

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Mitchell Lake Association

September, 2007

*Mitchell Lake
Association
Celebrates it's
1st Anniversary
Sept 19, 2007*

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Not a member yet?

If you would like to support this important effort...

- Visit our website to learn more
<http://www.mitchelllake.org>
- Membership form attached to this newsletter.
- Annual Membership fee is \$35

Message from the President

Hard to believe that it has already been one year since the Mitchell Lake Association (MLA), *Eden Prairie's first lake association*, was initially formed. Our purpose is to have as much representation and influence both in our neighborhoods and with local government to reverse the degrading water quality trend in this beautiful natural resource we all enjoy.

This newsletter is intended to inform everyone on the issues and activities that the MLA is involved with in regards to this resource and is intended to be published more than once per year! And much has occurred over the past year. The primary activities of the MLA board have been to form a solid organizational structure and to also form alliances with the larger entities that have the resources to fix the lake from a sustainable, long-term viewpoint. This broader objective has been largely accomplished as we are now working hand in hand with the watershed district, the primary mover and shaker for water quality, and to a lesser extent the city of Eden Prairie. As the saying goes, timing is everything. The watershed begins their next 10 year planning cycle beginning January, 2008 and the MLA has been active in shaping and forming this plan. Why is this involvement important? As the preliminary budget plan stands today, Mitchell Lake is at the top of the list for water quality treatment beginning in 2008. While not yet approved at all levels, the outlook indeed looks bright.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the fall!

Jim Nehl- President, Mitchell Lake Association

MLA First Year Accomplishments

Over this year, the Association has made great progress. Highlights include:

- Sept '06 - Mitchell Lake Association (MLA) formed (Eden Prairie's first), board members elected and mission defined. See Mitchell Lake Association website for more details <http://www.mitchelllake.org>
- Dec '06 - MLA board members met with Leslie Stovring, Environmental Coordinator for the City of Eden Prairie, to introduce ourselves and initiate a working relationship with the city.
- Jan '07 - MLA board members met with state senators and representatives to share lake quality concerns
- Apr '07 - MLA board members presented a detailed outline of Mitchell Lake concerns and recommendations to the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
- Apr '07 - 1st Annual Mitchell Lake Clean-up and BBQ held at Miller Park. This event, written up by both the Eden Prairie News and The Sun Current newspapers provided the MLA some nice publicity. (see website for photos)
- June '07 - MLA achieved non-profit status, all contributions are now tax deductible
- Jun '07 - MLA Board Members participated in a tour of Lotus Lake put on by the Lotus Lake Association. Lotus Lake has similar water quality issues and we were able to share information and strategies
- Jun '07 - Several MLA members attended a Native Plant Landscaping Workshop sponsored by the City of EP and focused on Lakeshore Restoration.
- Aug '07 - Joined a Citizens Advisory Committee to the watershed district
- Aug '07 - Initiated a joint venture Lakeshore Restoration project between MLA, Timberlake Homeowners Association and the City of EP
- Sept '07 - Mitchell Lake Association submitted Shoreland Restoration Grant Application to DNR (see details on page 2)
- Sept '07 - Watershed district approved a prelim budget for 2008 appropriating \$105,000 for the first stage of Mitchell Lake clean-up
- Sept '07 - Mitchell Lake Association reached 101 members

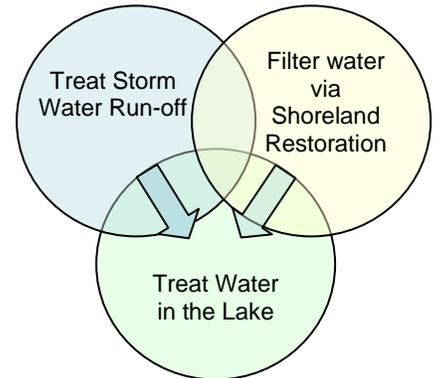


MLA's 3 Prong Lake Clean up Strategy

Submitted by Jim Nehl

The Mitchell Lake Association is pursuing a three prong strategy to improve the lake water quality.

1. **Improve the quality of "in-lake" water.** The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed district has the lead responsibility for this initiative and is focused on reducing soluble phosphorous levels by eradicating two invasive plant species (Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed) and then using a material called Alum to neutralize remaining phosphorous.
2. **Improve the quality of storm water run-off.** The City of Eden Prairie has the lead responsibility for this component. The goal is to reduce the levels of soluble phosphorous entering the lake through the storm water system (you may have noticed a series of pipes feeding water to the lake whenever it rains) through holding ponds and the like.
3. **Filter water flowing into lake providing natural buffers.** This is the responsibility of individual land owners and largely accomplished by "Lakeshore Restoration" using native plants (see below article). We have applied for a grant from the DNR to help with some of the costs.



To have a long term impact on clean water we need to clean the water already in the lake as well as the water flowing into the lake

Shoreline Restoration

Submitted by Cheri Nehl

What is Shoreline Restoration?

