



www.mitchelllake.org

MLA Newsletter – March 2018

Message from the President

Friends of Mitchell Lake,

Mitchell Lake Association Board

Dave Jackett, President
Jason Burnett, Vice Pres
Dan Dorst, Treasurer
Cheri Nehl, Secretary
Pete Iversen, CAC Rep
John Tyler
Travis Yohn

email the board at
mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com

MLA Annual Spring Cleanup/Picnic on April 14, 2018



I hope you all had a safe winter season around the lake and 2018 is starting off well. On behalf of the Association board, I thank you for your continued support of Mitchell Lake and our efforts. 2017 was a great year. We kicked off the year with our annual cleanup attended by more than 50 people and gave awards for some interesting items. Over the summer we focused on our education mission with a shoreline restoration workshop, supported a drain marking program and partnered with the city in a weed harvesting program. Later in the year we held a picnic at Miller Park to raise awareness and enjoy some community. Looking forward to 2018 we will continue our annual cleanup in April, our \$250 rebate for restoration projects and \$75 for weed harvesting. We are also planning to make a focused effort on the weed issue in the North Bay. We will need partnership from the residents there to make it happen. We are also discussing options to support fish stocking as part of a multi-year effort.

This year we also have some changes on our board. Four long serving members of the board; Frank Spahn, Coco Duckstad, Kevin Persinger and Mike Casanova moved on and two new faces join us; Travis Yohn and Jason Burnett. Please join me in thanking Frank, Coco, Kevin and Mike for their dedication and welcoming Jason and Travis. Each year the board meets several times to set plans for the year, build relationships with the city and watershed, get ready for our large events and manage our rebate and other programs. This year we are also investing some time in reviewing our bylaws and mission. It's important to us that we continue to review our purpose and how we operate. You will see the output of this effort at our annual meeting.

Our lake association is not alone in working to improve the quality our lakes. We have a good and longstanding partnership with the city and watershed. This year, plans are in place to continue herbicide treatment of the lake and harvest weeds twice. The city will also continue its monitoring of invasive species along with some of our residents. Many of you know about the fantastic rebate programs the city and watershed offer that support lakeshore restoration projects. Last year we had two projects receive funding around the lake. Please consider investing in rain garden or restoration projects and leverage the programs we and the city offer.

The efforts of both our association and our partners are having a significant impact on lake quality. In 2018 Mitchell Lake was taken off the impaired waters list for the first time since 2002. This is a major accomplishment and one of the core goals of the association. You can see data on the history of Mitchell Lake water quality later in the newsletter. The work is not over however. We need to keep pressure on the government to continue to maintain our lake as the watershed 10 year plan is implemented.

I will close by thanking all of the members of our association for their support through time and funding. And encourage any non-members to join us in preserving and improving Mitchell Lake. It is only together that we are able to accomplish our goals and influence government action. If you would like to join, please visit our new website at www.mitchelllake.org or find us on Facebook. Have a safe and enjoyable 2018.


