



www.mitchelllake.org

MLA Newsletter – April 2021

Message from the President

Dear Friends of Mitchell Lake,

Thank you for helping us maintain, protect and improve the water quality of Mitchell Lake. Your entries from our annual photo contest are a testament to our lake's beauty, capacity for wildlife and diverse recreational opportunities.

As your new board president, I'm honored by the opportunity to serve our membership, which we hope to grow this year (hint, hint). My wife Molly, our five children and I love boating and fishing on "our" lake, Mitchell Lake!

2020 Highlights

At December's virtual annual meeting, fellow board members and neighbors celebrated a successful 2020, when we hosted many fun and informative events, including:

- The 14th annual Spring Clean-Up, when neighbors spent a Saturday morning removing over 150 pounds of trash from our lakeshore;
- Weed harvesting and herbicide treatment of 13 acres, in part thanks to 12 members who received \$100 rebates;
- Continued monitoring of invasive species thanks to the vigilance of our members;
- Fish stocking, adding almost 500 black crappie and largemouth bass to our lake;
- Removal of nuisance geese by partnering with the city of Eden Prairie; and
- Shoreline restoration projects made possible in part through homeowner rebates.

Board Membership

Many thanks to retiring board members Jason Burnett and Pete Iversen for their service to our association. We welcomed two new board members, Zach Fetzer and Maria Verven, who are already sharing in the passion for our work and bringing new ideas for this year.

2021 Priorities

We held our first board meeting in January, when we set the following priorities for 2021. Your membership dues will enable us to improve the health of our lake in these six ways:

- Address the weeds: through harvesting rebates and city/watershed partnerships
- Stop invasive species: Zebra mussels in particular
- Improve the shoreline: through clean-up, education and restoration grants
- Stock the lake: member funding makes fish stocking possible
- Keep the geese away: in partnership with the city of Eden Prairie
- Grow membership: last but not least!

Stay current by checking our website and 'liking' the Mitchell Lake Association page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeassociation) where we encourage you to post photos of your experiences on the lake! And please support us in our effort to maintain, protect and improve Mitchell Lake by joining as a member today!

Dave Jackett, President

On behalf of the 2021 Mitchell Lake Association Board

Mitchell Lake Association Board

Dave Jackett, President
Paul Yahnke, VP
Mike Kaselnak, Treasurer
Cheri Nehl, Secretary
Joel Bredemeier
Zach Fetzer
John Tyler
Maria Verven
Travis Yohn

Email the board at
mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com

MLA 15th Annual Spring Cleanup April 24, 2021



MLA 2021 Annual Meeting Thur, Oct 7

Learn about the lake and meet your neighbors.



ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE!!!

You can now pay your membership dues online 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: _____

Options	Cost	I am including:
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year Membership	\$35	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Year Membership	\$70	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Year Membership	\$105	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for Fish Stocking (please submit by Apr. 30)	-	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for Weed Harvesting	-	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for General Lake Cleanup	-	\$
Total		\$

* All additional contributions will help fund specific projects

Please send your tax-deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc to:
 Mitchell Lake Association
 C/O Mike Kaselnak
 17598 Toft Cove
 Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Comments/Suggestions: _____

Mitchell Lake Association: Dedicated to improving the quality of our lake

The purpose of the Association is to:

- Maintain, protect, and improve the water quality, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat and recreational capacity of Mitchell Lake,
- Educate shoreline owners and the public about the condition and protection of Mitchell Lake, and
- Provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state, and local agencies for improving the quality of Mitchell Lake.

