



www.mitchelllake.org

Mitchell Lake Association Spring 2015

Dear Mitchell Lake Association Members,

What a difference a year can make with regard to our Mitchell Lake Association efforts. Your Board had quite a bit of action this year with regard to the lake's water quality, invasive species and Watershed rules and rule making engagement.

For those of you that attended the evening with the Watershed in December, 2014 meeting, there were some fireworks between many of us and the Watershed Chair, Perry Forster. We challenged their lack of attention to implementing the Ten Year Plan as far as Mitchell Lake is concerned that took us on the Citizen's Advisory Committee three years and many hours to put together and get approved by the many regulatory agencies involved. Over \$900,000 was to be devoted to Mitchell Lake restoration efforts. It wasn't happening. Our efforts to bring this to their attention were met with resistance and an attitude that invasive weeds inhibiting navigation were not a Watershed issue. So we had our clash with the Watershed managers that ended with a very welcome commitment from the Chair to push forward a weed management plan, work with the DNR on either a variance or reclassification of Mitchell Lake from "Environmental"/protected classification to "Recreational", and get efforts moving.

To Chair Forrester's and the rest of the Watershed Board's credit, they enlisted Wenck Engineering to do a weed management study as part of a three lake initiative including Mitchell, Red Rock and Lake Lucy. The City of Eden Prairie is also engaged in the planning and financing and so are we. We attended the Wenck presentation to the Watershed Managers earlier in January. No vote was taken because "additional information is forthcoming."

Now approved! The Mitchell Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan, which is a coordinated effort with the city of Eden Prairie, the Riley, Purgatory, Bluff Creek Watershed District and Mitchell Lake Association. Please check out the updated Mitchell Lake Association Website @ www.mitchelllake.org for the link, and it was also emailed out a couple of times. This is especially good news, as we have been fighting for this for years – literally. Your MLA Board has approved an additional \$3,000 to compliment what the city and Watershed are doing. Additionally, we are encouraging our members to take advantage of the \$50 rebate for paid up members to apply to their shoreline harvesting in 2015. Must have a paid receipt!

The Watershed Rulemaking issue flared up in July of this year, and over 120 upset people descended on the Watershed's public comment period on July 2nd. Long story made short, the 50' of shoreline buffers they initially would have required was removed from the many rules they ultimately approved.

These rules and the Watershed's rulemaking authority motivated the formation of the South West Metro Lakes Coalition (SWMLC), made up of representatives of Mitchell Lake Association, Friends of Red Rock Lake, Lake Lucy Association, Lake Riley Association, and Lotus Lake Association. I am the SWMLC treasurer. We have made an effort to get to know our respective city councils, and received a warm reception. We will continue to foster these relationships and work with both the cities and Watershed to further the interests of our lakes. It was the SWMLC and city council pressure that brought to bear on the Watershed that I believe made the modifications in proposed lake shore buffer rules possible.

Please let me be clear on behalf of myself and our Board of Directors. We support shoreline restoration and will continue to be actively involved in doing so. We just do not believe the government/watershed should be involved in materially controlling up to 50 feet of our shoreline properties that will have a materially negative impact on our re-sale values and ability. We will continue our efforts to materially improve the shoreline around Mitchell Lake for both beautification and lake water quality reasons.

Additionally, MLA Board member Pete Iversen is replacing MLA Board Member Dennis Seeger as a Watershed Citizen Advisor. Thank you to both Dennis for his service, and to Peter for joining the effort!

Our thanks to Cheri Nehl for doing such a marvelous job of keeping up our MLA website. It really could not be any nicer!

On behalf of myself and our Board of Directors, please let me thank you for your involvement and interest and financial support for your Mitchell Lake Association. It is an honor to serve.

John Tyler

John Tyler
Mitchell Lake Association President

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Weed Harvesting Rebate

The Mitchell Lake Association is once again offering a **\$50 weed harvest rebate to Mitchell Lake Association members that have paid their 2015 dues**. Members can have their private lakeshore harvested at the same time as the City contracted vendor harvests the general lake in 2015.

