

# Mitchell Lake Association

## Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2022





# Agenda

- Welcome
- MLA Background
- 2022 Year in Review
- Guest Speakers
  - Terry Jeffery - RPBC Watershed
  - Lori Haak - City of EP
- Business Meeting
- 2023 Plans
- Photo Contest Winners

# MLA Board Members

Dave Jackett, President  
Travis Yohn, Vice President  
Michelle Rothwell, Treasurer  
Cheri Nehl, Secretary  
Zach Fetzer  
Erik Hansen  
Brian Haugen  
John Tyler  
Maria Verven



# MLA Background

- Formed in 2006
  - First lake association in Eden Prairie



- Purpose

- 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
- Provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state and local agencies for improving the quality of Mitchell Lake

# Over the Years...

- Water quality improved; removed from impaired waters list
- Worked with City of EP & watershed to address weeds
- Hosted 16 lakeshore cleanup events
- Supported 11 lakeshore restoration projects
- Planted over 100 trees along Hwy. 5
- Built a stronger community through fun events
- Monitored lake water and invasive species
- Stocked the lake with over 3,000 fish



# Mitchell Lake Association

## 2022 Year in Review



# 2022 Objectives

1. Address the Weeds
2. Stop Invasive Species
3. Improve the Shoreline
4. Stock the Lake
5. Keep the Geese away
6. Grow Membership



# Spring Cleanup

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Event held May 14

- Good turnout even though the event was postponed due to weather
- Held a picnic (after two years of COVID cancellations)
- Fish release held on same day





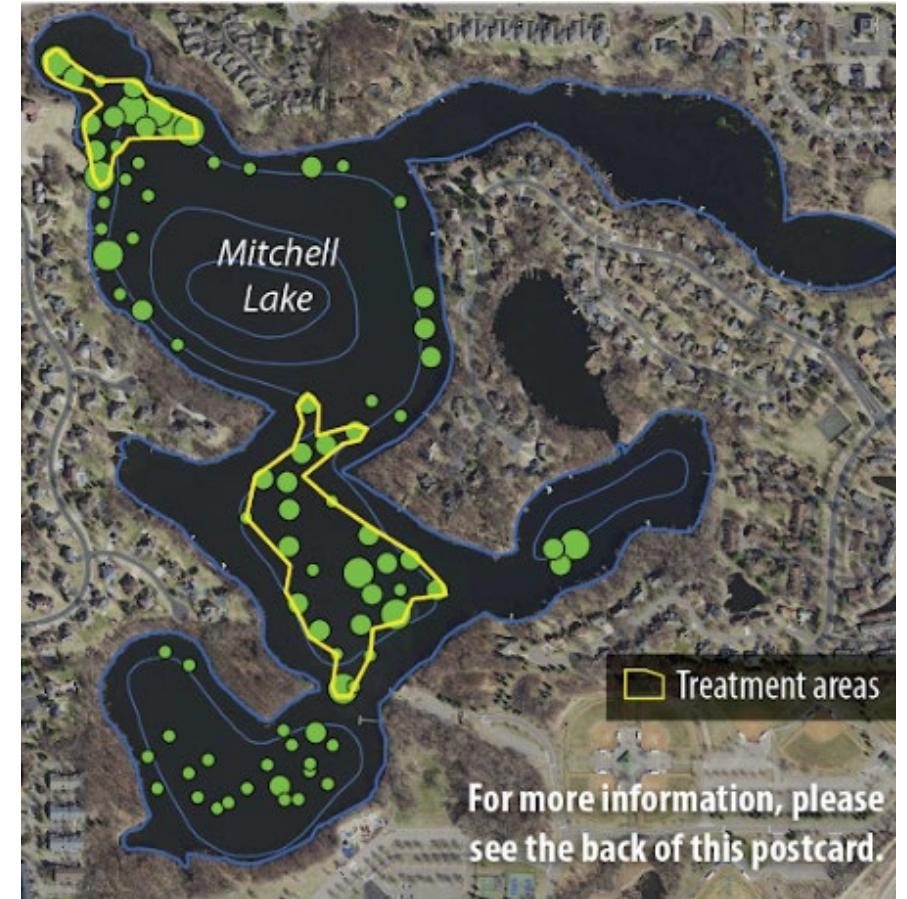
# Aquatic Plant Management

- Mitchell Lake is home to over 15 species of aquatic plants:
  - Most are native species, but there are some invasive species including curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil
  - The North bay is the healthiest part of the lake where most vegetation is non-invasive
- Methods to control invasive aquatic plants:
  - Herbicide application
  - Mechanical harvesting