The creation of a buffer zone of natural plants along the shoreline.

What are the benefits?

Shoreline restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline:

- Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
- Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
- The natural height and density of native plantings also discourage geese who prefer turf.
- Enjoy abundant nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds
- Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife
- Native plants require less maintenance, thus more leisure time to relax and enjoy the nature of life at the lakeshore

What are we doing?

Mitchell Lake Association is part of a joint effort with Timber Lakes Home Owners Association and the City of Eden Prairie to "Restore the Shore" on the shoreline Timber Lakes Association commons area. This will be a first-ever actual shoreline restoration for Mitchell Lake and for the City of Eden Prairie. It will be a great community project to create a shoreline restoration showcase to help educate and inspire others.

The MLA is actively pursuing financial support for this project from various organizations including; the City of Eden Prairie, the Hennepin County Conservation District, the Watershed District and the DNR.

On September 17th, we submitted a Shoreland Habitat Program Grant Application to the DNR, requesting funding for restoring the shore of the Timber Lakes Commons Area project, plus three Mitchell Lake Private Residences (to be identified if grant application is approved). Grant approvals will be announced in Feb '08. Stay tuned for future updates.

Are you interested in Shoreline Restoration for your property?

To qualify for the DNR grant, private residences must have 75% of their shoreline restored with native plants to create a 25 foot buffer.



Native plants stabilize shorelines and act as a buffer between your yard and the lake. The roots of native plants filter and absorb polluted run-off and excess nutrients before they ever enter the water.



Everyone has a role to play

Submitted by John Tyler

*What can you do
to help improve
Mitchell Lake water
quality?*

Part of our mission is also to communicate and educate our neighbors with regard to what we can do to help Mitchell Lake prosper as a resource for future generations. Awareness of our own activities and our own affect on the lake are all very important to helping improve the Mitchell Lake water quality. Much of the deterioration of the lake has progressed as a result of the increased building around the lake over the last two decades. This means we are all having an affect on the poor lake-water quality we are concerned about. This has been a tremendous learning experience for all the MLA Board members.

For example, did you know?...



*Raingardens are another great way
to filter storm water run-off*

- Water run-off from our lawns washes fertilizer and pesticides into the lake? Managing and minimizing the water-flow into the lake from our lawns will help the lake tremendously.
- Water run-off from our driveways and the street in front of our homes washes directly down the storm drains, straight into the lake. The soap used to wash our cars and the oil and coolant from the leaks from our vehicles is toxic to the lake environment and washes straight into the lake. Repairing our leaky vehicles and having them washed at professional car washes that recycle their water is recommended. Another option is to wash our cars on our lawns rather than the street or driveway for those who prefer not to have their vehicles professionally washed.
- Do your rain gutters direct the run-off from your roof straight onto your driveway and onto the street? Re-directing the gutter run-off of rain onto your lawn as a buffer or using rain barrels to capture the rain run off is recommended. Nothing is better for landscaping and flowers than rainwater.
- Consider creating a natural buffer between your lawn and the lake by restoring your shoreline with native plants. Information on shoreline restoration can be found on line @ www.bluethumb.org, <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakescaping/index.html>, www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/manuels/stormwaterplants.html, and Fortin Consulting, Inc. www.fortinconsulting.com can help build a plan and advise the process into reality.
- Do heavy rains collect in pools and puddles in your yard? The easiest way to help water infiltrate into the ground rather than run off into storm sewers is by creating a raingarden. Strategically place your raingarden on a site that will intercept water runoff. If constructed properly, the garden will drain the water within two days. Information can be obtained on line @ www.bluethumb.org.

***HELP!** We want to save
a tree and issue future
newsletters and
association updates via
e-mail.*

*Please record your
email address on your
updated membership
application!*

Membership

Please complete your membership application on the last page of this newsletter and send in your dues for 2008 before Jan 31st. Remember to record your email address on your membership application so that future communications can be sent via email. We also have a membership application form on the website. Please encourage your neighbors to join as well. The more supporters and participants the better protection and enjoyment we will all get from our Mitchell Lake!



2008 Membership Form

Mitchell Lake Association Mission Statement: The purpose of the Mitchell Lake Association is to create awareness, knowledge and appropriate actions with property owners, local government and community agencies to enhance the water quality and thereby the boating, fishing and aesthetic values of Mitchell Lake, as a recreational facility for today and for future generations.

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We are strength in numbers, please continue as a founding member or join today. Thank-you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date Paid _____ Check ____ Cash ____

Please forward a \$35.00 tax deductible donation made payable to *Mitchell Lake Assoc.*:

Mitchell Lake Association
C/O Dave Eckstein
16868 Weston Bay Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

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- ___ I am interested in "light" volunteer activities.
- ___ I am interested in an "active" role in the association.
- ___ I am interested in help with a lake "buffer" zone.

Comments:
