010	\$20,707	\$24,999	\$24,000	\$69,706
2011	\$19,866	\$36,500	\$13,000	\$69,366
2012	\$20,169	\$32,214	\$9,000	\$61,383
Total Costs	\$110,742	\$143,500	\$91,000	\$345,242

Comprehensive EWM and CLP Plan for Lake Minnetonka: The adopted Plan was a result of the AIS Task Force's April, 2012 recommendation. Some of the highlights of this plan include the following.

Purpose- To provide guidance to the LMCD and local partners for the management and control of EWM and CLP.

Management Goals- 1) Enhance navigability for recreational and commercial use in public areas, 2) to maintain or increase native aquatic plants and water quality, and 3) to leverage the broadest sources of funds available.

Public Areas- Defined as: 1) 100' offshore and outside of the authorized dock use areas as defined on page two of this newsletter and 2) adjacent to publically-owned land, access points, and destinations.

Identified Management Tools - 1) Lake wide mechanical harvesting and 2) whole bay/large scale herbicide treatments (in suitable management areas). Carmans, Carsons, Gideon, Grays, North Arm, Phelps, St. Albans, and St. Louis Bays have been established as suitable management areas.

Further Details/Questions- 1) Contact Executive Director Greg Nybeck at 952-745-0789/gnybeck@lmcd.org or 2) view the Plan on the LMCD's website at www.lmcd.org, under "Pamphlets and Reports."

2013 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management and Prevention Programs

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Harvesting Program: Since EWM's discovery in 1987, the LMCD has been mechanically harvesting impediments to public navigation. Logistics to the 2013 program are highlighted below:

Activity	Activity Response
Duration of Season	Mid June through Mid August
Weekly Schedule	Monday - Thursday (7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) No harvesting July 3rd through July 7th
Harvesting Schedule	South Upper Lake Option (see Weekly Updates below)
Fleet of Equipment	Three harvesters and a transport barge
Approved LMCD Budget	\$95,000 (LMCD Member Cities and MN DNR Grant)
Primary Management Goal	To enhance navigability for recreational and commercial use in public areas(*)
Public Areas(*)	Areas that are: 1) offshore and outside of the authorized dock use areas (see page two) and 2) adjacent to publically-owned land, access points, and destinations.
Private Areas Not Harvested	Areas that are not public(*) and generally within 100 feet from shore.
Weekly Updates	At www.lmcd.org , under "Hot Topics." Updates will include: 1) the schedule (by bay) and 2) completed and upcoming harvested areas.
Questions/Comments	Contact Project Manager Judd Harper at 952-745-0789 or jharper@lmcd.org .

Certified Lake Service Providers: State law requires hired lake service providers to be trained and permitted prior to the placement or removal of water equipment. Examples of hired providers include commercial dock installers, as well as marina, transport, boat repair and rental, and buoy placement companies. The providers carry identification of their permit, as well as display a vehicle sticker (shown here). Log on to the MN DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov/ais for a list of permitted service providers or to answer any questions you may have.



MN DNR Watercraft Inspector at Work
© 2013 MN DNR

Watercraft Inspection Program: Since 2002, the LMCD has coordinated a comprehensive watercraft inspection program; working with a number of partnering agencies. Highlights of the 2013 Watercraft Inspection Program are provided below:

Duration	Inspection Days	Inspection Times	Public Inspection Locations			Contributing Partners
			LMCD	MN DNR	Three River Park District	
5/24/13 to 9/2/13	Fridays	Fridays (11 a.m. to 7 p.m.)	Carsons Bay	Grays Bay	Gate Attendants at Regional Park (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Saturday/Sunday May 4/5, 11/12, and 18/19 7 days/wk 5/24-9/2	MN DNR
	Saturdays	Saturdays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)	Cooks Bay	Maxwell Bay		Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
	Sundays	Sundays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)	Halstead Bay	North Arm Bay		Three Rivers Park District
	Holidays	Holidays (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)	Wayzata Bay	Spring Park Bay		

Lake Wide Bowfishing Ordinance

Solar Lights Program

LMCD Adopts Lake Wide Bowfishing Ordinance: The LMCD (through its Public Safety Committee) addressed a need to streamline public inquiries regarding bowfishing, as well as provide documented guidance to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol (Water Patrol) and local/state enforcement personnel. This consideration, and eventually adoption of, was completed in consultation with the Water Patrol, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), and the 14 member cities surrounding Lake Minnetonka.

It is important for all to not only understand the LMCD's ordinance (which is more restrictive than state law), but also state law and the member cities' ordinances (if any). To assist in this effort, the LMCD has created a bowfishing section on the website at www.lmcd.org, under "Rules and Regulations." This section will provide for the adopted ordinance, a summary of applicable laws, and contact information to the 14 member cities. Additionally, the LMCD welcomes your questions. The following summarizes the LMCD's ordinance:

Compliance with Laws: All state laws, rules, regulations, and local ordinances.

Prohibited Times and Dates: 1) One-half hour after sunset to sunrise and 2) November 15th to May 1st.

Prohibited Areas (from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10 a.m. on Friday through sunrise on Monday, and on public holidays):

- High traffic areas including, but not limited to, anchorages, commercial marinas, public or municipal docks, charter boat ports-of-call, public launch ramps, and public swimming beaches;
- The anchorage commonly known as Cruiser's Cove (northeast side of Big Island);
- The anchorage to the northeast of the channel between Maxwell and Crystal Bays; and
- Goose Island (Spring Park Bay).

Orders of Law Enforcement Officers: Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol and the law enforcement officers of any city bordering the Lake are authorized to use judgement in the ordering of a person to cease bowfishing at any location when in the interest of the public peace and safety to do so.

Prohibited Disposal of Fish: 1) Anywhere on the waters of Lake Minnetonka, its channels, tributaries or wetland area, 2) within 300' of the shoreline, except in private refuse containers or where remains are used as buried fertilizer by residents of the property, and 3) at any public access point, except in containers designed for and specifically signed to allow fish disposal.



2013 Solar Lights Program: This boating season marks the 12th year the LMCD's Save the Lake Fund (derived from private contributions) has provided for the placement of red and green solar lights on many of the Lake's navigational buoys. This continually expanding program has been highly successful in improving nighttime navigation on Lake Minnetonka (24 to 102 solar lights from 2002 to 2013, respectively).

SAVE THE LAKE

Many positive partnerships have been developed in this long, established program. First and foremost are the Save the Lake contributors that have funded this program, as well as the Lake Minnetonka Charter Boat Association who not only contributes to Save the Lake, but also provides volunteers on an annual basis to install and remove the lights from the buoys. The LMCD greatly values all partnerships.

To obtain the maximum benefit offered from this program, the LMCD would like to ask your assistance in helping us keep an eye on the solar lights by communicating any needs (loosely attached, broken, or those that are not keeping a charge for night illumination) by contacting the office at (952) 745-0789. A detailed summary of the solar light locations is provided on the LMCD's website at www.lmcd.org, under "Save the Lake."

"Save the Lake" is a non-profit fund investing in the environmental quality and recreational enjoyment of Lake Minnetonka.



23505 Smithtown Road, Suite 120
Shorewood, MN 55331

Phone: 952.745.0789 Fax: 952.745.9085
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

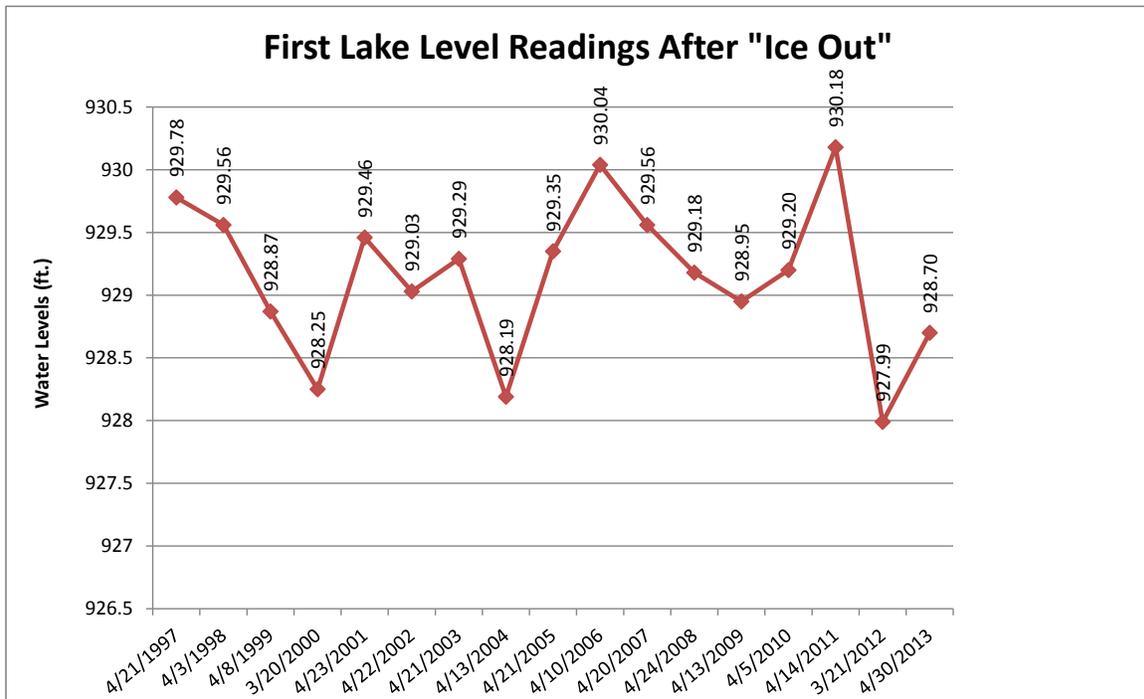
www.lmcd.org
Greg Nybeck, Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS:

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- Andrew McDermott III, Orono (Secretary)
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Printing provided at cost by Precision Graphics, Inc. (www.pgiprint.com)

LMCD Monitoring Lake Level Readings



Water levels on Lake Minnetonka are taken by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The above chart documents the first water level readings from 1997 to 2013 after Ice Out was declared. The LMCD will continue to monitor whether the lower Lake level issues of 2012 are behind us. The Board may declare "Low Water Conditions" when the Lake level falls below 928.0'.