# Aquatic Plant Management

- Herbicide was applied to 13 acres in May 2022
  - RPBCWD oversees annual herbicide application
  - Target is curly-leaf pondweed
  - DNR permits are required
  - Treatment is limited to 13 acres
- What can property owners do?
  - Obtain DNR permits to treat algae and swimmer's itch
  - DNR typically doesn't approve herbicide permits for submersed plants



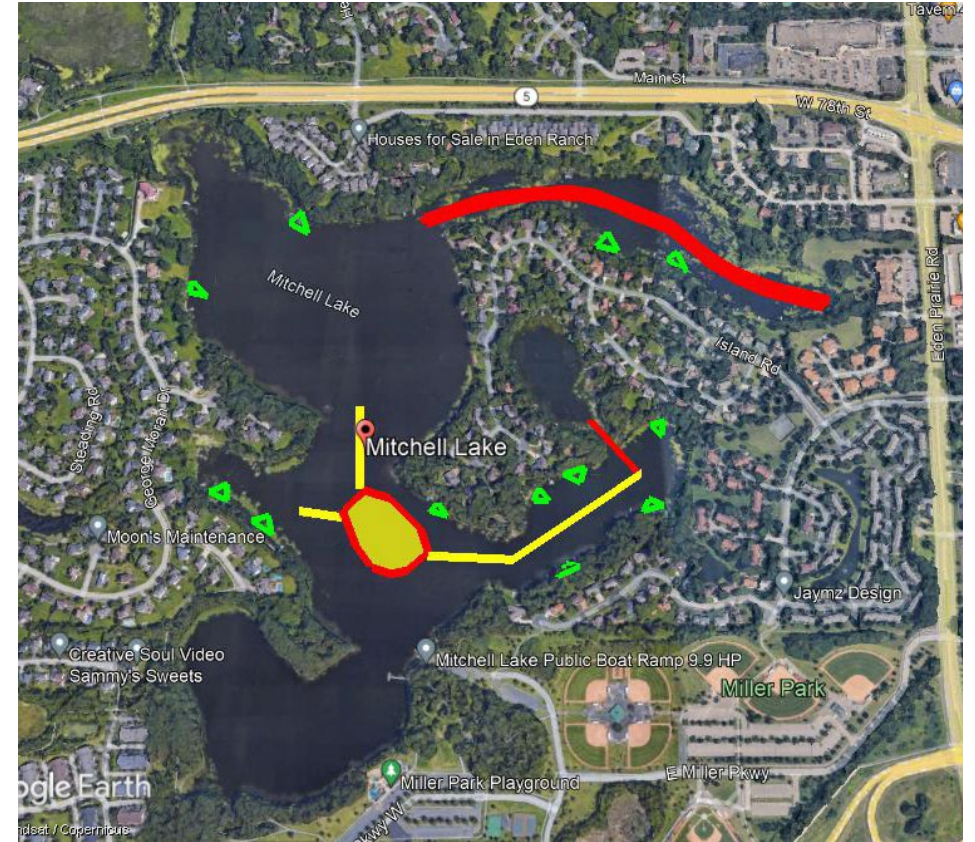
# Aquatic Plant Management

## Weed Harvesting

- Cleared 12 acres in July 2022
- The City of EP oversees annual weed harvesting of curly-leaf pondweed to clear navigation paths

## What Can Property Owners Do?

- Contract with the harvester to clear a path from their shorelines
- Mechanically remove aquatic plants via harvesting, cutting, pulling or raking (up to 2,500 sq ft)
- **MLA offers a \$100 rebate** for harvesting



### 2022 Weed Harvesting Map

Red = most dense vegetation  
Yellow = less dense vegetation  
Green = private contract

# Fish Stocking

**Nearly 3,000 fish were released over the past three years**

- 850 crappies & 26 bass this year
- Next fish stocking planned for spring 2023



Date	Species	Size	Number
Spring 2019	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	350
	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20
Fall 2019	Walleye	Fingerlings 4"-6"	1050
Spring 2020	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	250
	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20
Fall 2020	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	200
	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	16
Spring 2021	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	150
	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20
Spring 2022	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	850
	Largemouth Bass	Adults	26
<b>Total</b>			2952

