



Lake Minnetonka June Update

July 12, 2022

LMCD

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 is attached for your convenience.

- **Boat Generated Wakes Review Update.** On June 8, 2022, the LMCD held a listening session about boat generated wakes during its Board Meeting Work Session. The session was at maximum capacity. Over 100 people were in attendance which included: lake residents, watercraft industry representatives, business owners, and water sport enthusiasts. For two hours, members of the public took turns addressing the LMCD Board about their views on boat wake regulations and sharing their stories of the Lake. It was a highly informative and proactive listening session. The LMCD would like to thank all speakers for presenting their thoughts, opinions, and suggestions and the public for providing comments. Written comments were also solicited by the Board.

The Board will be reviewing written comments, available information, and important aspects in the next part of the review at the July 13, 2022, LMCD Board meeting Work Session. The intent is for the Board to discuss public input and the next steps. No formal actions are scheduled at this Board Meeting. The public is welcome to attend the Board Work Session, but additional public input is not likely to occur at this meeting. The Board Meeting Packet for July 13, 2022 can be viewed at <https://lmcld.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/LMCD-Board-Meeting-Packet-07132022-Reduce.pdf>. To stay informed about the review of the boat generated wakes rules, please visit LMCD's [Boat Generate Wakes Review](#) page on our website.

- **AIS Vegetation Bay Management.** AIS Management Funding Requests for Harrisons Bay, Crystal Bay, Browns Bay, and Black Lake have been approved and vegetation surveys and treatments underway for Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and/or Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The LMCD has received another AIS Management Funding Request for Smithtown's Bay. Please review the LMCD webpage <https://lmcld.org/lake-shore-owners/managing-lake-vegetation/> to learn about managing lake vegetation and AIS. LMCD funding opportunities for new bay AIS management programs may be found at <https://lmcld.org/lake-shore-owners/managing-lake-vegetation/ais-funding-opportunities-for-bays/>. Please contact the LMCD office if you have questions.
- **2022 Boater Safety Education Program.** The 2022 Lake Minnetonka Boater Safety Education Program was a success! On June 13th, close to 50 people attended the course. 13 adults and 25 youth learned about operating a boat safely and obtained their Watercraft Operator's Permit, while 9 other adults participated in the curriculum. Congratulations to the participants for receiving their Watercraft Operator's Permit.

We appreciate the participation of all the parties that help make this program possible:

- Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Administrative Assistant, Tina Miranda, in helping set up the room and Deputy Jen Lyrek for giving a presentation about law enforcement activity and emergency services on the lake.
- Jay Soule for doing a fantastic job instructing the class again, and Parker Dustin and Gigi Jabbour for their instructional assistance.
- Mound Fire Department Fire Chief Gregory Pederson and Firefighter Mike Foley for their fire-safety demonstrations during the breakout sessions,
- LMCD Board Members Gregg Thomas, Dan Baasen, Mike Kirkwood, Bill Cook, and Denny Newell, for your classroom help and Deborah Zorn for bringing the donuts!

We anticipate the participants will promote a safer and more enjoyable lake experience with their learning experience about boater safety, AIS, and general boating techniques.

- **LMCD Adopts Resolution Designating a Quite Waters Area (QWA) at Cedar Point West.** At the May 13, 2022, LMCD Board meeting, the LMCD Board approved a resolution designating a QWA at Cedar Point West buoy channel between Cooks Bay and West Upper Lake. The decision comes after the LMCD received a multitude of complaints and concerns for public safety, boat traffic violations, and environmental impacts due to high boat traffic volume passing through the channel. The resolution has been adopted into the LMCD Code of Ordinances and has been in effect since June 10, 2022. Slow wake buoys have been installed this summer at this buoy channel. Boaters should navigate between the channel buoys since shallow water depth hazards exist between the buoy and shore.
- **UMN St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) Has Launched Phase II Study & Promotional Video**
The UMN Twin Cities is excited to announce the launching of its second phase of research on boat generated wake impacts on inland lakes and rivers. The next phase of the study will focus on propellor wash that is generated by various types of recreational boats, including wake surf boats. In addition, the UMN SAFL has released a [video](#) promoting their Phase II research. Donations are also welcome. If interested, you can fund their research at the [crowdfunding campaign](#) website.
- **Aquatic Plant ID Workshop is Back!** Come join the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) AIS Detectors Program for a fun day of learning about the plants that make up Minnesota's underwater forests. This workshop will give participants the opportunity to gain experience to identify many of the Minnesota's aquatic and wetland plants using live specimens.

The workshop will be held on August 4, 2022, on the UMN St. Paul Campus from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be an optional introductory identification session beginning at 8 am and the main workshop will start at 9 am. Registration fees for this workshop are \$60. To register, please visit their [registration form](#). A complementary lunch will be provided for participants.
- **Be a Good Steward, Take the Pledge to Prevent AIS Spread!** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is rolling out a new online pledge to help prevent the spread of AIS spread. Anyone 18 or older can visit [the Pledge to Protect Minnesota Waters](#) on the MN DNR website to take the pledge and upload a photo, if desired. The pledge affirms that participants will follow Minnesota's "**Clean, Drain, Dispose**" laws and will encourage others to do so.
- **Protect Your Lake. Stop Aquatic Invasive Species and Join the Lake Pledge Program!** Help your lake be the best lake in Minnesota. By joining the Lake Pledge Program, you can help in slowing

the spread of aquatic invasive species in your favorite lake. Lake Minnetonka is now part of this Lake Pledge Program initiative through Hennepin County. To take the pledge, please visit <https://lakepledge.com/>.

- **Minnesota DNR Confirms Zebra Mussels in Stearns and Scott Counties.** The MN DNR has confirmed a report of zebra mussels in Grand Lake in Stearns County. The MN DNR was contacted by the Grand Lake Improvement District about three adult zebra mussels found by lake users on the north and northeast shorelines. MN DNR conducted a search of the lake and found an additional 11 adults zebra mussels distributed throughout the 650-acre lake.

In addition, the MN DNR has confirmed a report of zebra mussels in Spring Lake, near the city of Prior Lake in Scott County. The zebra mussels were found by Blue Water Science while conducting a curly-leaf pondweed survey in Spring Lake. The MN DNR in contact with the Prior Lake – Spring Lake Watershed District about follow-up surveys to determine the distribution of zebra mussels in the lake.

- **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Warns Against Blue Green Algae.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) say many Minnesota lakes could see significant algae blooms this summer. Weather conditions are suitable for many Minnesota lakes to have toxic blue-green algae. Blue-green algae is a problem because it can cause illness to both people and pets and can out-compete other algae in a lake. They can occur very rapidly. One day a lake can look fine, the next day it is uninhabitable. The MPCA and MDH advises people to stay out of lakes and streams if the water looks green and slimy, especially if it has a blue-green tint. A general slogan to remember is when in doubt, its best to stay out! For more information and to learn about blue-green algae and resources, visit the LMCD website link <https://lmcd.org/blue-green-algae/>. If you suspect blue-green algae or other suspicious aquatic species, contact the LMCD Office.
- **Lake Minnetonka Water Levels.** The LMCD has receive a number of inquiries about lake water levels on Lake Minnetonka. The Ordinary High Water (OHW) level for Lake Minnetonka is 929.4 feet. The LMCD staff has been monitoring lake water level readings by the USGS and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Water levels are managed where feasible by the Minnehaha Watershed District controlling the operation of the Gray's Bay Dam. The following chart shows at of July 12, 2022, this year's (yellow) lake water level is slightly higher than last year at 928.78 ft versus 928.6 feet, respectively. Visit the USGS site at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/05289000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D> for water levels and <https://minnehahacreek.org/water-levels-lake-minnetonka-and-grays-bay-dam> for dam discharge readings.

