



# Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2021



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions of Current MLA Board
- MLA Background Information
- 2021 Year in Review
- Aquatic Plant Management (aka weeds) Discussion
  - With Leslie Stovring - City of EP & Terry Jeffery - RPBC Watershed
- Photo Contest Results
- Business Meeting
- 2022 Plans



# MLA Board Members

- Dave Jackett, President \* Term ends 2021 – will rerun
- Paul Yahnke\* Term ends 2021 – will not rerun
- Mike Kaselnak, Treasurer\* Term ends 2022 - resigning
- Cheri Nehl, Secretary Term ends 2022
- John Tyler\* Term ends 2021- will rerun
- Travis Yohn Term ends 2023
- Joel Bredemeier\* Term ends 2021- will not rerun
- Zach Fetzer Term ends 2022
- Maria Verven Term ends 2023

\* We will be electing board members to fill open positions later this evening. MLA bylaws require *five board members*

# MLA Background Information

- **MLA was formed in 2006**

- First lake association in Eden Prairie

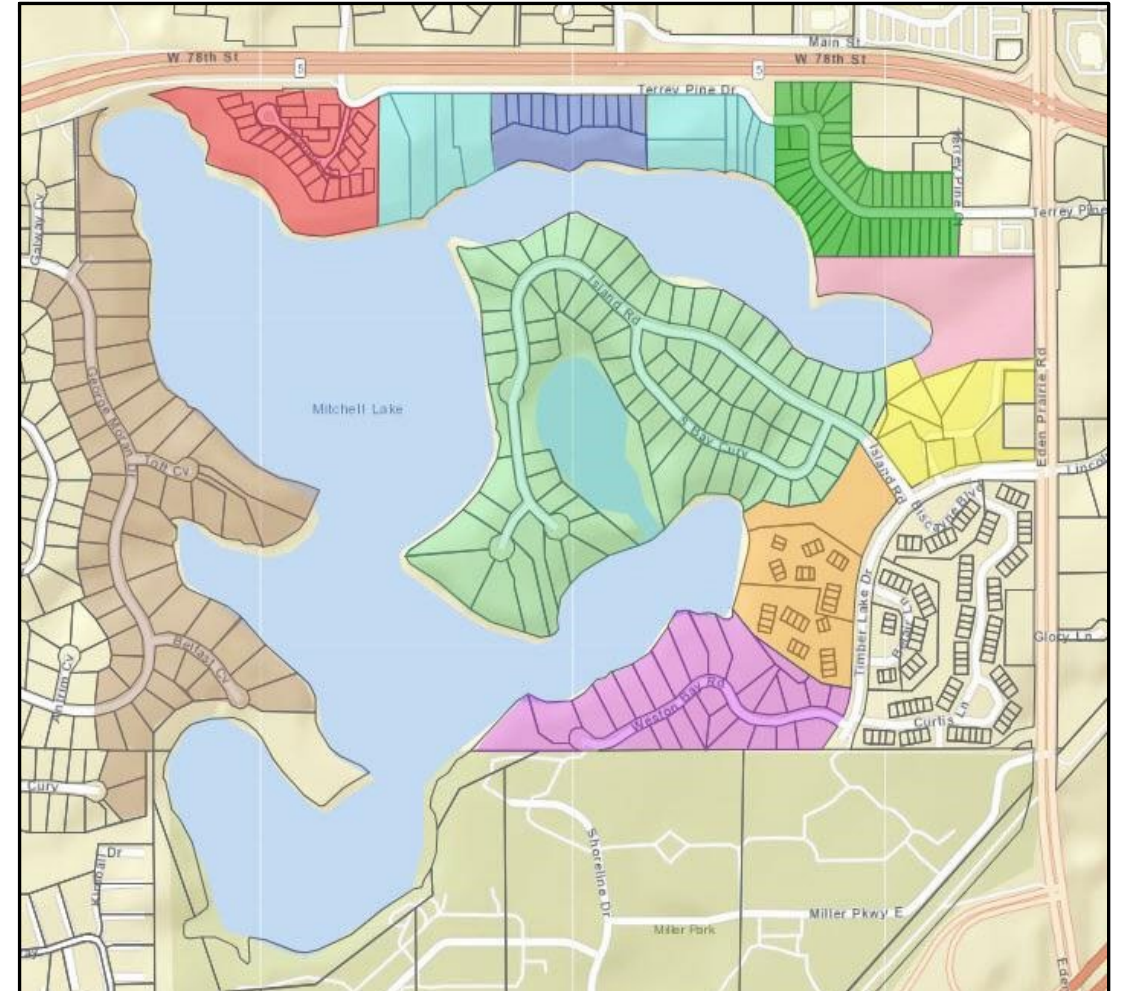


- **MLA Purpose**

- To maintain, protect, and improve the water quality, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat, and recreational capacity of Mitchell Lake;
- To educate shoreline owners and the public about the condition and protection of Mitchell Lake; and
- To provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state, and local agencies for improving quality of Mitchell Lake

# Mitchell Lake Neighborhoods

- MLA reaches out to:
  - 326 residents/property owners surrounding lake
  - 266 households, including townhomes, with lake access
  - 131 single family households directly on the lake
  - 6 homeowners associations



# MLA Partnerships

- To accomplish objectives, MLA has formed partnerships with:

- Residents/property owners surrounding Mitchell Lake
- HOAs surrounding Mitchell Lake
- City of Eden Prairie
- Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
- Department of Natural Resources
- Other local lake associations (Riley, Lotus etc.)



# Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District





# Water Quality

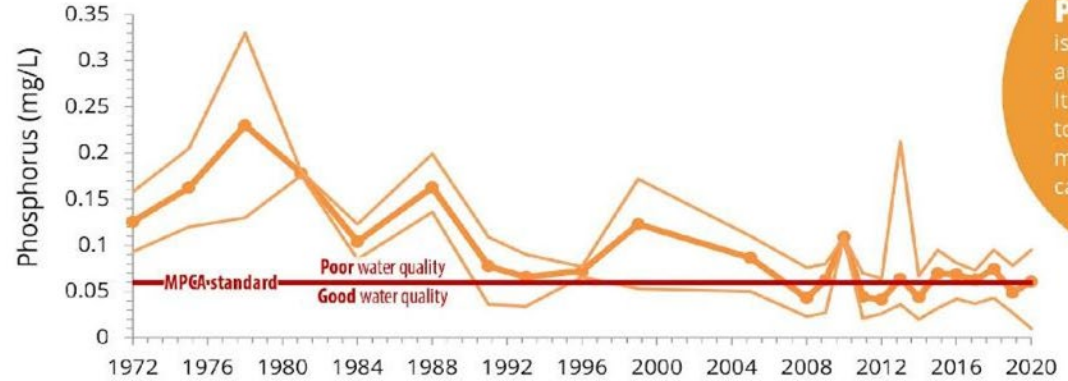
- Water Quality Metrics including:

- Phosphorus
- Chlorophyll
- Water Clarity

have improved over the years

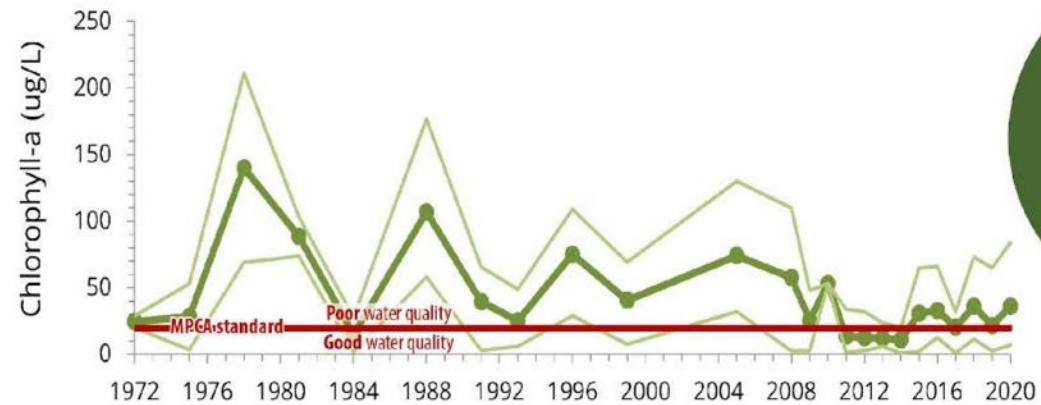
## Water quality graphs 1972 - 2020

Points are growing season (Jun-Sep) averages. Thin lines are the min and max values for each year.



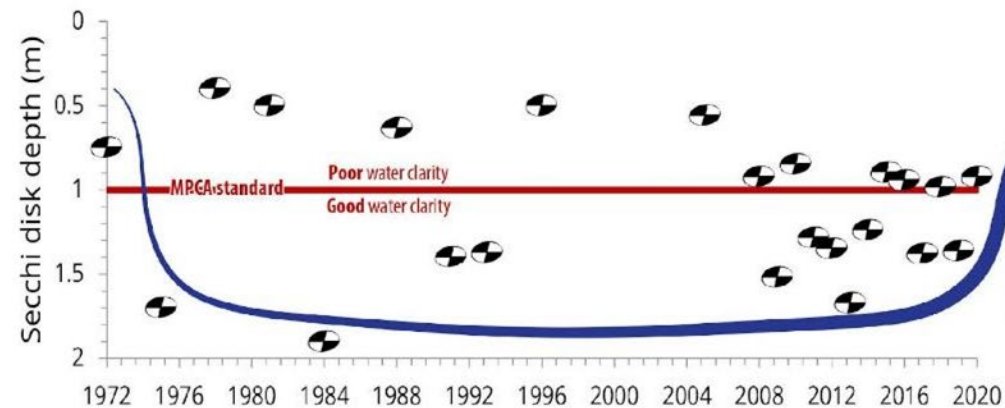
### Phosphorus

is a nutrient that plants and algae need for growth. It is often measured as total phosphorus (TP). Too much phosphorous can cause algae blooms.



### Chlorophyll a

(Chl-a) is the main pigment in algae. Measuring chl-a can tell us how much algae is present. Too much chl-a means there are too many nutrients in the water.



### Water clarity

is measured using a Secchi Disk, a black and white disk the size of a dinner plate. It is lowered into the water, and the depth at which it is no longer visible is recorded.



# Over the Years...

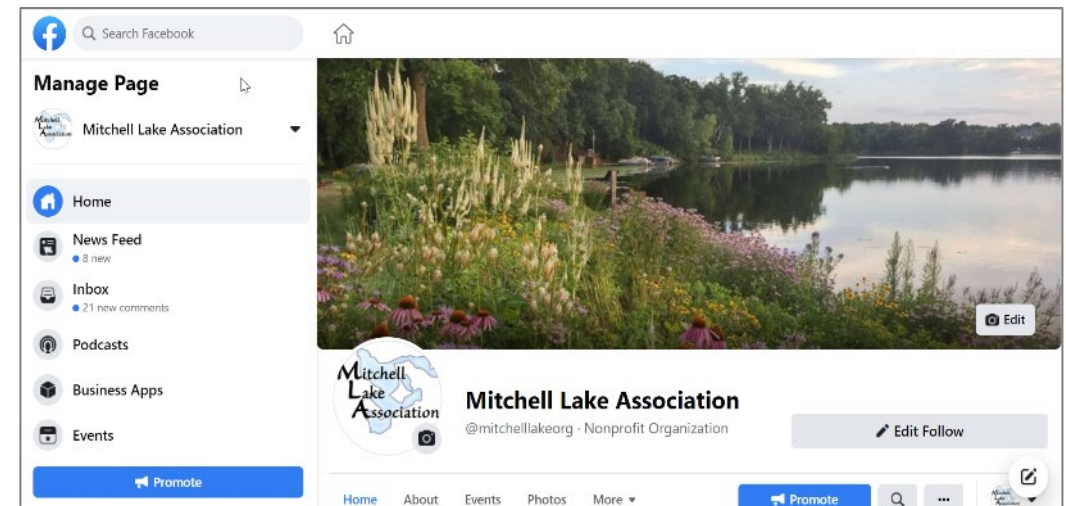
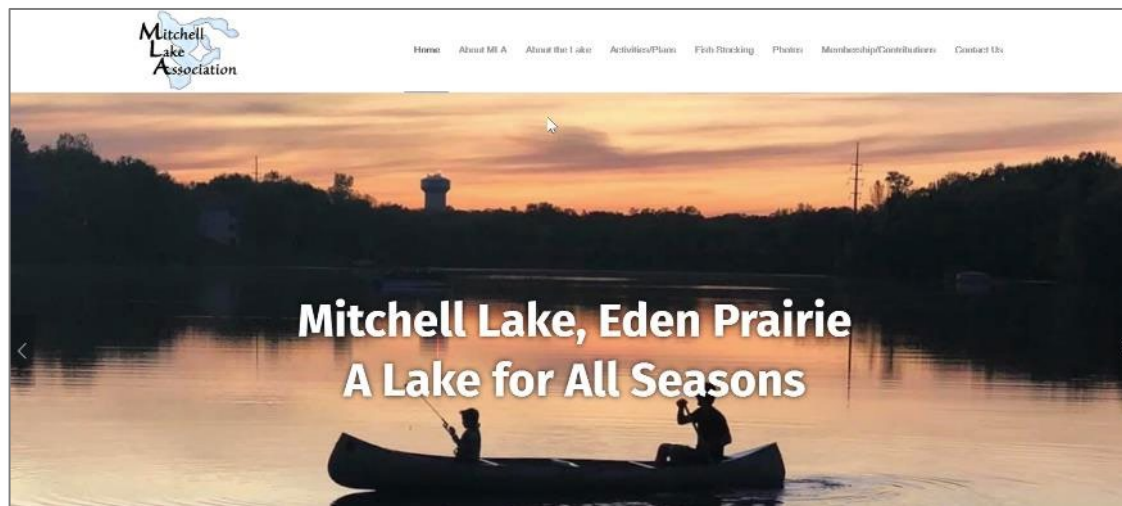
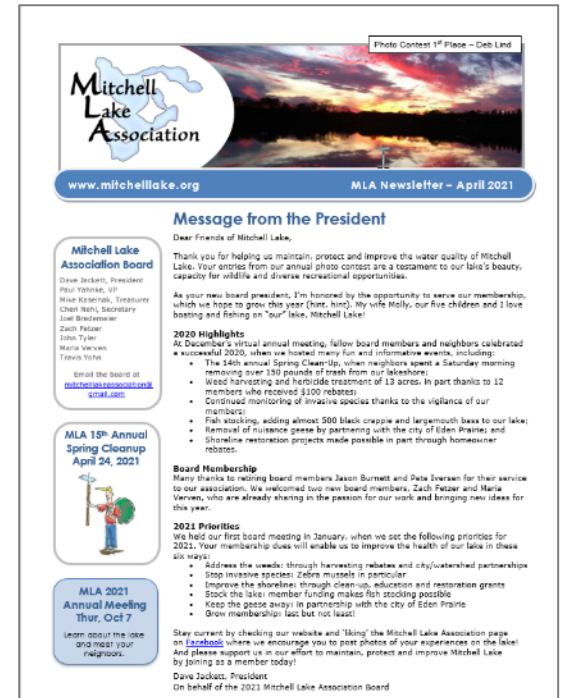
- Water quality improved; removed from impaired waters list
- 15 lakeshore cleanup events
- \$33,000 DNR lakeshore restoration grant
  - >1,000 ft of lakeshore restored
- Planted >100 trees along Hwy 5
- Built community through fun events (BBQs, picnics)
- Hosted water stewardship training events
- Monitored lake water and invasive species
- Stocked lake with over 2000 fish



# MLA Communication

## Lake info, activity updates and plans shared via:

- Website [www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org) – Updated 2021
- Annual newsletters
- Email updates
- Facebook (Mitchell Lake Association)
- Survey
- Nextdoor



# Mitchell Lake Association

## 2021 Year in Review





# 2021 Objectives

- **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 projects
- **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

# Addressing the Weeds

2021

## A Challenging Year for Weeds

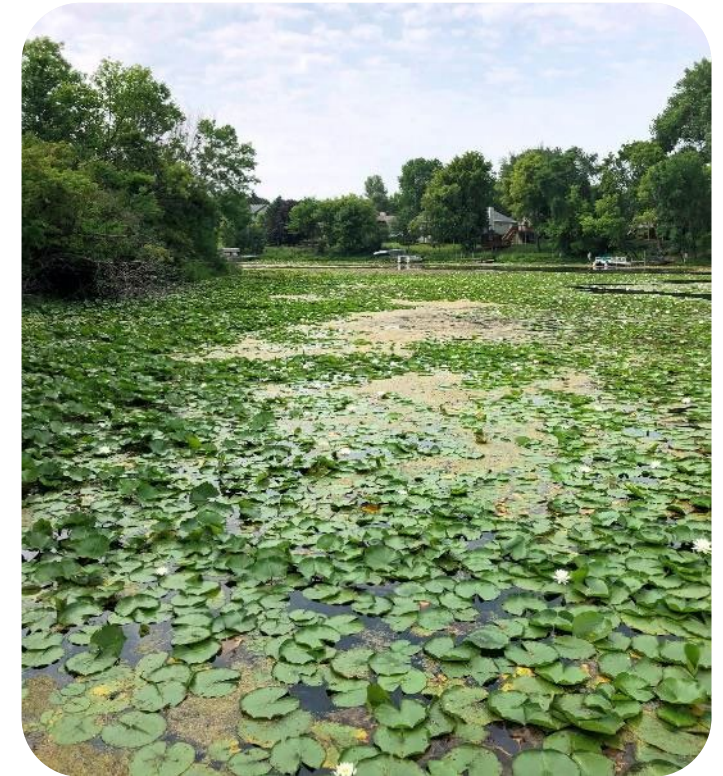
- Severe drought conditions + delayed weed harvesting = a very difficult year, especially in the North bay

## Mechanical Harvesting

- Weed harvester targeted 12 acres/navigation routes
- Five residents received \$100 MLA rebates for harvesting

## Herbicide Application

- Herbicide was applied to 13 acres, targeting the invasive curly-leaf pondweed



**Aquatic Plant Management discussion later in meeting**

# Stopping Spread of Invasive Species 2021

## Zebra Mussel Monitoring

- Three residents participated in the Adopt-a-Dock program sponsored by RPBCWD
- No zebra mussels were detected in 2021

## Boat Inspection and Cleaning

- New CD3 Outpost Cleaning Station installed at the public boat landing
- CD3 has tools for inspecting and cleaning boats leaving the lake
- Data is automatically collected



# Improving the Shoreline

May 2021

## 15 Years of Cleaning our Lake

- No picnic once again this year due to COVID
- Great turnout in spite of the weather!



# Stocking the Lake

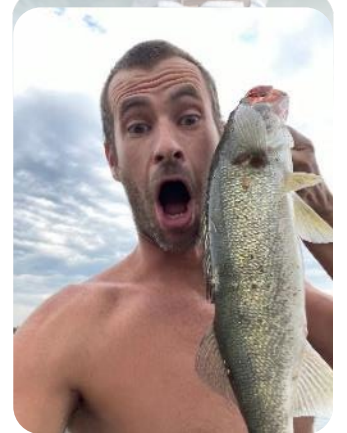
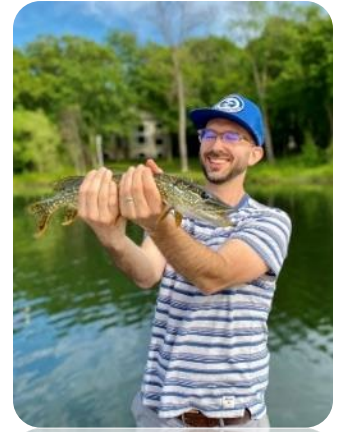
## 2021

### MLA fish stocking program kicked off in 2019

- Over 2000 fish released in Mitchell Lake over past 3 years
- Program sustained by voluntary contributions (after initial \$1000 from MLA)
- Current fish fund down to \$86 – Need more contributions for continued stocking.



Date	Species	Size	Number	Cost
Spring 2019	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	350	\$1921
	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20 (10 pairs)	
Fall 2019	Walleye	Fingerlings 4"-6"	1050	
Spring 2020	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	250	\$1750
	Largemouth Bass	Adults	20	
Fall 2020	Black Crappies	Adults	200	\$1100
	Largemouth Bass	Adults	10-15	
Spring 2021	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	150	\$1100
	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20	
<b>Total</b>			2075	\$4771





# Stocking the Lake

2021



# Keeping the Geese away

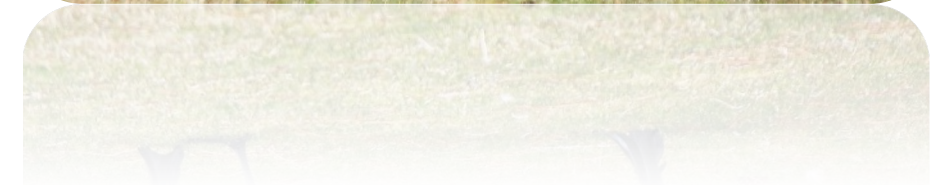
2021

## Canada Goose Management (CGM)

- Removed geese in partnership with the City of Eden Prairie

## Ways residents can manage geese:

- Minimize use of Kentucky bluegrass
- Convert shoreline areas to tall, native grasses or plants with a minimum width of 20 feet
- Plant groupings of trees and shrubs within grazing area
- Erect scare tape or goose fences at the edges of shoreline