# Storm Drains in Watershed Boundary

## Adopt-a-Drain

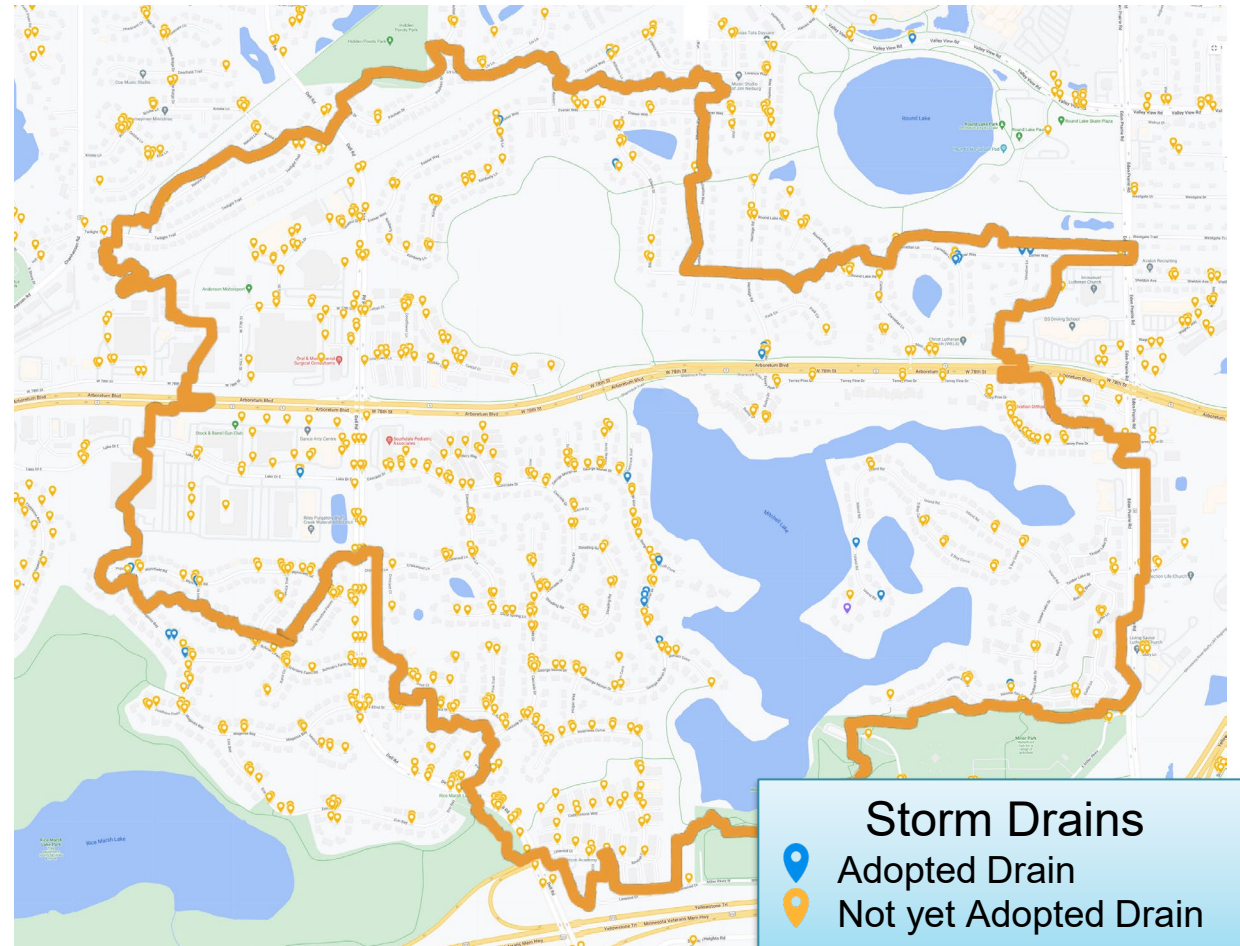


Sign [Adopt-a-Drain.org](http://Adopt-a-Drain.org)

## Storm Drain Marking



[Storm Drain Volunteer Programs](#)



# Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species

## Adopt-a-Dock: Zebra Mussel Inspection

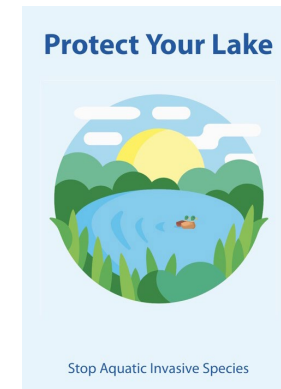
- Three Mitchell Lake residents participated in the [Adopt-a-Dock](#) program in 2022
- No zebra mussels were detected