Dave Jackett – MLA President

Lake Water Quality Improvement Efforts Paying Off

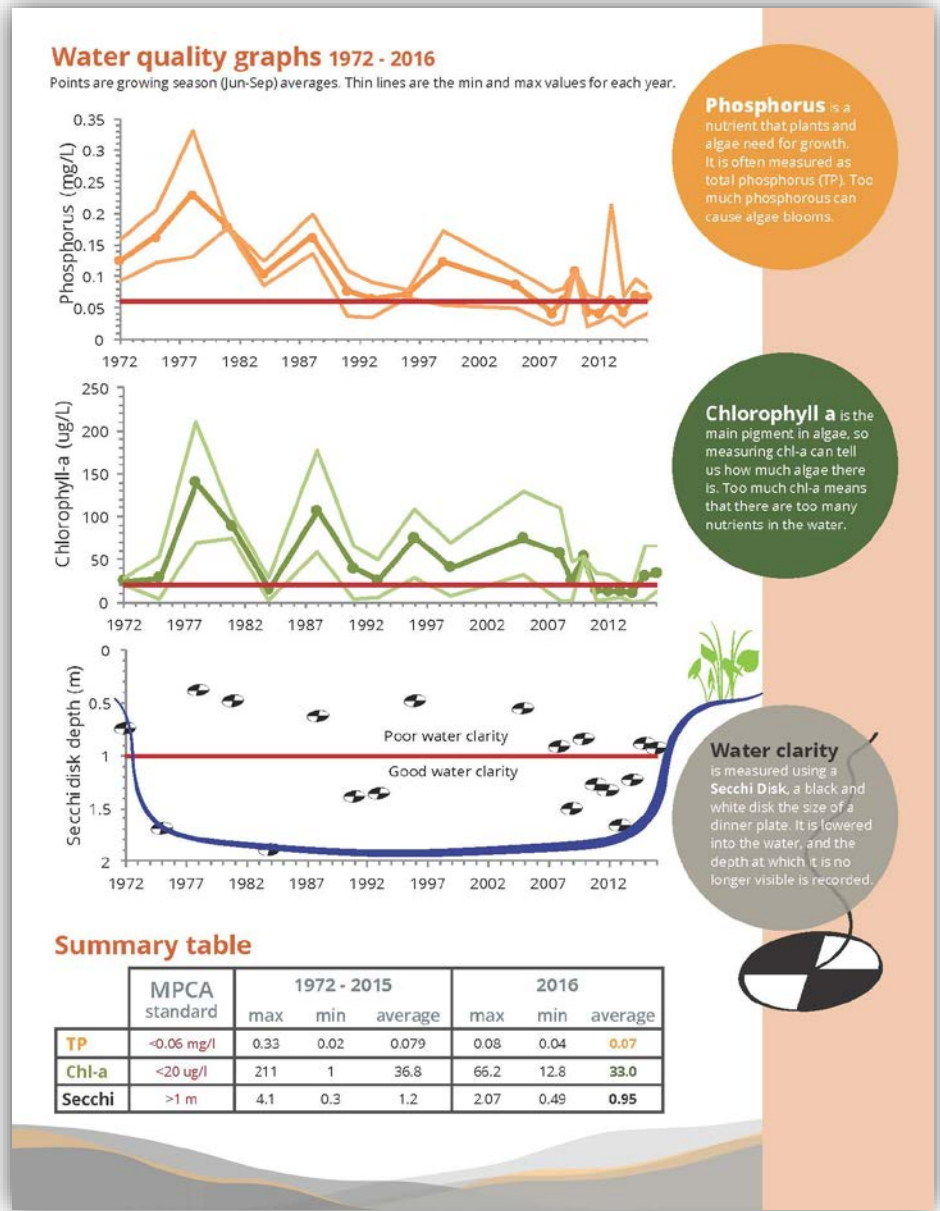
After decades of failing to meet the clean water standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Mitchell Lake water quality has improved and been at or near standards for the last six years. Continued water sampling will help monitor whether the trend persists.


The graphs show the trends over time. The red line on each graph marks the MPCA standard. The goal is for the average values (the dots) to be below the red line.

Source: Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District



Did you know that the **RPBCWD** has a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) made up of volunteers who advise the Board of Managers on water-related community concerns and issues? MLA Board Member, Pete Iversen, is a member of the CAC that meets monthly.





Rainwater runoff, the water that flows across yards, parking lots, and streets into stormdrains, is one of the main causes of pollution in urban areas. You can take simple actions to help protect Mitchell Lake.

<p>Keep the curb clean</p> <p>Sweep up leaves, grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways and streets.</p>	<p>Water with care</p> <p>Grass requires 1-inch of water per week: about one hour of sprinkling per week if it has not rained.</p>	<p>Salt smart</p> <p>The salt we use to melt ice can pollute our lakes and creeks. Use salt sparingly and always shovel first.</p>	<p>Reuse the rain</p> <p>Collect and reuse rainwater with a rain barrel.</p>	<p>Build a raingarden</p> <p>Raingardens soak up water and filter out pollution. Visit our website for help.</p>
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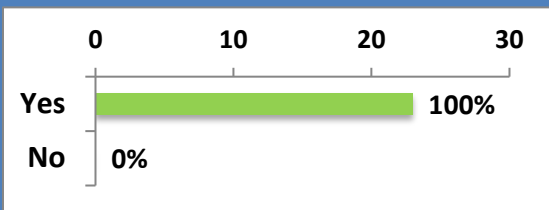
We are Listening!