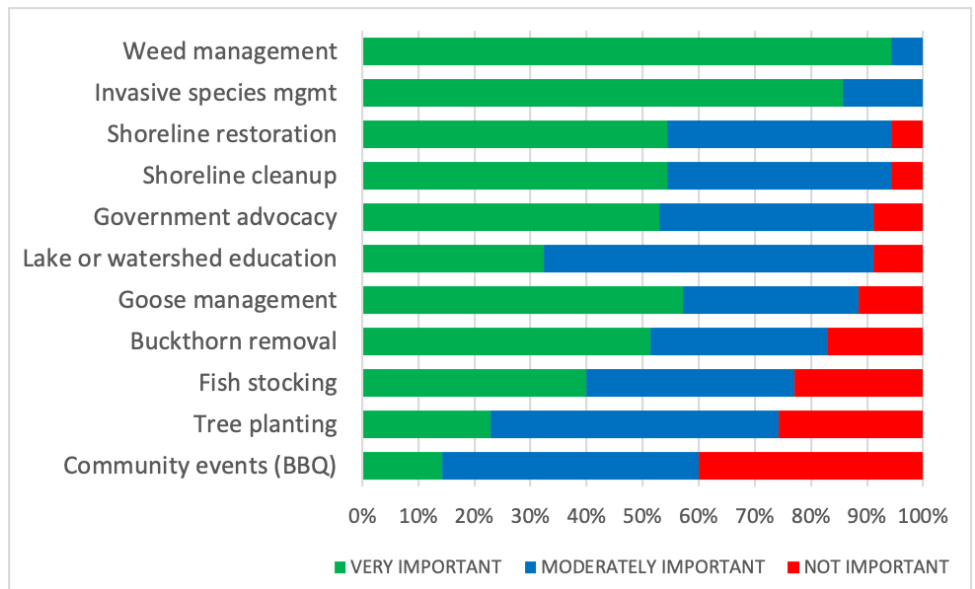
We're Listening! MLA Survey Results

The 36 responses to our annual membership survey helped us set plans and priorities for 2021.

MLA 2021 Priorities

1. **Address the Weeds:**
through harvesting rebates and city and watershed partnerships
2. **Stop Invasive Species:**
Zebra mussels in particular
3. **Improve the Shoreline:**
through clean-up, education and restoration grants
4. **Stock the Lake:**
membership funding makes fish stocking possible
5. **Keep the Geese Away:**
in partnership with the city of Eden Prairie
6. **Grow Membership:**
last but not least!

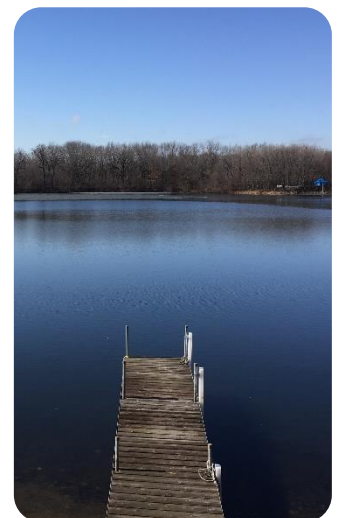
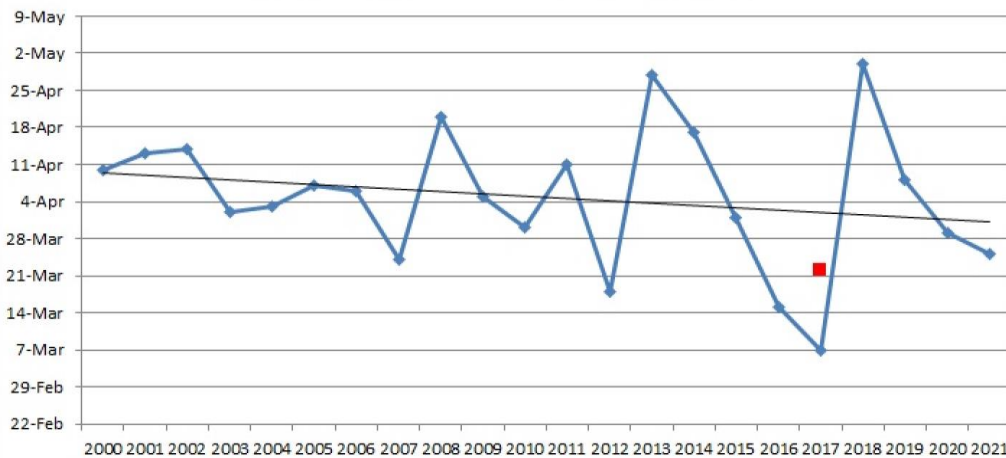
Fall 2020 MLA Survey – 36 Respondents



Mitchell Lake Ice Out

2021 ice out was on March 25!

Mitchell Lake - Ice Out - Day of Year



Sources:

2000-12: Ice out dates were recorded by the Nelsons before they moved from the neighborhood.

2013-15: Ice out dates were recorded by John Tyler

2016-current: Ice out dates were recorded by Cheri Nehl

Ice out definition: Ability to navigate from the inlet at Highway 5 to the Miller Park boat launch.

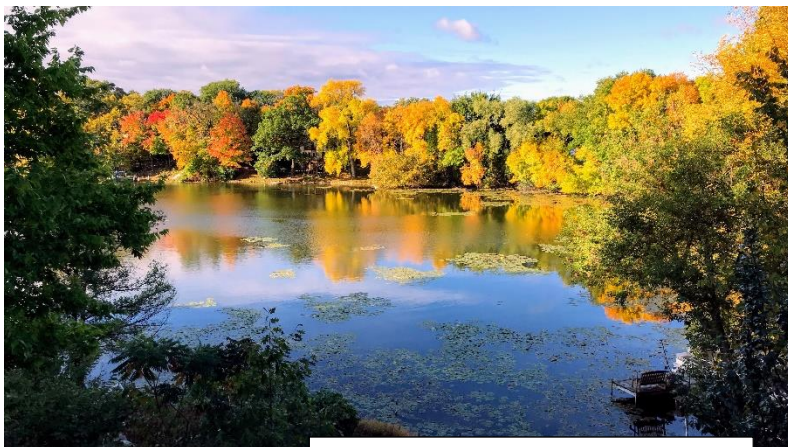
2020 MLA Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to Deb Lind, the first-place winner of our second annual photo contest, who took the sunset photo on the front page, and Zach Fetzer, who took second place for his fishing photo below.

Check our website for more beautiful photos submitted to our 2020 Photo Contest.



2nd Place – Zach Fetzer



Honorable Mention– John Hanke



Honorable Mention – John Tyler

MLA 2021 Photo Contest

To Enter:

- 1) Capture photos portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife or lake life activities
- 2) Email photos to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com by **Sept 15, 2021** with Subject Line: "Photo Contest Submission"
- 3) Include your name with your submission and a title or description if relevant
- 4) Entries will be judged by the MLA Board & winners will be announced at the 2020 Annual Meeting.
- 5) Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st Prize: \$50 Gift Card, 2nd Prize: \$25 Gift Card

Weed Management: Our Top Priority



Weed management in Mitchell Lake has been the top member priority since our inception. We use two primary methods to control the weeds in our lake: herbicide and weed harvesting.

This year's plan for herbicide use and weed harvesting is documented in the City of Eden Prairie's Vegetation Management Plan with input from the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, the DNR, and the U of M.

Herbicide: The Watershed District plans to treat about 15 percent of the lake, targeting the southern and central portions of lake. They don't treat the north bay, as that area is a potential source for vegetation transplantation with a nice variety of native species. Data on our lake vegetation and water quality collected this spring and summer could be used to support an increase in the treatment area.

Harvesting: There are no plans for a spring weed harvest, and the City of EP will see how the herbicide is working before determining if a summer harvest is needed. Although weed harvesting has been a key vegetation management strategy, weed harvesting stirs up sediments on the bottom of the lake, impacting the ability to collect accurate vegetation data. If we resume weed harvesting this summer, we will offer a \$100 rebate to MLA members for private shoreline harvesting. Keep checking our website for updates.

Monitoring for Invasive Species

Invasive species is another one of our top concerns. Here's how we protect against aquatic invasive species:

- **Adopt-a-Dock** – In 2020, four Mitchell Lake residents participated in this watershed-sponsored program. An easy way to prevent the spread of zebra mussels, the program relied on volunteers to attach monitoring plates to the end of their docks, check the plates once a month, and report observations to the watershed district. To participate in 2021, contact ttoavs@rpbcwd.org.
- **Prevent the spread** – Clean all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors, and other recreational equipment before leaving a lake.



No zebra mussels, an invasive species, were detected in 2020. We hope to keep it that way! Early detection offers the opportunity for treatment before they become widespread.

If you detect Zebra Mussels: Take a photo, note the date and location and contact the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed district at [\(952\) 607-6512](tel:9526076512).