## Boat Inspection and Cleaning

- Outpost cleaning station installed at the public boat landing
- Tools for inspecting and cleaning boats leaving the lake

## NEW in 2022: Lake Pledge Program

- Go to [lakepledge.com](https://lakepledge.com) or download the Lake Pledge app



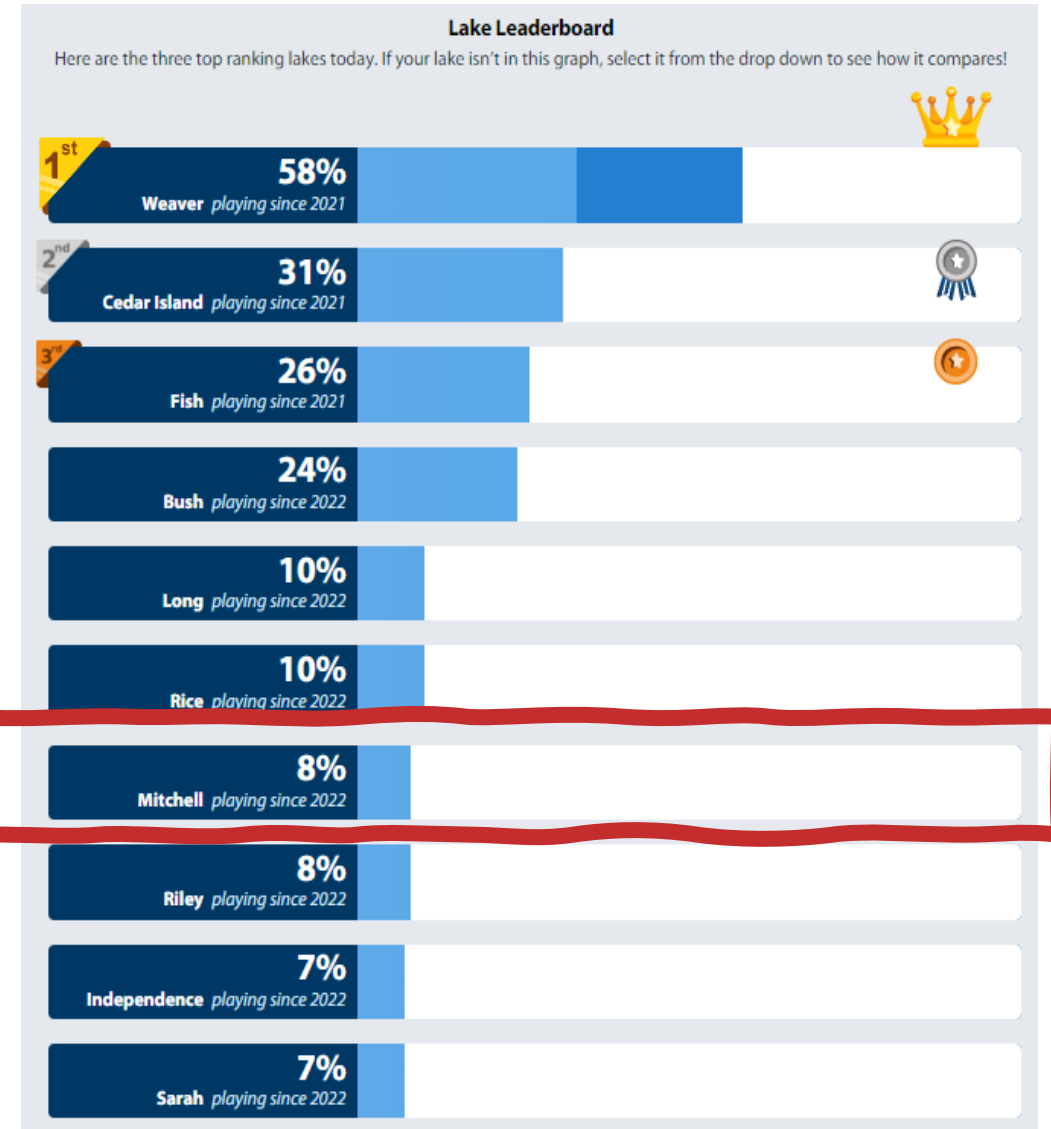
# Pledge to Protect Minnesota Waters

## Take the Pledge!

Fun, free program to help protect our lake from aquatic invasive species

Goal of 20%

Join the Lake Pledge at [lakepledge.com](https://lakepledge.com) or download the app



# Lakeshore Restoration

## Landscape for Water Quality

- Capture pollutants
- Mitigate erosion
- Provide better wildlife habitat



Kaselnak Project



Hansen Project – Just planted



Hansen Project – 4 years later

## Over the Years

2007-09: 5 restoration projects

2017: MLA \$250 rebate

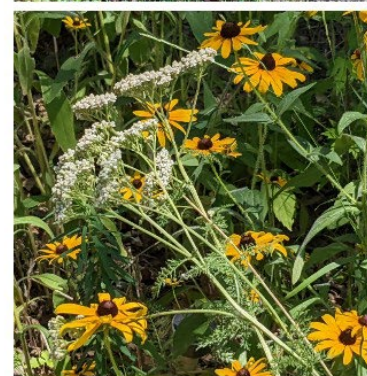
2017-Present: 6 restoration projects



# Lakeshore Restoration - Spotlight

## Kolb/Severson Project

- Started in 2021
- Completed in 2022
- Now in maintenance mode





**Congratulations**  
**Marcia Kolb and Johnny Severson**  
for receiving the  
**2022 Sustainable Eden Prairie Award**  
in the Landscape category



3rd Mitchell Lake property  
owner to win this award in the  
past 5 years!



# 2022 Summer Picnic July 14, 2022



- Food truck
- Live music
- Root beer floats
- Socializing with neighbors
- MLA membership table
- Over 100 people attended!

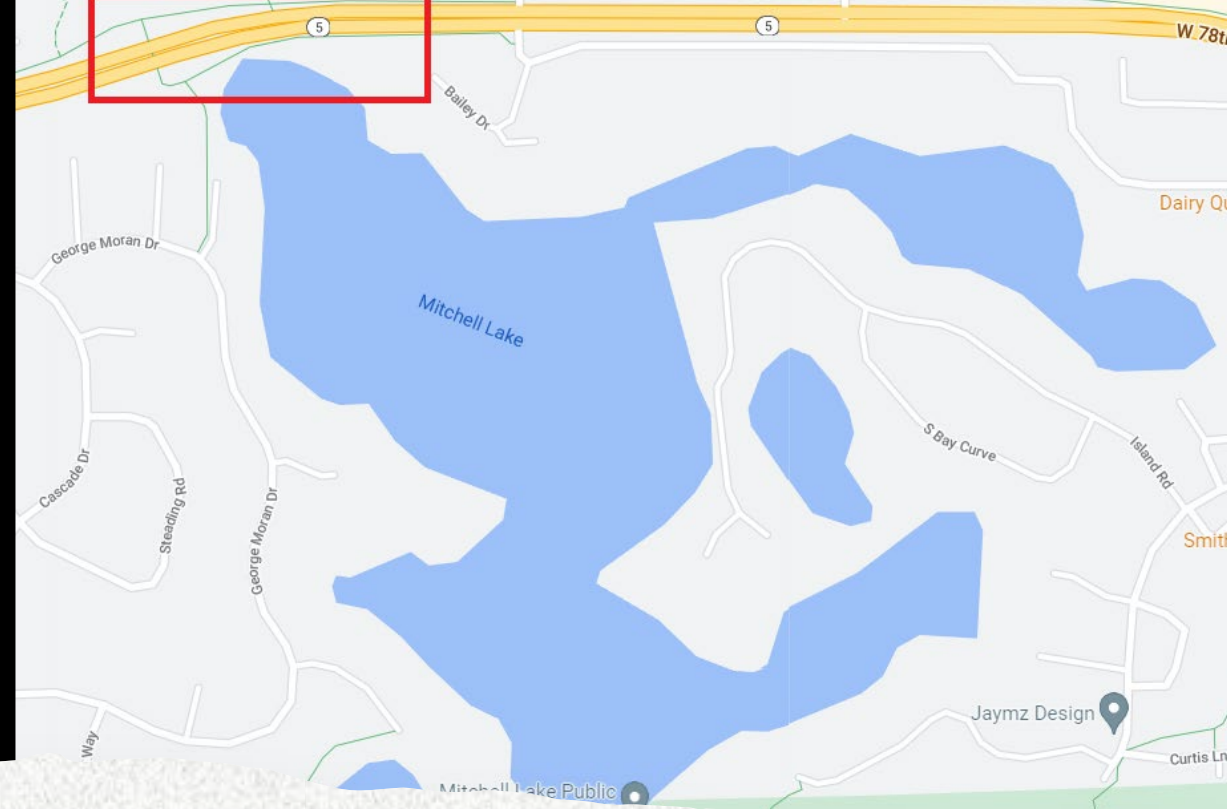


Idea for next year: Pontoon rides!