We completed our annual survey of the membership to help set plans and priorities for 2018. A summary of the feedback is attached to this email. We reviewed the results and our priorities for 2018 with our partners at the city offices and they are supportive. Thank you for your feedback.

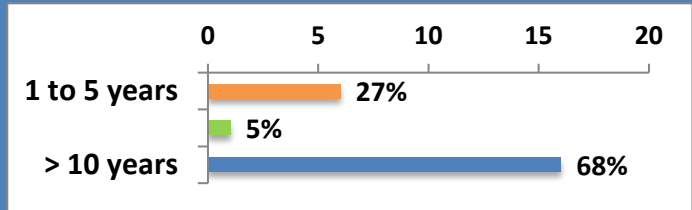
MLA 2018 Priorities

- Spring Cleanup (April)
- Continue Restoration Rebate program (\$250)
- Continue Weed Harvesting Rebate program (\$75)
- Focused Effort on North Bay weeds
- Partner with the City on Geese Removal
- Explore Opportunities for Fish Stocking
- Update Bylaws and Mission of MLA
- Partner with Timber Lake Homeowners Association
- Increase Membership

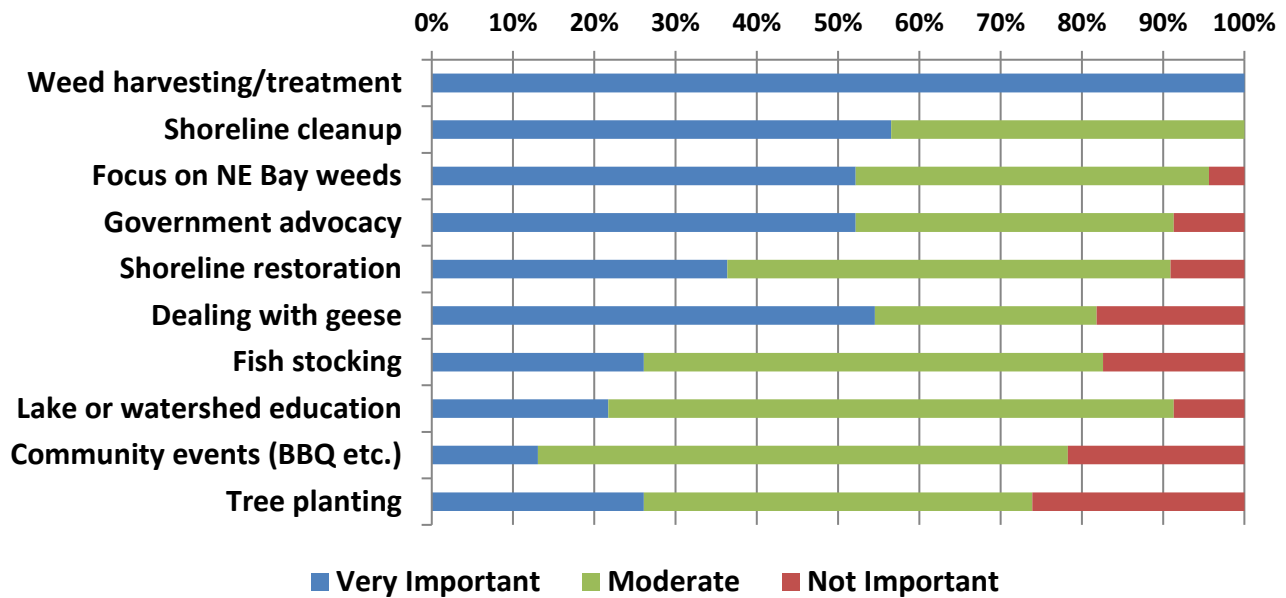
Are you an MLA member?



