



# The Lake Minnetonka Vegetation and Aquatic Invasive Species Master Plan

will address the dynamic lake management activities needed to preserve and enhance the lake's ecology, recreational, and economic experience. The project is currently underway and completion is expected by the end of 2019.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Starry Stonewort Protection Plan & Emergency Action Plan

Starry stonewort is an imminent AIS threat to Lake Minnetonka. It currently is found in 13 Minnesota lakes with the closest being Medicine Lake. This project will develop a plan that will assess protection strategies by utilizing information gained through practice, review of best available science and an established network of AIS experts. An emergency action plan that addresses response to infestation will also be included.

### Assessment of Existing Harvesting Program

LMCD has been conducting lake vegetation management since 1989. The organization owns and operates three paddlewheel harvesters and one transport barge. The typical harvesting season is mid June through mid August. Seasonal employees hired by LMCD perform harvesting work. The program was suspended in 2019 for review and development of alternatives as part of the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan.

Consultants were hired to provide scientific review of benefits and liabilities of the current LMCD program. This review includes a financial summary of the program and a cost comparison of the existing program vs the cost of hiring private contractors. The consultants will evaluate if the program should be continued in its current fashion, modified or discontinued. If the program is to be continued, recommended changes will be provided. If the program is to be discontinued, recommended alternatives will be provided.

### Online Mapping and Spatial Data Consolidation

Ecological data for Lake Minnetonka is collected and stored by several agencies and organizations. The consultant team will contact parties with this information and compile the data in a centralized location for data management. ArcGIS Online maps have been constructed to host the information and will allow interested parties to view geographic data. Watch the ArcGIS Online map develop over the year here: <https://arcg.is/11G4rb>.

### Lake Vegetation and AIS Master Plan

The consultant team will develop a Lake Vegetation and AIS Master Plan for Lake Minnetonka. Several modules for known AIS within Lake Minnetonka will be included such as Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, flowering rush, purple loosestrife, and zebra mussels. Further, a module template will be developed for potential AIS threats that can be modified according to future needs. The development of the plan will consider the impact of other vegetation. The final plan will also establish a framework for funding opportunities and implementation methods.

### Your Voice in the Planning Process

Your input is valuable to us. Please share your observations about AIS and aquatic vegetation in Lake Minnetonka by:

- **Attending upcoming meetings** – LMCD will host a series of meetings from June through November. Please check the project website to see upcoming meeting dates and locations
- **Visiting our webmapping feedback tool** – available June through October, 2019  
<https://lmcd.mysocialpinpoint.com/Lake-Mtka-Vegetation-and-AIS>
- **Visiting our project website and social media**  
<https://lmcd.org/aquatic-invasive-species/new-ais-initiatives/>  
Twitter: @LakeMtkCD      Facebook: @LakeMinnetonkaConservationDistrict

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