2005



2022



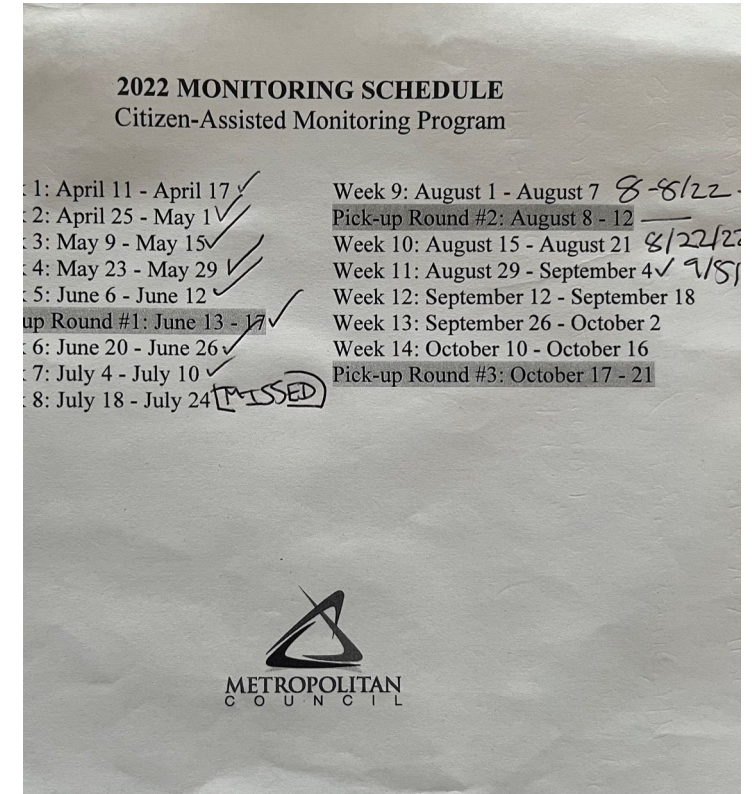
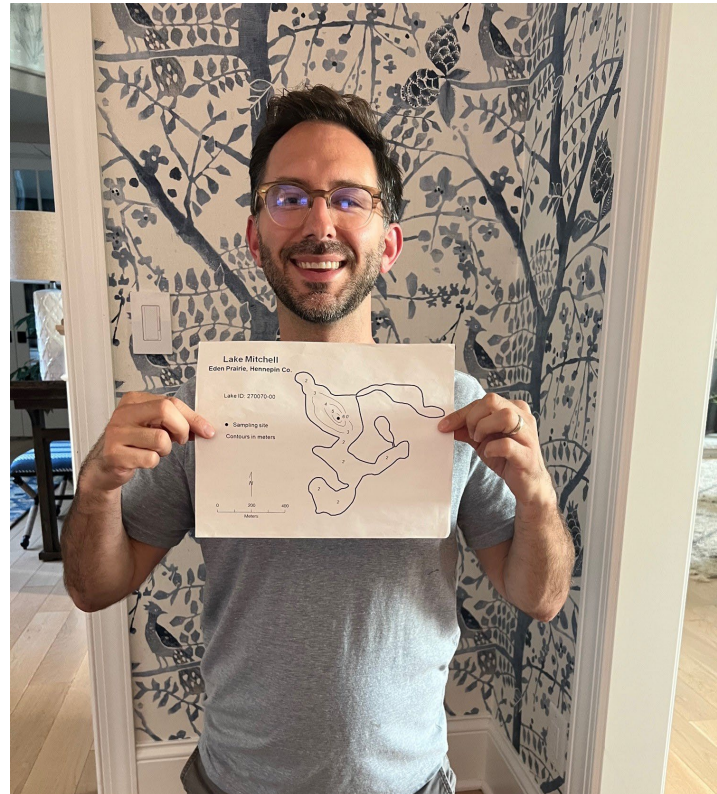
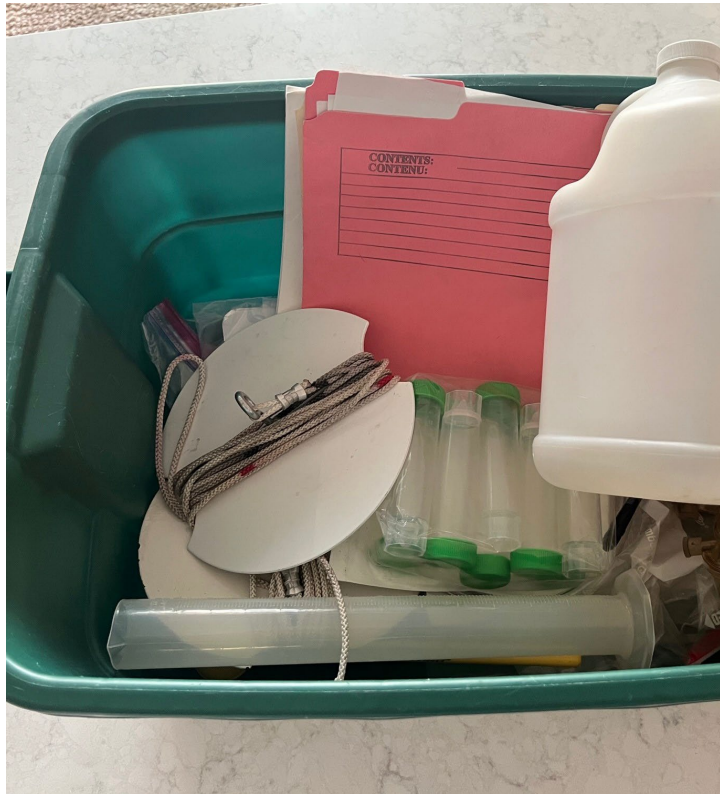
Tree Planting Near Hwy. 5

Volunteers Needed!

- Initial tree planting completed in 2005
- Partnered with Seth Ristow, Landscape Restoration Specialist
- Purchased trees/shrubs as part of RPBCWD Stewardship Program
- More planting planned for Spring 2023



# A Day in the Life of the Mitchell Lake Scientist



## Getting Prepared to Go Out

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## Collecting a Sample



## Secchi Disk Reading



## Observations



# Entering Data

6:50

Volunteer Lake Form

**Visit Information**

Select your name or organization \*

Fetzer, Zach

Additional volunteer(s)

If necessary, type in additional names.

Visit Date \*

Enter the date and time as they are written on the sample labels.

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Visit Time \*

Enter as a four digit, 24-hour time, e.g. 08:46 or 14:10.

18:48

Lake Name and Site \*

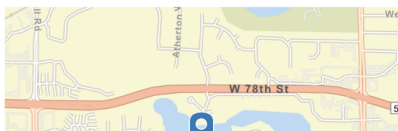
Mitchell Lake Site 1

Lake DNR ID #:

27007000

Site Location:

44°52'N 93°30'W



✓

6:50

Volunteer Lake Form

**Record the general observations:**

Secchi Disk Depth (meters)

0.6

Check if either condition occurred during the Secchi Disk Depth reading:

Disk is visible on the bottom of the lake

Visibility of the disk is completely blocked by vegetation

Water Color \*

Clear  Blue-green  Brown  Gray

Green  Yellow  Other

Odor of Water \*

None  Fishy  Musty

Rotten egg-like  Septic-like  Other

Wind Conditions \*

Calm  Light  Breezy  Strong

Water Surface \*

Calm  Ripple  Small waves

Moderate waves  Whitecaps

Cloud Cover \*

0%  25%  50%  75%

✓

6:51

Volunteer Lake Form

Lake Level \*

Above Normal  Normal

Below Normal

Staff Gage Reading (feet)

Amount of Aquatic Plants \*

None  Minimal  Slight

Moderate  Substantial

Air Temperature (°F) \*

< 40  41 - 60  61 - 80  81 - 90

> 90

Physical Condition \*

Crystal clear (1)

Some algae present (2)

Definite algae present (3)

High algal color (4)

Severe bloom - odor, scum (5)

Suitability for Recreation \*

Beautiful (1)

Minor aesthetic problem (2)

Swimming slightly impaired (3)

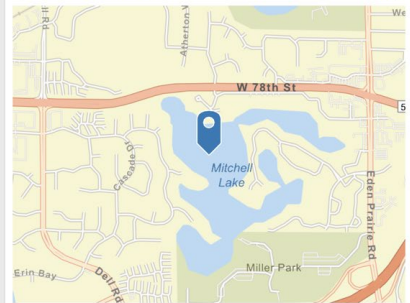
No swimming/Boating OK (4)

✓

6:51

Volunteer Lake Form

44°52'N 93°30'W



**Data Collection**

**Record the surface water temperature:**

Surface Temperature (°C)

21.8

Use the directional arrow in the bar below this message to scroll between the three Data Collection sections.