How long have you lived near the lake?



Activity Ranking



Additional activities suggested included:

Water quality improvements, goose removal, tree planting along highway 5, street drain cleaning, lake patrol license and motor regulation

In 2017, MLA membership was down from prior years.

Please consider signing up and getting involved in 2018 to help support MLA priorities and projects.

49

Paid MLA households in 2017

300+

Households on or adjacent to lake

117

Paid households in 2008

\$250 Landscape for Water Quality Rebate

MLA will continue to offer a \$250 supplemental rebate to paid members who complete a Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) or City of EP approved shoreline restoration or rain garden rebate project in 2018.

How do Shoreline buffers and Rain gardens improve Water Quality?

- **Capture Pollutants** - Planting rainwater gardens and creating shoreline buffers help slow water runoff, capture pollutants that are in the rainwater and let the water infiltrate slowly into the ground
- **Mitigate Erosion** - Native vegetation slows down water runoff and their longer root systems help reduce erosion and absorb extra nutrients.
- **Provide Better Wildlife Habitat** - Native plants provide food or shelter for many song birds, butterflies and other wildlife and deter geese.

Where to find more information on rebates?

- RPBCWD Cost Share Program - Go to www.rpbcwd.org
- City of EP Landscaping for Water Quality Rebate - Go to www.edenprairie.org
- MLA Rebate - Email the MLA Board at mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com



Hanson 2017 Restoration Project –
Recipient of both watershed and MLA rebates

\$75 Weed Harvesting Rebate

The Mitchell Lake Association once again is offering a \$75 weed harvesting rebate to Mitchell Lake Association members that have paid their 2018 dues. Members can have their private lakeshore harvested at the same time as the City contracted vendor harvests the general lake in 2018. Watch for future notice for the City approved vendor and the date(s) the lake is to be harvested. For reimbursement, send a copy of your paid invoice directly to MLA Treasurer Dan Dorst, 7906 Bailey Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347.



North Bay Weeds

Are you frustrated with not being able to navigate through the weeds in the North Bay? This spring, the MLA board will be holding a meeting with concerned members to develop a weed removal plan. Stay tuned for further updates.



Geese Removal

Are the geese making a mess on your lawn or beach? MLA will be working with the City of EP this summer to remove the bothersome geese.



Fish Stocking



Mitchell Lake was once known for excellent bass, crappie and northern pike fishing. Unfortunately, the large fish population and diversity significantly reduced after the 2007 winter kill (due to accidental non-aeration). Since that time, the northern pike population has thrived at the expense of the other fish, leading the DNR to discontinue stocking the lake. At this point, any effort to improve the bass, crappie and/or walleye population through fish stocking, cannot be successful without first executing a northern pike harvesting effort. The MLA board would like to get member feedback regarding an MLA driven fish harvesting/stocking program. Look for a follow-up e-mail and survey.

Storm Drain Marking Program

Did you know that whatever goes into our storm sewers travels untreated into our lake? Help protect our water by marking the storm drains in your neighborhood to help remind neighbors to keep our drains clear of debris. Eden Prairie provides kits to neighborhood groups to install storm drain markers. If you would like to mark drains along your street or would like more information, please contact City of EP Environmental Coordinator at 952-949-8313.

Last April, John and Mikayla Capouch installed markers on all storm drains along Island Road, South Bay Curve and Weston Bay Road.



