



To preserve and enhance the "Lake Minnetonka experience"  
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## Lake Minnetonka July 4<sup>th</sup> & Current Updates- July 11, 2019 Email

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Hello,

This email includes some highlights of current topics and inquiries regarding Lake Minnetonka. Also, with your experiences on Lake Minnetonka, we want your input on some important Lake Minnetonka initiatives and projects. Thank you for your cooperation and support in protecting and enhancing the Lake Minnetonka experience.

### 1. Lake-Wide Vegetation & AIS Master Plan

The LMCD is taking new steps to identify, prevent and manage Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) threats on Lake Minnetonka. The development of the Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & Master Plan (Plan) launched with the first public meeting on June 18, 2019. The development of the plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year providing a living document to evolve over time. With the changing landscape of AIS and Ecology of Lake Minnetonka, having a holistic and scientific approach to effectively address the current and future health of Lake Minnetonka is critical. Various levels and types of participation is planned since an important aspect of the process is stakeholder engagement and input. The webpage has been created for the project, along with a web-mapping public feedback tool to report vegetation sightings, and a map indicating known vegetation delineations will be developed over the year. They can be found at the following links:

- Lake Minnetonka Vegetation & AIS Master Plan Webpage- <https://lmcd.org/aquatic-invasive-species/new-ais-initiatives/>
- Web-mapping Public Feedback Tool- [See Something, Send Something](#). A place to report suspicious, nuisance, or desirable vegetation
- Give Us Your Suggestions- [Take the Survey](#) We want to hear your thoughts about lake vegetation
- Online Vegetation Map- [Watch It Grow Throughout the Months](#) A place where information is gathered regarding known lake vegetation

The team of Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) and Blue Water Science (BWS) has been chosen to assist in the development of this Plan.

LMCD also participated with other agencies in an AIS Roundtable hosted by Representative Dean Phillips, who has taken an interest in AIS issues. The discussion was good and the Plan may be useful in answering some of the questions that were raised and that are needed to move in a positive direction.

### 2. Harvesting Program Suspended for 2019

The harvesting program is suspended this year to undertake the development of the Lake-Wide Vegetation & AIS Master Plan. As part of the Plan, the harvesting program and alternatives will be reviewed. It is important for people to submit information about problematic vegetation so it can be

considered as part of the review. If you have navigation problems, please contact the LMCD office or use the mapping feedback tool referenced above.

### **3. Recodification Update**

The draft of the recodified LMCD code of ordinances is ready for review. The LMCD has been working with a Work Group to recodify its code of ordinances to make it easier to use for stakeholders and the general public. We are inviting you to review the draft and offer your comments. Please submit comments by July 31, 2019. The following are some notes to keep in mind as you review the draft Code:

- This recodification is not intended to change any of the substantive regulations within the Code. If you believe any of the substantive regulations were changed, please point them out in your comments.
- The draft Code is reorganized with three main users in mind: commercial; municipal; and residential. The resulting Code is longer, but will hopefully be easier to navigate as a user can focus on their particular category to identify the applicable uses and regulations. An effort was also made to bring together the general regulations applicable to all users and to establish uniform administrative procedures.
- Any comments you may have regarding the draft Code are welcome, but comments proposing substantive changes to the regulations will not be addressed as part of this recodification. Instead, substantive change proposed in the submitted comments and those identified during the recodification process will be submitted to the LMCD Board separately for consideration after the revised Code is adopted.
- We invite you to review the draft code and make comments using the following links.
  - <https://lmcd.org/rules-regulations/>
  - [View Draft Code](#)
  - [Submit Comments Form](#)

### **4. 4th of July Holiday Boater Safety Update**

According to HCSO Water Patrol, overall there were few major incidents similar to last year, with a few more boating under influence (BUI) incidents. On July 4th, there were 121 stops, 6 BUIs, and 22 citations mostly for lack of PFDs, 2 assaults, and 1 disorderly conduct. Through Saturday there were a total of 230 stops and 9 BUIs. They also reported that people they contacted were mostly respectful, which is always helpful. It is important that everyone behaves responsibly. We thank all the law enforcement and emergency responders for their efforts this busy time on the lake and for those parties that helped clean up around Big Island and other locations.

### **5. 4th of July Holiday Big Island Illness Investigation**

It is unfortunate that some people that recreated on the lake over the 4th of July holiday reported becoming ill. We want everyone to be safe and healthy while enjoying the lake, which is why certain regulations and measures are in place. The Hennepin County Public Health Department is investigating reports of illness, primarily vomiting and diarrhea, from the 4th of July holiday. As of July 10, 2019, the County reported 140 calls, with 116 meeting the case definition of vomiting and diarrhea. The results of the testing from the Minnesota Department of Health is anticipated this week. In the meantime, we are not speculating as to the cause or source. Once the results are received and the investigation is complete, we will follow up with the county regarding the findings and an update will be provided in the future.

Our office has received some questions and thought it might be helpful to clarify a couple of items regarding conversations with Hennepin County.

- There is no reason to believe the lake cannot be used. Further, it is highly unlikely that if a pathogen was introduced and existed at the time, that it would still be present due to natural destruction and dilution. Lake Minnetonka is a large lake, 14,000 acres and 42 bays, and the area in question is a small part of the lake.
- The closure of the Excelsior beach is not related to the illness investigation at Big Island. These are two separate actions. It is not related to the closure of other lakes in Minnesota either. The closure of the beach was due to higher than recommended levels of E coli, an indicator used to determine safe water quality for people to swim and play in the water. It is not uncommon to have the beaches closed periodically through the summer. LMCD posted beach testing information under common resources on the website last year due to calls. <https://lmcd.org/common-topics-resources/common-topics/>
- The CDC recommends waiting at least 24 hours after a heavy rainfall due to possible contaminants in runoff from land. More beach safety tips are provided below.
- Large gatherings, whether on land or water, carry a higher risk of exposure to illnesses and are also more likely to result in epidemiological investigations since people are more likely to report their illnesses. There are several ways that illnesses can be transmitted- person-to-person, through food, water, animals, etc. This makes the epidemiological investigations more complex.
- The illnesses appear to be self-limited meaning people who are sick typically feel better in a couple of days. It is important to drink fluids to counteract dehydration. People who do not feel better or in severe cases should contact their physician.

#### Tips for staying healthy at the beach

Bacteria and viruses in the water can cause some ear and eye infections, stomachaches, diarrhea, and flu-like symptoms. Hennepin County and the Centers for Disease Control has the following recommendations for staying healthy while enjoying the beach:

- Wait 24 hours to swim after a heavy rainfall.
- Shower after being at the beach.
- Don't mouth or swallow water.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before eating and after using the bathroom.
- Don't swim if you're sick, or have a weakened immune system.
- Put tight-fitting rubber or plastic pants on children who are wearing diapers and those who are not toilet-trained.
- Take your children for frequent bathroom breaks.
- Don't attract waterfowl to the beach by feeding ducks, geese, gulls, etc.
- Pick up your trash.
- If you boat, properly dispose of waste.

## 6. Zebra Mussel Control Research Project – St. Albans Bay & Robinson Bay

A research project to evaluate the use of low-dose EarthTec QZ (copper) treatments to manage zebra mussel populations will take place in St. Albans Bay and Robinson Bay on Lake Minnetonka. The project is anticipated to start in early May with the positioning of five buoys and commence in late July. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) in partnership with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) will lead the project and coordinate all phases. A link to an informational sheet is available on the homepage of the LMCD website at <https://lmcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Zebra-Mussel-Project-2019-Public-Info-04122019.pdf>.

If you have questions, please let me know. Thank you.

### ***Vickie Schleuning***

Executive Director | Lake Minnetonka Conservation District  
5341 Maywood Road, Suite 200 | Mound, MN 55364  
Ph 952-745-0789 | Fx 952-745-9085 | [vschleuning@lmcd.org](mailto:vschleuning@lmcd.org)  
[www.lmcd.org](http://www.lmcd.org)

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