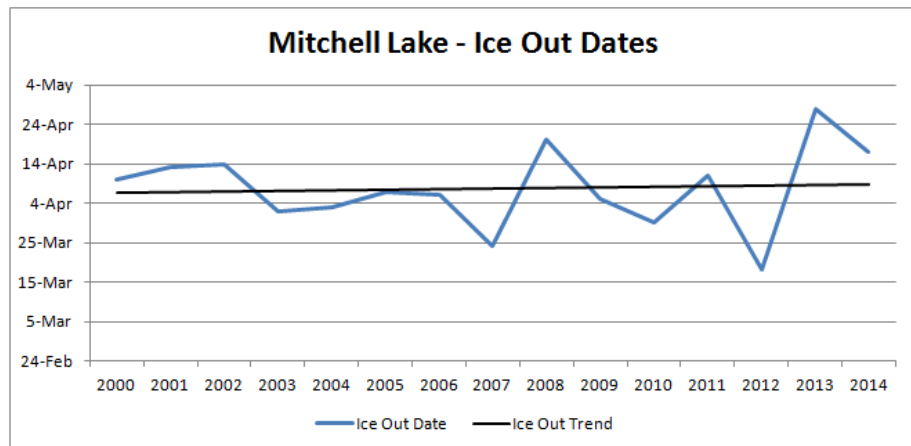
Watch for further notifications** announcing the city approved vendor and the lake harvest dates. **Be sure to ask harvest vendor for a receipt**. Once the harvesting has been completed, submit your proof of payment to Carole "Coco" Duckstad at 8066 Timber Lake Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 and the Association will reimburse you the \$50.

Ice Out Dates

As spring quickly approaches, we often wonder when the lake ice out will occur. Mitchell Lake residents have been tracking the ice out dates for several years. We keep the ice out dates updated on our website at http://www.mitchelllake.org/Ice_Out_Dates.html.

Request: If anyone has "Ice-out" dates prior to 2000, Please send to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com and we will add to website.

Year	Ice Out Date
2000	4/10
2001	4/13
2002	4/14
2003	4/2
2004	4/3
2005	4/7
2006	4/6
2007	3/24
2008	4/20
2009	4/5
2010	3/30
2011	4/11
2012	3/18
2013	4/28
2014	4/17



** How to stay current on Mitchell Lake Association Updates

For lake updates throughout the year (on topics such as weed harvesting rebates, City of EP and Watershed activity impacting our lake, MLA Annual meeting, etc)...

- **Check out our website.** www.mitchelllake.org is a great source of past and present information on Mitchell Lake
- **Get on our email distribution list.** If you are not receiving our email updates, please ensure that you include your current email address on your membership form or send your request to be added to email distribution to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com



www.mitchelllake.org

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.

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 ____

Are you interested in the Weed Harvest Rebate? Yes / No

Please forward a \$35.00 tax deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc. by May 1, 2015

**Mitchell Lake Association
C/O Kevin Persinger
17595 Belfast Cove
Eden Prairie, MN 55347**

Not a member yet?

If you would like to support this important effort

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

____ 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.

____ I would like to make an additional monetary gift of \$_____ to be used for weed management.

____ I would like to make an additional monetary gift of \$_____ and would like it to be used for the following.



9th Annual

Mitchell Lake Cleanup & Lunch Social!

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2015

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

Meet at: Miller Park Warming House (near the hockey rink)

Primary areas to be cleaned: lakeshore in park area and the north shore along Highway 5.

Bring gloves, rakes and waders (if you have them.) Help our lake by removing trash from shoreline and shallow water. Once again, prizes will be awarded for the most unusual trash found.

Lunch provided at 11:30 at the warming house. During lunch, hear Association updates on our lake improvement projects.

LIVING GREEN

UPCOMING EVENTS



March–June 2015

RAIN GARDENS & BEYOND WORKSHOPS AND CONSULTATIONS

Help keep our lakes and ponds clean while creating a pollinator-friendly habitat in your yard. Metro Blooms offers three-hour workshops in the metro area that explore simple changes you can make to help clean water and create healthy habitats. Do-it-yourself approaches to designing raingardens, shoreland restorations and others are provided. Master Gardeners are present to help answer your questions. (\$15)

Metro Blooms also offers:

- On-site Consultation – A one-hour session with a landscape design assistant to provide advice and answer property-specific questions. (\$75)
- Raingarden Design – For an additional fee, the designers will provide a customized rain garden design, including plant selection and installation notes. (\$100)

Website: metroblooms.org

SHALLOW LAKES FORUM

Less than 15 feet deep and often covered by plants a “shallow lake” is one of the most common types of lakes found in Minnesota. To learn more about the role of plants in shallow lakes, and what you can do to manage plants to help your lake be healthy and usable, come to the 2015 Forum.