LAKE MINNETONKA ABV GRAYS BAY OTLT IN MINNETONKA

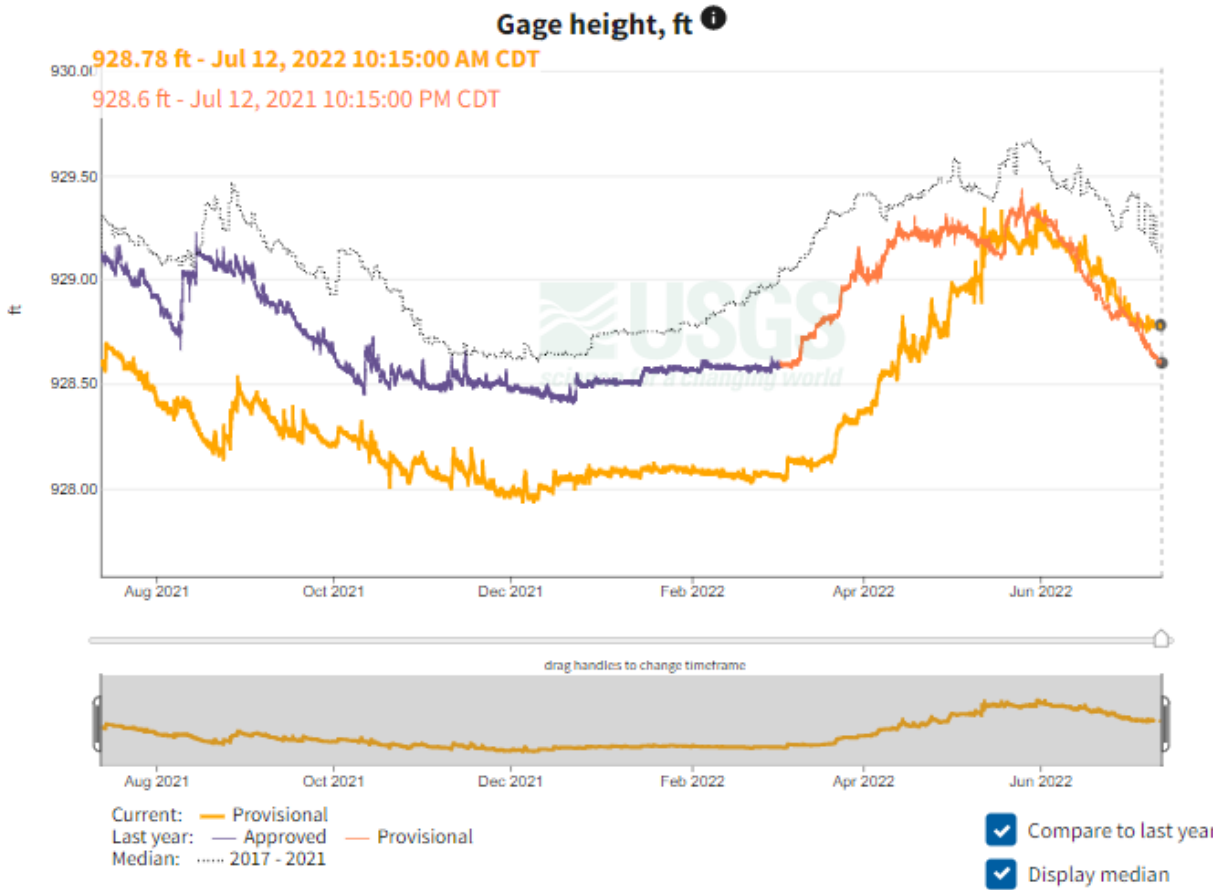


IMPORTANT [Legacy real-time page](#)

Monitoring location 05289000 is associated with a LAKE, RESERVOIR, IMPOUNDMENT in HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA. Current conditions of GAGE HEIGHT are available. Water data back to 1961 are available online.

7 days 30 days 1 year

Change time span **Retrieve data**



- **North Shore Drive Bridge Closures.** The LMCD has received multiple inquiries regarding the bridge closures on North Shore Drive (i.e., County Road 51) and channel accesses to North Arm Bay and Maxwell Bay. Hendrickson Bridge and Noeremberg Bridge have been closed due to reconstruction. The projects are expected to take five months to complete. Channel accesses to North Arm and Maxwell are open. However, there will be short-term channel closures throughout the duration of construction. These are expected to occur Monday through Thursday, with one channel staying open to ensure access for boaters. Channels closures will be posted on signs and on the Hennepin County website. To check for updates and progress, please visit the [North Shore Bridges Replacement](#) project page.

- **New AIS Prevention Tools Installed at Carson’s Bay Public Launch and Gray’s Bay Public Launch.** A CD3 unit was installed for Carson’s Bay Public Launch in June to offer boaters access to tools to remove Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from watercraft entering and exiting Lake Minnetonka. This AIS prevention project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Hennepin County, City of Deephaven, and LMCD. This is one of the styles of CD3 units installed at Gray’s Bay public launch in Spring, another collaborative effort with the MN DNR, City of Minnetonka, Hennepin County and LMCD. Thank you to everyone for helping to protect our lakes and waterbodies!
- **Starry Trek.** Join us for Starry Trek August 20, 2022! The local event will be held at Excelsior Commons again this year. Starry Trek is a statewide event focused on searching for starry stonewort, Minnesota’s newest aquatic invasive species. Starry Stonewort was originally introduced in 2015 on Lake Koronis. Since then, it has spread to 14 Minnesota lakes. At this event, participants received training on how to identify starry stonewort and other aquatic invasive species, and how to follow search protocols. Groups are sent out to nearby priority lakes to search, find, and return with any suspicious organisms they found. Learn more and sign up at <https://lmcd.org/register-for-starry-trek-2022/>.

Thank you for your cooperation and efforts to preserve and enhance the Lake Minnetonka experience. If you have questions, please contact the LMCD at 952-745-0789.