



Lake Minnetonka Update

August 10, 2021

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.

- **Starry Trek- Register Now.** Starry Trek registration is underway until August 15th. Please join us on Saturday August 21, 2021 from 8am to 1pm at Excelsior Commons on a journey to seek out invasives in our lake and others. This is part of the MAISRC and multistate event to bring about awareness and identification of Starry stonewort and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). A link to more information and to register is <https://lmcd.org/starry-trek-is-august-21-register-now/>. A link to the media release is <https://lmcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-Starry-Trek-Media-Release-20200803.pdf>. Register now for this enjoyable and rewarding event and help protect our beloved lakes. Please forward to interested parties.
- **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 are funded this year, compared to the historical one summer deputy. The **Save the Lake** handout is available on the Save the Lake webpage and directly at <https://lmcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-Summer-STL-Flyer-FINAL2-07272021.pdf>.
- **Low Water Declaration and Conditions.** The office has received inquiries regarding low water declaration and conditions. While the lake water levels fluctuate seasonally, they also may vary from year to year depending on warm weather and precipitation levels. Generally, certain allowances are in place when the Lake Minnetonka water levels fall below 928.0 feet. The water levels recently dropped below 928.4 ft, but with recent precipitation are again above 928.4 ft, but more dry warm weather is forecasted. This is a change from the higher water levels experienced in the past couple years due to above average precipitation. There are requirements for dock extensions under a general permit, temporary low water permit, or temporary low water variance. Information about low water conditions has been created and posted on the website at <https://lmcd.org/low-water-information/>.
- **Unlawful Charters.** There have been increasing concerns regarding safety and nuisances related to unlawful charter operations and rental watercraft business operations. Some of these commercial operations and impacts have also spilled onto the lakeshore. A coordinated plan was implemented amongst HCSO, prosecuting attorney, LMCD and other stakeholders to identify, educate, and take enforcement actions when necessary. The media release can be found at <https://lmcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Charter-Cruises-Lake-Mtka-Media-Release-07272021-1.pdf>. If you notice suspicious operations, please contact the HCSO Water Patrol at 911 for officer assistance while it is occurring. If you have other related information or concerns, please contact our office.

We appreciate your collaboration in preserving and enhancing the Lake Minnetonka experience. Please contact the LMCD office if you have questions.