New in 2021! - CD3 Outpost Cleaning Station

Hennepin County will be installing a CD3 Outpost cleaning station on the Mitchell Lake public boat landing this summer.

This "smart" automated maintenance cleaning system includes a wet/dry vacuum, blower system and hand tools to help prevent the spread of invasive species.



Landscape for Water Quality



Mitchell Lake is in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD)

Installing a rain garden or shoreline buffer can improve the quality of our lake by capturing pollutants, mitigating erosion and providing a better wildlife habitat.

Financial Assistance is Available! Financial help with shoreline projects is available through the City of Eden Prairie, the RPBCWD Watershed District and Mitchell Lake Association.

MLA offers a **\$250 supplemental rebate** to paid members who complete a Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) or City of EP-approved shoreline restoration, rain garden or buckthorn removal project. Ten MLA member restoration projects have been completed to date, include three projects in 2020; we hope to have more in 2021.

For more information on rebates and resources, also check out the RPBCWD Water Stewardship Grant Program at www.rpbcwd.org and the City of Eden Prairie Landscaping Rebates at www.edenprairie.org.

Adopt-a-Drain to Protect Our Lake



Sign up to adopt a storm drain at Adopt-a-Drain.org and get this cool sign to show your support!!

Did you know that everything that is in the street ends up in our lake? When it rains, storm water carries all debris and pollutants in the street down the storm drain system directly to our lake. Even "natural" debris such as leaves and grass clippings are a problem because they break down to become food for algae.

What Can You Do?

Adopt a storm drain near your home by committing to keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris. The simple act of sweeping up around a storm drain protects the water quality of our lake. Go to Adopt-a-Drain.org to learn more and to officially adopt a drain on your street.

Fish Stocking Makes for Fun Fishing!



Thanks to your voluntary financial contributions, we continue to stock Mitchell Lake with a variety of fish. In 2020, we stocked fish in spring and fall, releasing a total of 500 adult black crappie and 36 adult largemouth bass. Several members and lake residents turned out to watch as the fish were released into our lake.

Year	Season	Species	Size	Number
2019	Spring	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	350
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20 (10 breeding pairs)
	Fall	Walleye	Fingerlings 4"-6"	1050
2020	Spring	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	250
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20
	Fall	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	200
		Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	16

The 2020 fish stocking cost totaled \$1,750, made possible by individual donations. It was great to see so many residents enjoying fishing on our lake throughout the 2020 pandemic year. Future fish stocking will continue to focus on adult black crappie and largemouth bass through voluntary contributions.

Want to Contribute to Our Fish Stocking?

- Send a check to the MLA Treasurer, Mike Kaselnak, 17598 Toft Cove, EP, MN 55347, with "fish stocking" in the memo line, or send a contribution with your annual membership dues.
- Go to mitchelllake.org and make a contribution. For more information on past MLA fish stocking as well as DNR fish stocking and fish surveys, go to mitchelllake.org/fish-stocking/.

Goose Management

Are the geese making a mess on your lawn or beach?

Goose management tips and the efforts to manage the goose population can be found on the Eden Prairie website. MLA will work with the City of EP again this summer to remove the bothersome geese, focusing on the limited window of time when geese can be relocated or removed safely.

To have geese removed from your property, submit a Wildlife Management Request Form. Check your email when we will share updates on timing. To sign up for our email list, send an email to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com.



Stay Current!



Check out our website - www.mitchelllake.org is a great source of information about our lake and upcoming events.



Get our emails - If you're not receiving our emails, please include your current email address on your membership form or email us at mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook - "Like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg where you can post photos of your favorite lake activities!



15th Annual Mitchell Lake Cleanup

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021 (rain or shine)

Time: 10 a.m.-noon

Where: Miller Park Warming House
(Near the hockey rink)

Help clean our lake by removing trash from the shoreline!

We focus on the lakeshore by Miller Park as well as the north shore along Highway 5. Collected garbage can be brought to the Miller Park warming house. Bring gloves, rakes and waders if you have them!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we cannot hold the picnic after the cleanup event or award prizes for the most unusual trash. All participants should wear masks and gloves and practice social distancing.

Thanks in advance for helping us keep our lakeshore clean!