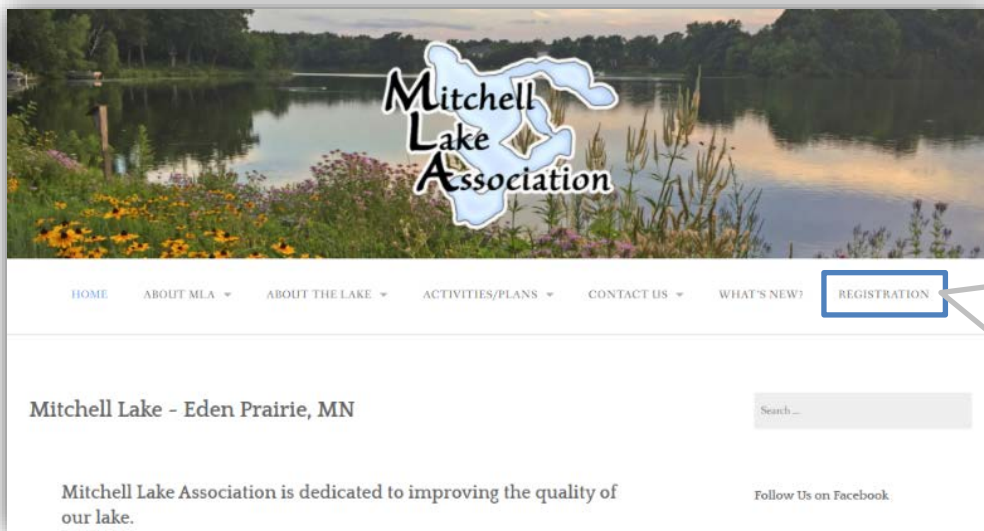
How to Stay Current on Lake Updates

Mitchell Lake Association publishes a newsletter only once a year, but you can stay updated on lake activities throughout the year (i.e. weed harvesting rebates, City of EP and Watershed activities impacting our lake, MLA Annual meeting, etc) via several different communication vehicles...

- **Check out our updated website** - www.mitchelllake.org is a great source of past and present information about our lake
- **Get on our email distribution list** - If you are not receiving our email updates, please include your current email address on your membership form or email request to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com
- **Check out the Mitchell Lake Association Facebook page** - We invite friends and members of the Mitchell Lake Association to join our Facebook Group page. www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg



Check out Mitchell Lake Association Facebook Page



Mitchell Lake Association website has a new look!
Now annual membership dues can now be paid online using link on MLA Website.

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates!



- Sat, Apr 14 **MLA Annual Spring Lakeshore Cleanup and Picnic**, 10am at Miller Park
- Sat, May 6 **EP Arbor Day Walk and Green Fair**. 10am-1pm. Staring Lake Park.
- Thu, Sep 21 **MLA Annual Meeting** - 6-9pm. Chanhassen American Legion.



12th Annual Mitchell Lake Cleanup & Lunch Social!



Date: Saturday, April 14, 2018 (Rain or Shine)
(Coincides with EP Park Clean-up Day)

Time: 10 a.m.-noon cleanup, lunch served at noon

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

Help clean up our lake by removing trash from the shoreline and shallow water. Primary cleaning areas: lakeshore in park area and north shore along Highway 5. Bring gloves, rakes and waders (if you have them)

Once again, PRIZES will be awarded for the most unusual trash found.

Lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & refreshments) provided at noon in the warming house. Please bring a side or dessert to share if desired. During lunch hear about lake improvement projects.

In 2017, community members came together for our annual lakeshore cleanup:

50+ 
Lake cleanup-volunteers

75+ 
Pounds of trash collected

1 
Beautiful day!



NEW in 2018!
You can now pay your membership dues online!
We are offering 1, 2 and 3-year memberships now at:
<http://mitchelllake.org/contact/membership-renewal/>

MLA Membership Form

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Date Paid _____

Please forward a \$35.00 tax deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc
Mitchell Lake Association
C/O Dan Dorst
7906 Bailey Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

- _____ I am interested in installing a lake buffer zone or rain garden on my property.
- _____ I am interested in attending a Shoreline Maintenance workshop.
- _____ I am interested in organizing a group to install Storm Drain markers in my neighborhood.
- _____ I am interested in volunteering for lake monitoring.
- _____ I am interested in volunteering for MLA annual spring lakeshore clean up/picnic.
- _____ I am interested in volunteering to help organize an MLA summer social event.
- _____ I am interested in a future board member position.
- _____ 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 \$_____ to be used for _____

Comments/Suggestions:

