



## Lake Minnetonka Update

May 25, 2022

LMCD

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Lake Minnetonka continues to be a popular destination to live, visit, and do business and we depend on all the stakeholders to help protect the lake and those who enjoy it. Some information is highlighted below regarding current lake activities and ways people can get involved in important lake initiatives. We are looking forward to another active summer season with many accomplishments. A PDF Version with attachments is attached for your convenience.

- **AIS & Vegetation Management.** The LMCD provides an opportunity for funding AIS management activities. Information to guide lakeshore owners in managing vegetation individually or as part of a group is available at <https://lmcd.org/lake-shore-owners/managing-lake-vegetation/>. Learn some tips to organize a bay and apply for funding at <https://lmcd.org/lake-shore-owners/managing-lake-vegetation/ais-funding-opportunities-for-bays/>.

A new program was approved on October 27, 2021, for funding opportunities for first-time whole-bay or large area AIS management on Lake Minnetonka. The program funding for eligible and approved AIS bay treatment plans up to 25 percent for the first-year treatment cost, and up to 35 percent of AIS surveys total cost. Any applications for treatments in subsequent years of the project initiative will require new applications and are not guaranteed. To apply, please complete the [Application Form](#). Preliminary review of the applications will be conducted by the AIS Committee and referred to the LMCD Board for consideration. Additional pages and project details may be submitted with the application.

More than ever before, Lake Minnetonka is subject to new infestations of AIS. If you see suspicious vegetations or animals, please contact the LMCD right away. Please consider participating in sponsored AIS activities throughout the year and contact us regarding any suspicious aquatic animals or vegetation.

- **Boater Safety Education Program June 13, 2022 – Register Now to Save Your Spot.** Please join us on Monday, June 13, 2022, from 7:45 am to 6 pm at the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Building, 4141 Shoreline Dr, Spring Park. Learn how to safely operate a boat and obtain Minnesota DNR Watercraft Operator's Permit. This class is for youth (ages 12 to 17) and adults. Course presenters will work alongside participants, share unique boating experiences, and key on-board safety practices. For more information and to register, please visit <https://lmcd.org/2022-lake-minnetonka-boater-safety-education-program-registration-now-open/>. Register now for this enjoyable and rewarding event. Please forward to interested parties.
- **Boater Safety Education Legislation.** While progress was made in developing the language and support for the boater safety education bill, the bill did not pass this Legislative Session. (Omnibus HF 4492/SF4062). An update will be provided about any future actions.
- **MAISRC Zebra Mussels Control Research Community Open House.** On May 25, 2022, scientists from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and US Geological

Survey (USGS) hosted an open house event regarding the zebra mussel control project using copper on Maxwell Bay. They stated an overview of the project will be provided. A copy will be provided on the LMCD website when available.

- **Save the Lake.** The Save the Lake fund helps support critical services for Lake Minnetonka. These services such as boater education, navigational enhancements, and other lake safety efforts are made possible by your generous financial gifts. With the increase of activity on the lake, a focus of this year's Save the Lake campaign is supporting dedicated patrol and emergency response personnel for Lake Minnetonka. Two summer deputies were funded in 2021 and planned again for 2022. Historically only one summer deputy has been funded. The **Save the Lake** handout is available on the Save the Lake webpage and directly at <https://lmcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-Spring-STL-Flyer-Final-20220426-Fillable-Ext.pdf>. Learn more about Save the Lake at <https://lmcd.org/save-the-lake/>. The flyer will be mailed to lakeshore owners soon.
- **Solar Lights.** The solar lights have been maintained and are ready for installation. Many of the older models have been replaced this year with newer more effective ones. Our volunteers, Al & Almas and Paradise Cruises, assists with the installation of the lights. The lights are installed on certain channel buoys throughout the lake to promote safe navigation.
- **Healthy & Safe Swimming Week.** The week of May 23, 2022, is Healthy and Safe Swimming Week. At the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), we want everyone to be safe and healthy while enjoying the lake this summer which is why certain measures and regulations are in place. Bacteria, viruses, and other organisms in the water can cause ear and eye infections, stomach aches, diarrhea, and flu-like symptoms. Fortunately, the MDH, Hennepin County Environmental Health, and the CDC offer tips that everyone can take to minimize risk of illness while enjoying the water and keep the lake healthy for everyone. Learn more about staying healthy on the lake at [Tips for Staying Healthy on the Lake Handout](#). More tips will be provided throughout *Healthy & Safe Swimming Week*.
- **Summer Rules Brochure.** The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District LMCD has published its 2022 Summer Rules Brochure. It can viewed on our website at our [Handouts & Manuals Webpage](#) or at the [LINK](#). Several hundred brochures have been distributed and we are actively taking requests for print copies to share to promote safe and responsible boating. To request printed copies, please contact us at (952)-745-0789 or email us at [lmcd@lmcd.org](mailto:lmcd@lmcd.org).
- **Website Search Update.** A new search application has been incorporated into the website to provide better functionality. It provides more indepth search and appears to search for keywords within the PDFs as well. Please check it out and let me know your feedback. You may need to clear your cache/history.

## Special Events

- **Trista Days.** On May 21, 2022, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) attended Trista Days in Minnetrista. It was a great event and a great opportunity to speak with other lake enthusiasts.
- **Licks & Lakes Event.** This Saturday, May 21, 2022, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) attended Lick's Unlimited, Licks & Lakes Event in Excelsior. This event focused on lake

conservation and ways to incorporate more eco-friendly practices and products into its business operations such as more biodegradable products. We appreciate all the environmental initiatives of our lake area business community.

### **Inquiries and Complaints**

- The LMCD Office continues to receive numerous inquiries and concerns about lake safety, vegetation, and other lake management topics. We are in the process of onboarding our two new employees and working hard to catch up on the filing, organization, customer responses and other activities. We appreciate everyone's patience and positive comments during these past several months.

### **Welcome New LMCD Staff**

Help us welcome the two new staff members, filling the previously vacant positions. We are looking forward to having them on board and being part of the team that protects the lake and all those who enjoy it. Stop by and say hello. We are pleased to introduce Maisyn Prueter and Thomas Tully, who join existing staff Tammy Duncan, Administrative Assistant, and Vickie Schleuning, Executive Director.

Maisyn Prueter joined the LMCD on January 31<sup>st</sup> as the new Administrative Coordinator. Maisyn holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has a background in environmental conservation and is very happy to be joining the district to help protect the Lake we all know and enjoy. As a Lake Minnetonka resident herself, she is especially excited to preserve the Lake she has called home her entire life and is eagerly looking forward to working on all the Lake Minnetonka projects.

Thomas Tully joined the LMCD on April 25<sup>th</sup> as the Environmental Administrative Technician. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Water Resources from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He has a background in water resource management and is excited to be joining LMCD to help manage the lake. As a Lake Minnetonka resident himself, he is especially excited to protect and preserve the Lake he has called home his entire life. Thomas is eagerly looking forward to working with the LMCD on lake initiatives.

Thank you for your cooperation and efforts to preserve and enhance the Lake Minnetonka experience. Please let me know if you have questions.

### ***Vickie Schleuning***

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*To preserve and enhance the Lake Minnetonka experience*