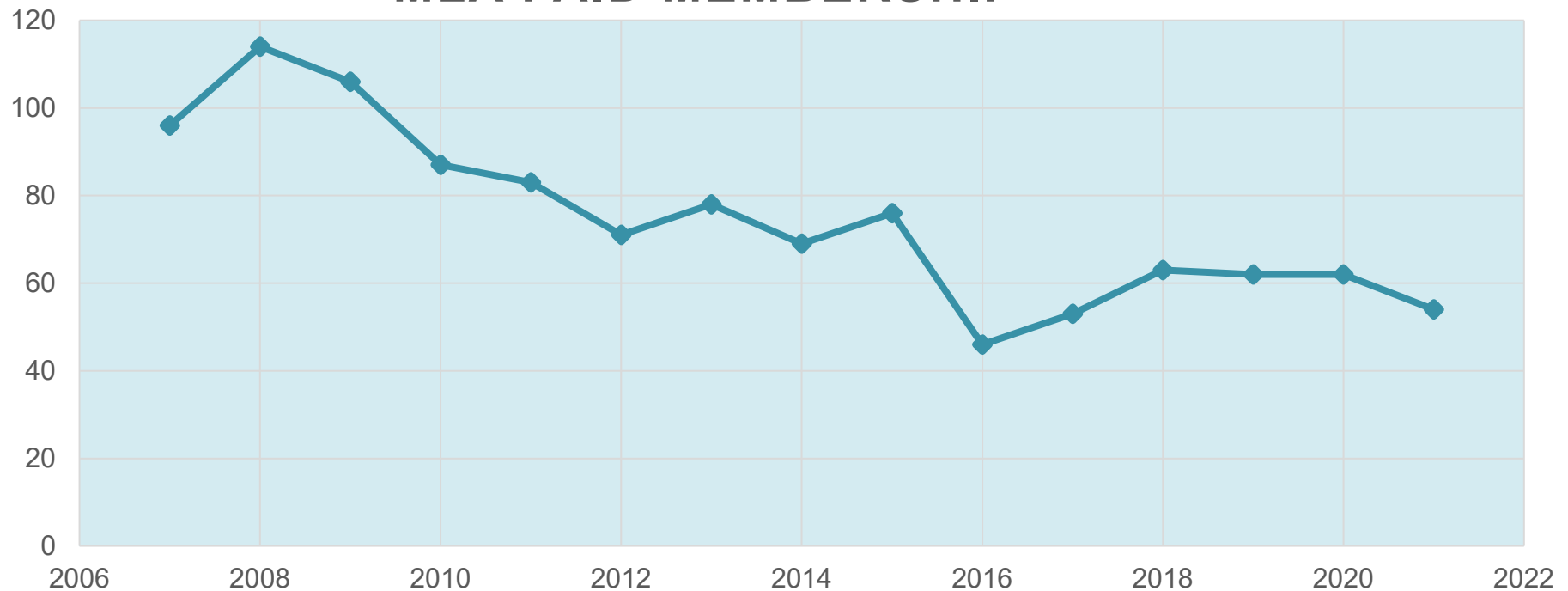
# Growing Membership

## 2021

### Membership Funds Activities

- Paid membership dropped in 2021
- Need paid members to continue funding activities and rebates
- Please encourage friends and neighbors to join

**MLA PAID MEMBERSHIP**



# Mitchell Lake Community Events

## 2021

### MLA Hosted Summer Get-together on July 15, 2021

- Held at Timber Lakes Commons (Thank you Timber Lakes HOA!)
- Food truck and live music (and road construction)
- Over 75 in attendance



# Aquatic Plant Management (aka weeds) Discussion





# Welcome to our annual meeting:

**Leslie Stovring**

City of Eden Prairie

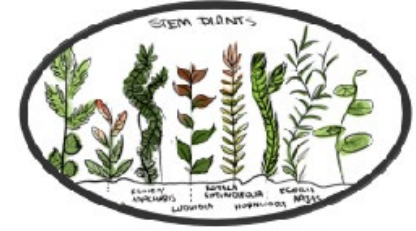


**Terry Jeffery**

Watershed District



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management



## Weeds continue to be the MLA #1 concern

- Over-abundant vegetation impacting navigation, swimming, and aesthetics
- Meeting held to discuss aquatic vegetation concerns
  - Cheri, Dave, Zach                      MLA Board
  - Patrick Sejkora                          City Engineer
  - Leslie Stovring                          City Water Resources Coordinator
  - Liz Forbes                                  Watershed Outreach
  - Joe Bischoff                                Barr Engineering (supports Watershed)
- Key Takeaways
  - Not all aquatic plants (aka weeds) are bad
  - Managing aquatic vegetation involves water quality/ecosystem tradeoffs
  - Aquatic plant management control actions require resident, city, watershed and DNR coordination. MLA must stay actively involved.

# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## What is Growing in our Lake?

- Good weed or bad weed?



### \*Weed Definition:

a plant growing where it is not wanted



## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

**Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?**



## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

### Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?



**Good → Coontail**

**Native submerged aquatic plant**

**It's important because:**

- many waterfowl species eat the shoots;
- it provides cover for young bluegills, perch, largemouth bass, and northern pike;
- and supports insects that fish and ducklings eat.

## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

**Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?**



## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

### Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?



**Bad** → **Curly-leaf pondweed**  
Invasive Submerged aquatic plant

#### **Negative impact:**

- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreationists.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.
- Midsummer die-offs can litter the shoreline with dead plants.

## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

**Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?**



## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

### Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?



**Good → Water Lily**  
Native Floating-leaf aquatic plant

**It's important because:**

- It's important because it provides excellent habitat for largemouth bass and sunfish and its seeds are eaten by waterfowl.

## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

**Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?**



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?



**Bad** → **Eurasian watermilfoil**  
Native Floating-leaf aquatic plant

### **Negative impact:**

- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreationists.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.

**Note:** Our lake also has **native** Northern Water Milfoil (looks similar)



## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

**Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?**



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## Good Weed or Bad Weed? Can you name it?



**Good/Bad → Filamentous algae**  
Native aquatic plant

**It's important because:**

- Provides cover for small animals such as aquatic insects, snails, and scuds, which are valuable fish food.

**Excessive growth can be a nuisance**

- Limiting the flow of nutrients into the lake may help reduce the severity of nuisance conditions.

# Aquatic Plant Management

## Our Lake's Ecosystem

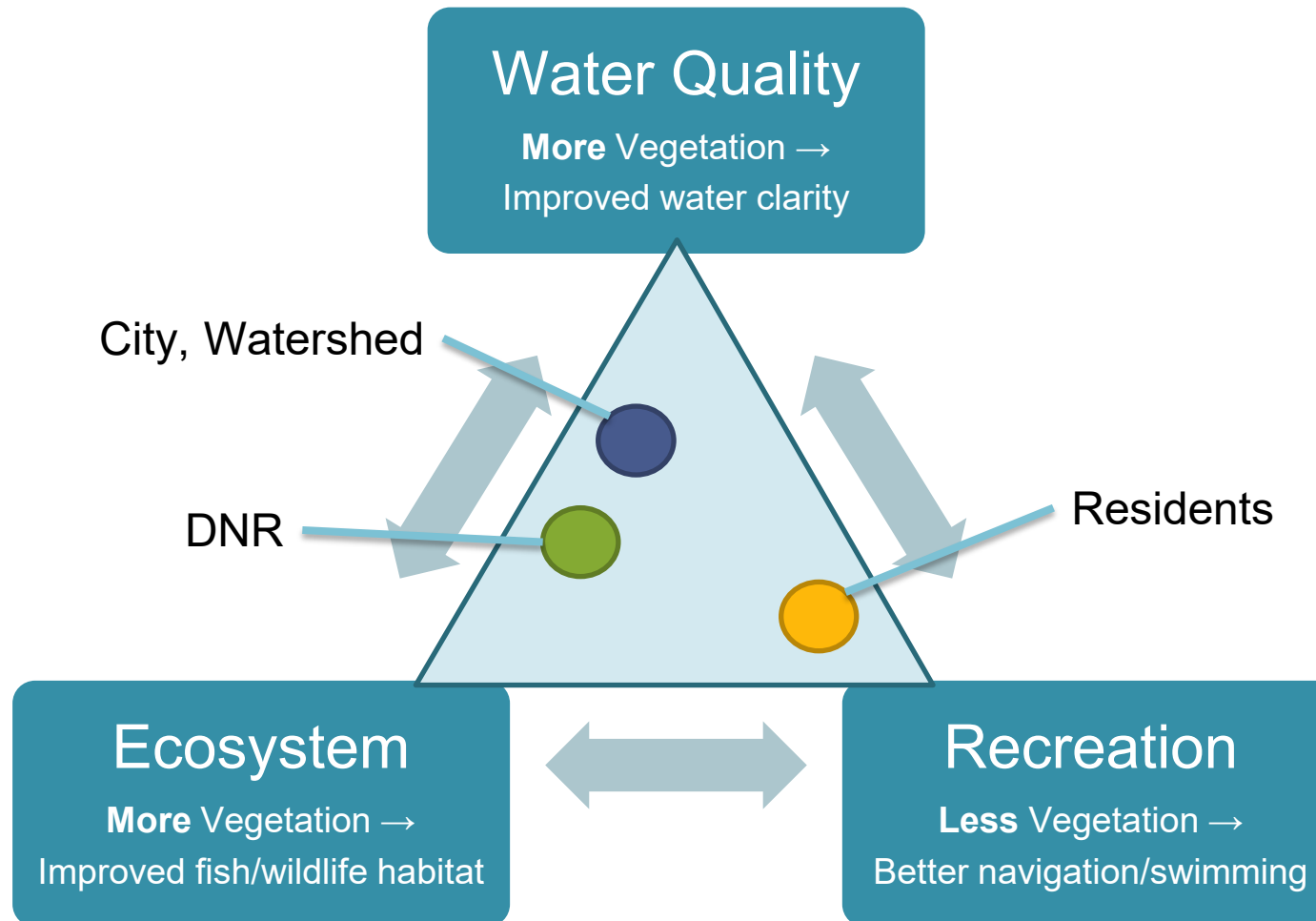
- Mitchell Lake is home to over 15 species of aquatic plants, most of which are native species.
- Native species are an essential part of our lake's ecosystem.
  - They provide habitat for fish and wildlife and help improve water clarity
- Invasive species are not native and can cause problems.
  - They can spread rapidly, can cause environmental harm, impact wildlife and interfere with boating or swimming.



Examples of invasive species found in Mitchell Lake include; Curly-leaf pondweed (pictured) and Eurasian watermilfoil

# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## Balancing Aquatic Vegetation and Recreation



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## What Can YOU Do?

- Check your boat and dock for invasive species
- Minimize/eliminate fertilizer on your lawn
- Sweep up the leaves, grass clippings, and fertilizer from your driveway and street
- Keep your storm drains clear
- Avoid installing hard surfaces near the lake
- Clean up after your pet
- Maintain a vegetative buffer along your shore to capture nutrients and reduce erosion
- Start a rain garden project
- Water quality rebates are available through the City of EP, RPBCWD, and MLA



### Landscape for Water Quality

- Capture pollutants
- Mitigate erosion
- Provide better wildlife habitat

# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## Aquatic Plant Control

- Two primary methods control aquatic plants:
  - Mechanical control (aka. weed harvesting)
  - Herbicide control
- Regulated by Minnesota Statute and enforced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Aquatic plant management activities may or may not require an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) permit



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## Mechanical Control

- The City of EP has contracted with harvesters to harvest curly-leaf pond weed and create paths
- Property owners can also contract to clear a path from their shorelines (within 150 ft. of shore and up to 2,500 sq ft.)
- Aquatic plant harvesting is like mowing the lawn: the plants are only cut back
- The North bay is the healthiest part of the lake; much of the vegetation is non-invasive. The goal is navigation vs. removal.



Harvesting Diagram - 2019  
Mitchell Lake



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management



## Herbicide Control

- The RPBCWD has worked with contractors to apply herbicide to 13 acres of the lake
- They target curly-leaf pondweed
- Herbicide treatment for submerged plants is restricted since Mitchell Lake is classified as a Natural Environment Lake
- DNR approved homeowner herbicide permits for algae and swimmer's itch but not submerged plants
- MLA did significant research on lake re-classification opportunities



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management




MLA  
Formed  
2006

Year	Party	Project
2005	RPBCWD	Use Attainability Completed
2006	City	Petitioned RPBCWD for UAA work
2008 - 2009	RPBCWD	Pilot aeration system (sediment oxidation) installed in a central part of the lake (discontinued due to ineffectiveness)
2008 - 2009	RPBCWD	Aeration system (Solar Bees) installed in south bay (discontinued due to ineffectiveness)
2008	RPBCWD	Curly-leaf pondweed harvesting - 20 acres (272 tons)
2008 - 2011	City	DNR Shoreland grant for homeowners
2010	RPBCWD	Harvested in June and July (CH2M Hill) for a total of 463 tons
2012	City/RPBCWD	Curly-leaf pondweed harvesting (247.5 tons)
2013	City/RPBCWD	Curly-leaf pondweed harvesting (63.65 tons)
2013	City	Lake Sediment Fertility Assessment for Mitchell Lake
2013	City	Aquatic Invasive Species Suitability Analysis for Mitchell Lake
2014	City/RPBCWD	Curly-leaf pondweed harvesting
2014 - 2015	City	Mitchell Lake Watershed Basin Inventory & Maintenance Assessment to start in 2014 / report in 2015
2015	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Endothall) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2015	City	Harvesting (J & N Harvesting) in summer
2016	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Endothall) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2016	City	Harvesting (Waterfront Restoration) in spring and summer
2017	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Endothall) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2017	City	Harvesting (Lakes Aquatic Weed Removal) in June (15 acres)
2018	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Diquat) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2018	City	Harvesting (Premier Lake Harvesting) in spring (15 acres) and summer (10 acres)
2019	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Diquat) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2019	City	Harvesting (J & N Harvesting) in spring (16 acres) and summer (12 acres)
2020	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Diquat) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2020	City	Harvesting in June (8 acres)
2021	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Diquat) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2021	City	Harvesting (Premier Lake Harvesting) in August (12 Acres)



## Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

### **City of EP/Watershed District Next Steps**

- Review and update the Mitchell Lake Aquatic Plant Management 5 Year Plan and release for public comment
  - Evaluate changing herbicide from Diquat to Fluoridone and extend coverage (“whole lake” would require a variance)
  - Explore option of applying herbicide under the ice when only curly leaf pond weed is growing
  - Assess use of Alum to trap phosphorus (targeted treatment)
  - Improvements to ponds/retention ponds feeding Mitchell Lake
- 



# Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management

## MLA Next Steps

- Engage in the public comment on the 5yr Mitchell Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan update
- Initiate regular connections with the city, watershed and DNR to address lake concerns and discuss joint goals
- Educate homeowners on what they can do, what the city/watershed are doing and why
- Document Mitchell Lake aquatic plant management guidelines on MLA website
- Encourage harvesting, support thru rebates
- Encourage shoreline restoration, rain gardens, limited use of fertilizers etc., support thru rebates
- Encourage permits for algae treatment
- Explore options for a variance to expand herbicide treatment to homeowner's shoreline



Aquatic Plant (Weed) Management



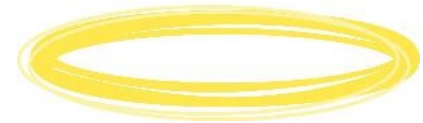
# Aquatic Plant QUESTIONS?

# Thank You Leslie!!!

For your many years supporting  
Mitchell Lake, our association and  
the City of Eden Prairie.

We will miss you!

You are always welcome at our  
annual meetings and events 😊



# 2021 Photo Contest



# MLA Photo Contest

## 2021

- Members asked to submit photos portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife or lake life activities
- 43 submissions received
- Prizes for 1st and 2nd place
- All photos will be posted on website



**2020 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Submitted by Deb Lind**



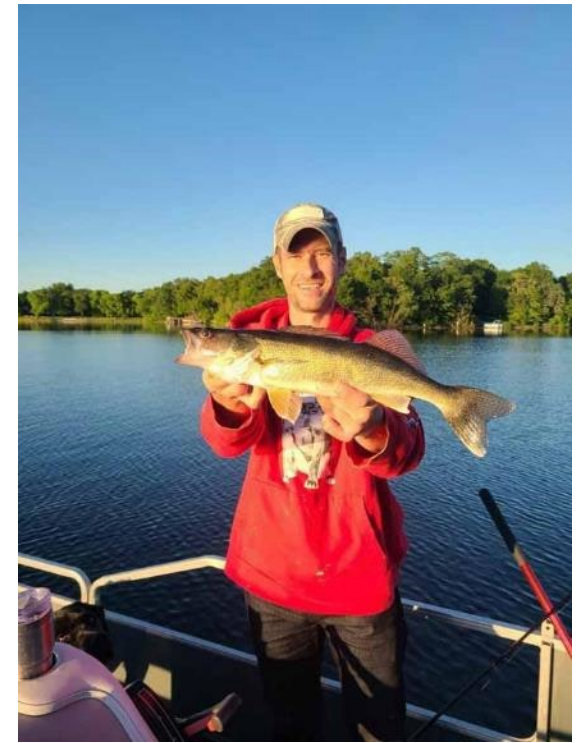
**2020 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Submitted by Zach Fetzer**

# MLA Photo Contest 2021





# MLA Photo Contest 2021



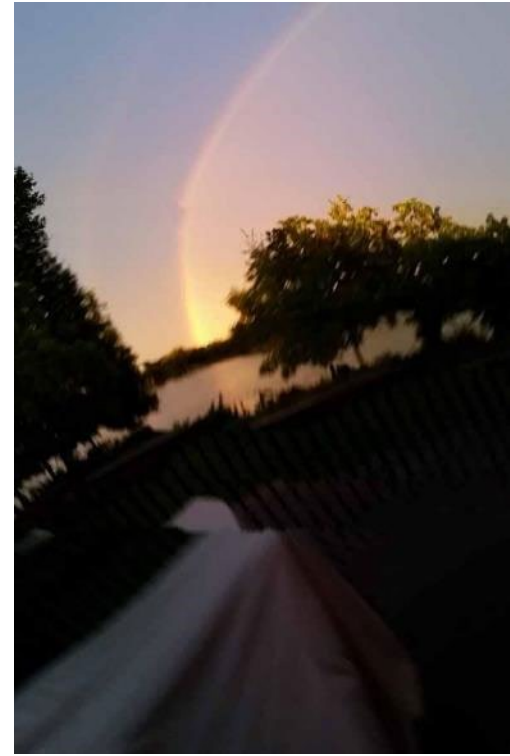
# MLA Photo Contest 2021



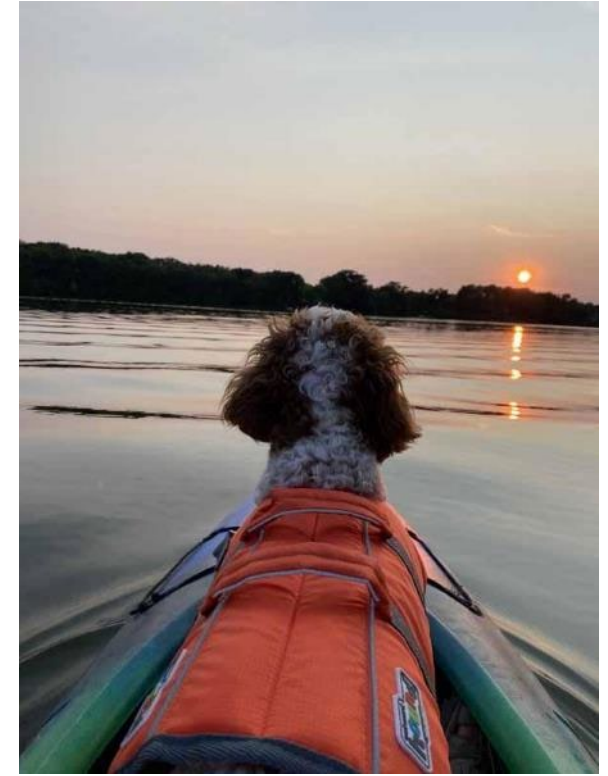
# MLA Photo Contest 2021



# MLA Photo Contest 2021



# MLA Photo Contest 2021



# MLA Photo Contest 2021



And the winners are...



And the winners are...

## Honorable Mention

Submitted by Joel Bredemeier





And the winners are...

## Honorable Mention

Submitted by Dave Jackett



And the winners are...

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Submitted by  
Travis Yohn  
(\$25 gift certificate)



And the winners are...