When: April 25th, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Cost: \$15 (member or affiliate) or \$20 (non-member)

For more information please go to the web site at: arboretum.umn.edu/ShallowLake2015.aspx.

Sponsored by the Cities of Eden Prairie and Minnetonka, the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek and Nine Mile Creek Watershed Districts and the Carver County and Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organizations.

WETLAND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help with the Wetland Health and Evaluation Program (WHEP) this summer. Run by Hennepin County and the Pollution Control Agency, this program provides the public with a chance to get in touch with the environment and learn about the ecological and environmental benefits of wetlands through hands on experience and training.

For more information visit mnwhep.org

PRUNING TREES WORKSHOP

Join Urban Forester Jeff Cordes to learn how to prune your trees. You will learn to prune young and old trees for structure, safety, health, and aesthetics. Techniques such as crown cleaning, thinning, reduction, restoration and raising will be discussed. Following the seminar, homeowners will know how to prune trees or instruct a professional tree service company to on your trees.

When: April 12th, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Where: Outdoor Center

Cost: \$7

Call 952-949-8463 to RSVP, space is limited.

PARKS CLEANUP DAY

This is your chance to help! Grab your work gloves, bring your trash bags and help keep our parks & trails clean.

Contact Jeff Cordes for park assignments ahead of time at **952-949-8463**

When: April 25th, 8:30 a.m.–11 a.m.

This is a great for service organizations, youth & neighborhood groups!



City of Eden Prairie
8080 Mitchell Road
952-949-8300
edenprairie.org/livinggreen

ARTS IN THE PARK

Shop for artwork of all types while enjoying the beautiful scenery of Purgatory Creek Park. Visit Vendors selling glass, jewelry, paintings, wood, photography, sculptures and more! There will also be concessions, children’s activities and live entertainment to participate in.

When: May 16th, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Purgatory Creek Park,
13001 Technology Drive



ARBOR DAY WALK / GREEN FAIR

Join friends and neighbors to celebrate Eden Prairie’s “Tree City USA” designation! Get tips on sustainability practices and find out what we can do to “go green”.

The following are scheduled:

- Free seedlings
- Tree care information
- Eco-related events
- Eco-related demonstrations
- Kids Activities
- Food
- And more

When: Saturday May 2nd 10am-2pm

Where: Round Lake Park,
16691 Valley View Road

For more information:

edenprairie.org/calendar

COMMUNITY DROP OFF DAY

The City of Eden Prairie will hold a one-day **Drop-Off** event for residents.

When: Saturday, June 20th from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Hennepin Technical College (13100 Collegeview Drive)

Cost: Prices **will vary** by item, please check out the City website for a price list. Some items, such as yard waste, can be dropped off at no charge.

What to Bring: Appliances, tires, electronics, yard waste, carpet, recyclables, fluorescent bulbs, construction waste, barbecue grills (including gas bottles), lawn mowers and more! Bicycles and charitable donations will also be accepted.

Where can I find more information? Go to the City’s Events Calendar page at edenprairie.org for information and a full list of what is accepted.

Can’t make the clean-up? Go to the Hennepin County Website (hennepin.us) and type “drop off facilities” or “A to Z Guide” in the search box or call 612-237-5777 to find other disposal options

RAIN BARREL AND COMPOST BIN SALE

The recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) will provide rain barrels, compost bins and kitchen pails at reduced cost to Hennepin County residents. To qualify, you must pre-order your bin from the RAM website and then pick up your item at one of the various pick-up locations. Visit RecycleMinnesota.org for ordering details.

Compost Bin \$55: Compost organic materials to use as nutrient rich fertilizer for gardens and landscaping.

Rain Barrel \$69: Collect rain water for watering landscaping, lawns or gardens.

Kitchen Pails (\$15 or \$25): Convenient way to collect Kitchen scraps for composting. Includes a carbon filter to help reduce odors.

For more information:

<https://recycleminnesota.org/work/compost-bins-rain-barrels/>

