

KEEP IT CLEAN

Preserving Lake Minnetonka & the Environment

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Everyone who visits Lake Minnetonka, lives on its shore, or within the watersheds that feed Lake Minnetonka — make decisions that can change the health of the lake. You can help reduce:

- Cuts and injuries from broken glass, bottle tops, metals, zebra mussels attached to litter objects, etc.
- Harmful chemicals, fertilizers, and organic materials that can be toxic to plants, animals, or humans or lead to dangerous byproducts such as harmful algal blooms.
- Injury to fish, animals and plants and other important parts of our ecosystem.

Each year, agencies and volunteers remove trash from the lake and lakeshore. Whether its spring, fall, or after 4th of July, litter accumulates in the lake and becomes a hazard to humans, fish, birds, and other other important elements of the ecosystem.

Photos: Several bags of plastic beads cleaned up at a public launch

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LakeMinnetonkaConservationDistrict

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PROTECT OUR LAKES WHEN VISITING

The lake belongs to all of us and we need to care for it and keep it clean. Below are some ways that you can protect the lake while enjoying it.

PREVENT LITTER

- Pack out what you pack onto or near the lake. Dispose of trash, cigarette butts, animal feces and other items properly when on land.
- Collect litter and trash when you see it and properly dispose .
- Choose more durable materials that will not easily be crushed and pollute the lake or create safety hazards. For example, plastic bead storage containers or glass containers.

REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE

- Choose reusable products and materials, or find a way to repurpose the item for another activity. .
- Choose more eco-friendly, biodegradable, inert products. For example, replacing plastic single use silverware with reusable or biodegradable products and lead fishing weights with safer alternatives.
- Clean up used fishing line and use recommended bait only. Check out the biodegradable swedish dishcloths.
- Be prepared with products to clean up spills from gas, petroleum, or other chemicals.



PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- Take steps to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species: Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose of Bait properly.
- If you see a suspicious aquatic vegetation or animal, contact us right away.

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LIVING ON LAKESHORE OR IN THE WATERSHED

Everyone who visits Lake Minnetonka, lives on its shore, or within the watersheds that feed Lake Minnetonka — makes decisions that can affect the lake's health. Below is a list of resources that will help conserve the lake, promote health and well-being, and protect your investments.

LAKE-FRIENDLY LIVING

Lake-friendly living means you seek out options that work for both you and Lake Minnetonka. A few actions are listed below that can help improve the ecology of the lake and create a safer environment.

- Promote lake-friendly landscaping and native species.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for lawn care products and fertilizers.
- Create shoreline buffers.
- Consider permeable pavements or other natural areas.
- Become a Minnesota Water Steward and help educate others.
- Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the lake and storm sewer. Consider Adopting A Drain.
- Keep waste containers covered until they are picked up to prevent blowing trash and debris.
- Pick up after pets to keep organic materials and germs from washing into the lake. Be conscious of what you dispose of in sanitary sewers and septic tanks.
- Use eco-friendly or durable materials and watch for animal or other damage of docks and structures.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are often challenging and costly to manage once established. They interfere with the ecology of the lake, recreation, and enjoyment of the lake, and may negatively impact property values. Therefore, it is important to prevent or slow the spread of AIS as much as possible. Here are a few tips:

- Responsibly manage vegetation & Aquatic Invasive Species
- Water Gardens & Aquariums- make sure the vegetation and aquatics are native friendly and do not dispose or let them free in the lake or other waterbodies.
- Docks, Boat Lifts, and Equipment- must be out of the water at least 21 days before being placed into another waterbody.
- Be on the lookout for AIS. If you notice a suspicious vegetation or animal, contact us right away.

LET NATURE HELP

Raingardens and natural buffers are a great way to reduce contaminants before they enter the lake or waters. They can also add to the beauty of the landscape and support other essential plants and animals such as pollinators.




Don't know what it is-- Report it.



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