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Submitted by  
Jon Hanke  
(\$50 gift certificate)**



# Business Meeting





# Business Meeting

- 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report – Mike Kaselnak
- Elections - 5 open board seats



# 2020 Annual Meeting Agenda

- December 3, 2020
- Zoom Meeting called to order at 7pm
- Agenda Included:
  - Introductions of Current MLA Board
  - MLA Background Information
  - 2020 Year in Review
  - No guest speakers due to Covid
  - Photo Contest Results
  - Business Meeting
    - Financial Report
    - Election of New Board Members
  - 2021 Plans

Minutes  
posted on  
[mitchelllake.org](http://mitchelllake.org)

# MLA 2021 Financial Statement

	Jan - Dec 2020	YTD 2021
Annual Membership Dues	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
<b>Revenue</b>		
Membership Dues	\$ 3,737.68	\$ 1,577.94
Fish	\$ 2,011.85	\$ 925.05
Weeds	\$ 150.00	\$ 278.97
Cleanup	\$ 200.00	\$ -
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,099.53</b>	<b>\$ 2,781.96</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Association Expenditures</b>		
Annual Spring Lake Cleanup/Picnic(s)	\$ -	\$ 535.78
Annual Fall Meeting	\$ 75.00	\$ -
Newsletter Printing	\$ -	\$ 852.28
Shoreline Restoration Rebates (\$250/project)	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Lake Harvesting Weed Control Rebates (\$100/member)	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 500.00
Fish Stocking	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,100.00
Website Expenses	\$ 873.64	\$ 747.99
Bank Charges	\$ 35.00	\$ -
Non-Profit filing expenses, etc.	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Postage- fundraising	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Association Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 4,473.64</b>	<b>\$ 4,236.05</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,625.89</b>	<b>\$ (1,454.09)</b>
Balance in Checking/Paypal	\$ 11,820.36	\$ 10,374.03

Membership dues have not increased since MLA was formed in 2006





# MLA Board Opportunities

- 5 Open Board Member Positions
- Board member roles
  - 3-year term with 6-8 meetings/year
  - Support MLA activities
  - Interface with partners (EP/WD District)
  - Good opportunity to get involved





# Elections

- New Candidate Introductions

- Michelle Rothwell
- Erik Hansen
- Other?

- Vote for 5

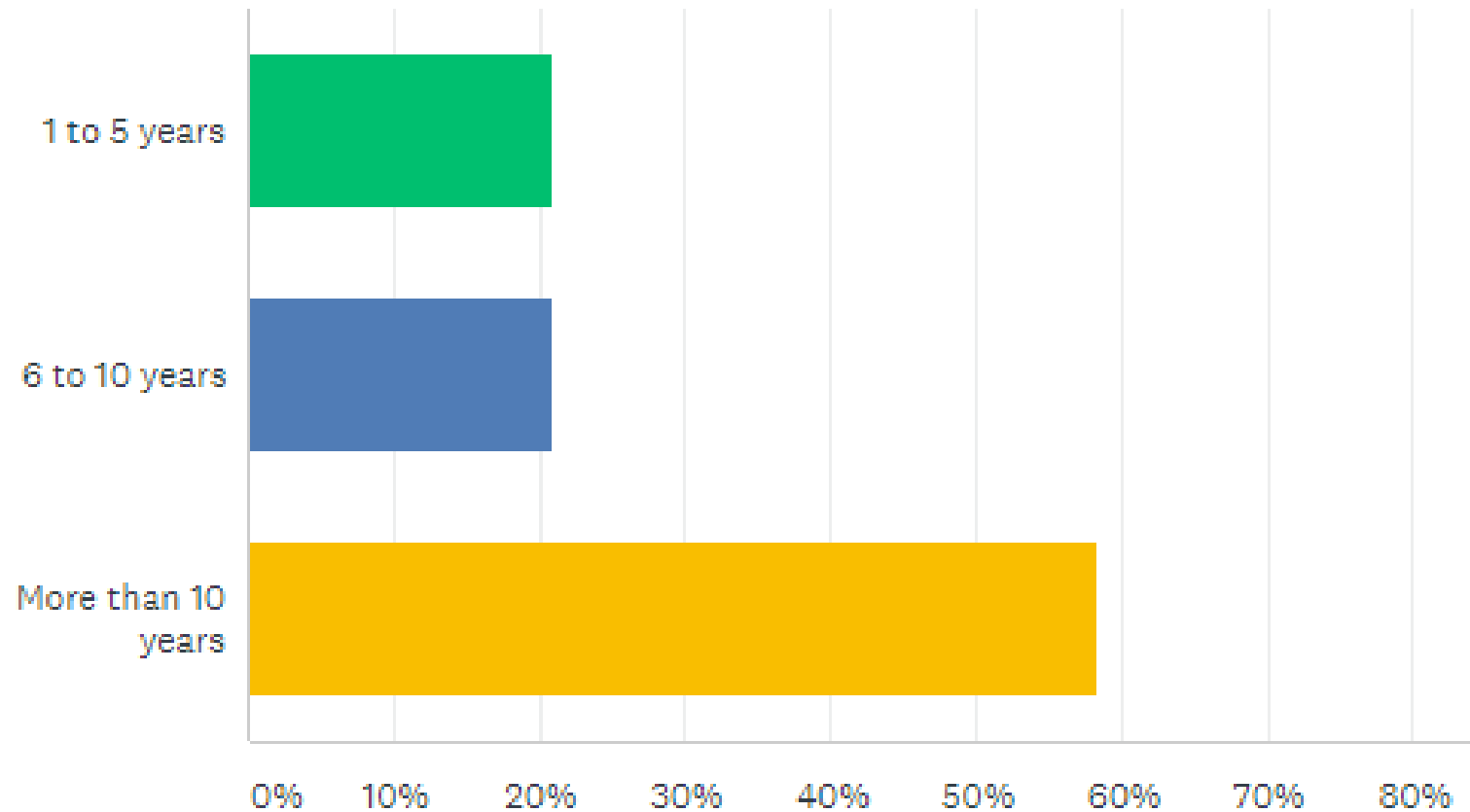
	Candidate	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Jackett	Incumbent
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Tyler	Incumbent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Rothwell	New
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erik Hansen	New
<input type="checkbox"/>		

# Plans for 2022

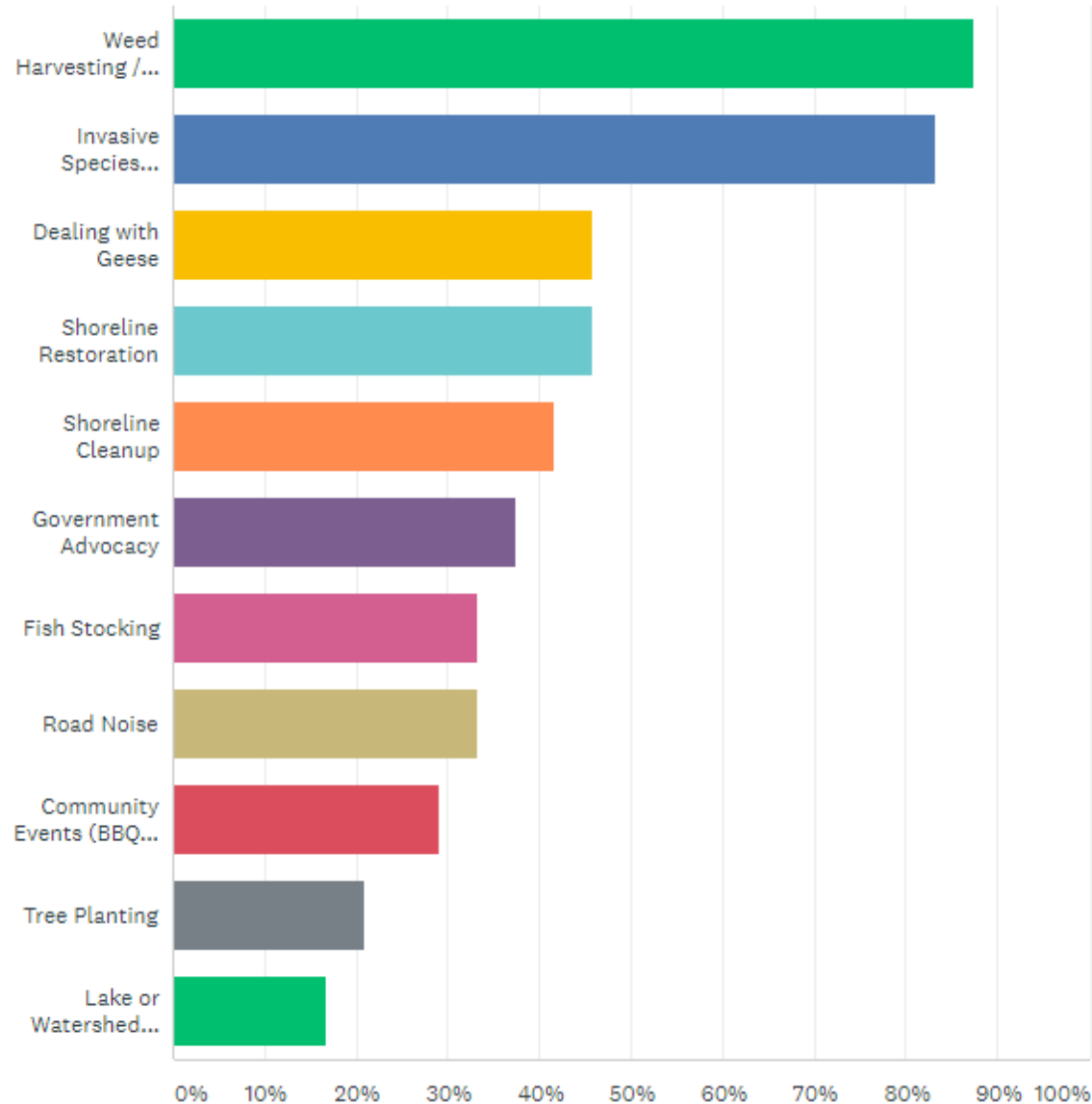


# MLA 2021 Survey Results

How long have you lived on or near Mitchell Lake?



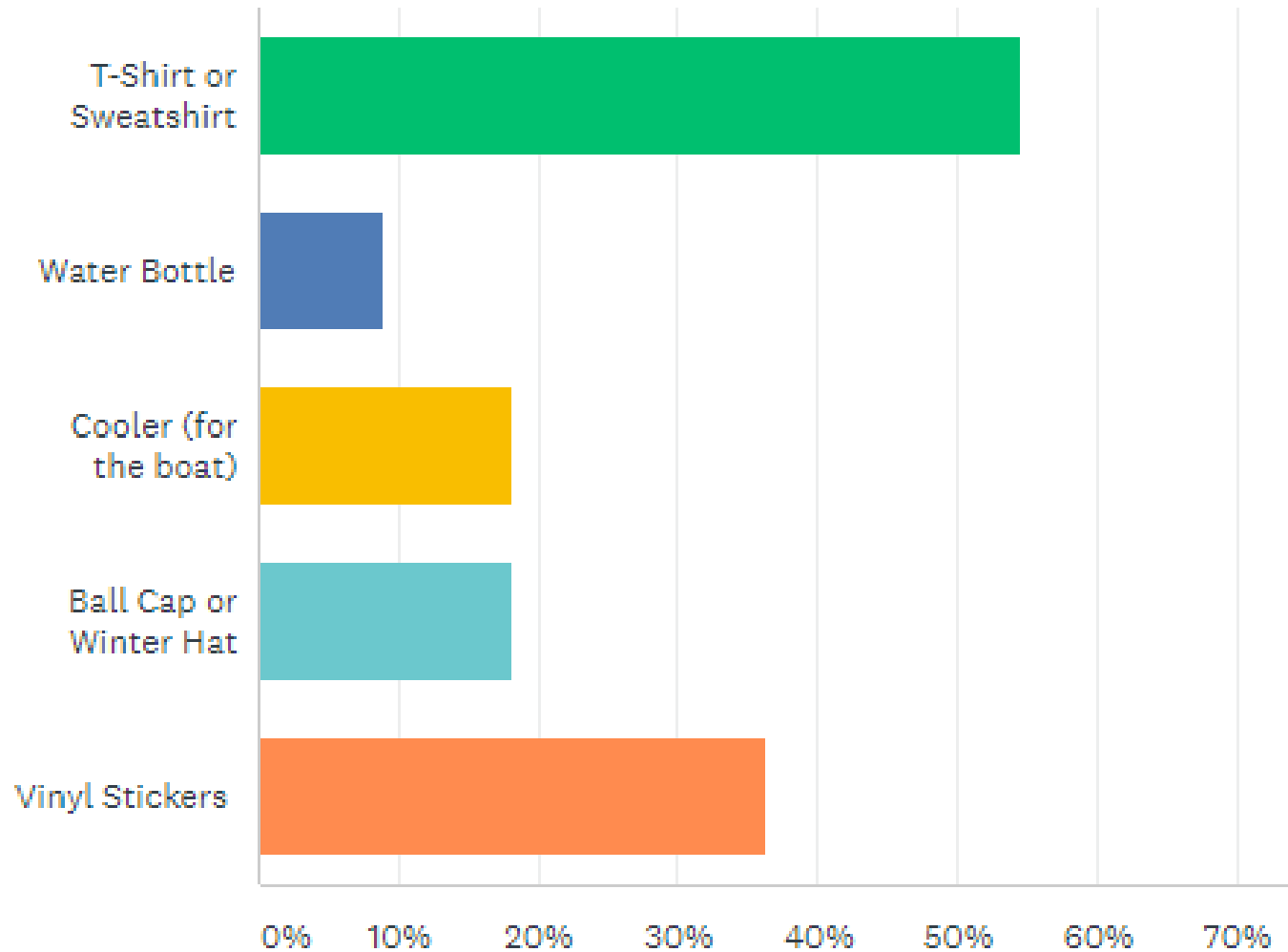
# What should we focus on in 2022?



## Insights

- Weed management has been the #1 issue for 5+ years on the lake.
- Dealing with Geese and Invasive species management moved up

We are thinking about creating Mitchell Lake items for purchase, which would you be interested in?





# MLA 2021 Survey Comments

- “I like the community events to get to know others on the lake”
- “...be great to get another 2 to 3 shoreline restorations on board!”
- “why can’t we count on weed harvesting 2x/summer?”
- “stop ignoring the weed plight of the NE arm of the lake”
- “take over treating the pond, all boats on the lake use it...”
- “I preferred prior surveys where all areas of interest were ordered in priority”



**QUESTIONS?**



# Thank You!!!

- Our MLA Board members
- Departing MLA Board members
  - Paul Yahnke
  - Joel Bredemeier
  - Mike Kaselnak
- Members...*for your contributions & support*