2 of 3

Notes

Type in any additional comments, including unusual conditions in the past week (e.g. storms, high winds, temp. extremes, fish kills, chemical applications, harvesting of vegetation, etc.)

✓





# Documenting and Measuring Samples

# Guest Speakers



# Welcome to our Meeting...

**Terry Jeffery**



**Watershed District**

District Administrator & Watershed Planning Manager

**Lori Haak**



**City of Eden Prairie**


Water Resources Coordinator

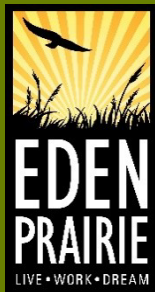
# MLA Partnerships

- Residents/property owners
- HOAs
- City of Eden Prairie
- Watershed District
- Department of Natural Resources
- Lake Associations (Riley, Lotus etc.)



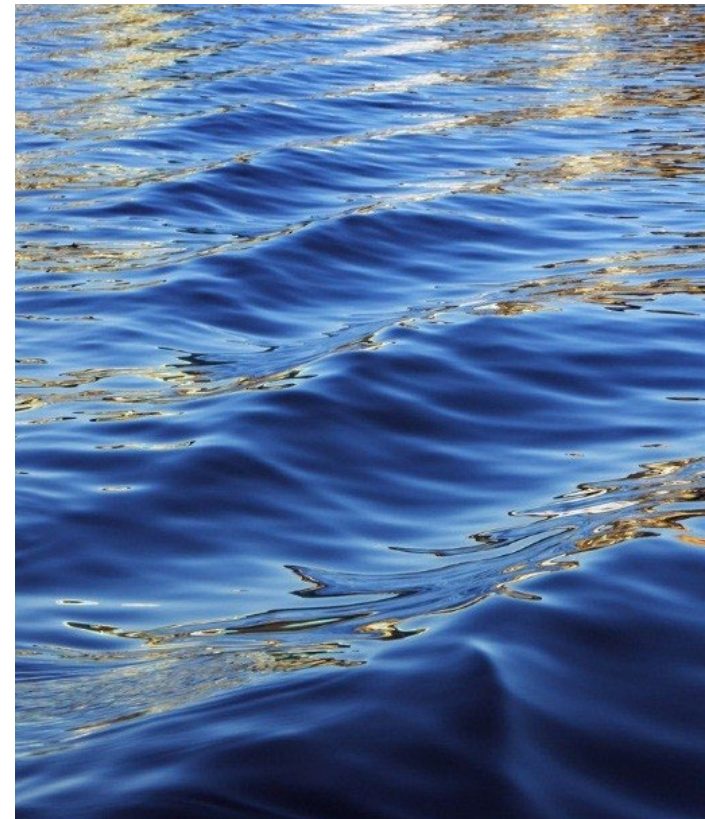
# MLA Partnerships – Who Does What?

Organization	Actions relating to Mitchell Lake
 <p>RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicide Treatment</li> <li>• Shoreline Restoration Cost-Share Grants</li> <li>• Monitors Lake Water Quality</li> <li>• Monitors Aquatic Invasive Species</li> <li>• Manages Adopt-a-Dock</li> <li>• Education &amp; outreach</li> <li>• Manages 10-Year Watershed Management Plan</li> </ul>
 <p>EDEN PRAIRIE LIVE • WORK • DREAM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed harvesting</li> <li>• Landscaping for Water Quality rebate</li> <li>• Goose management</li> <li>• Inspection and monitoring of invasive species</li> <li>• Installs aerator during winter months</li> <li>• Offers Adopt-A-Drain and storm drain marking programs</li> </ul>
 <p>m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permits for Weed Harvesting</li> <li>• Permits for Herbicide Treatment</li> <li>• Permits for Fish Stocking</li> <li>• Completes Fish Surveys</li> </ul>



# Lake Update

Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting

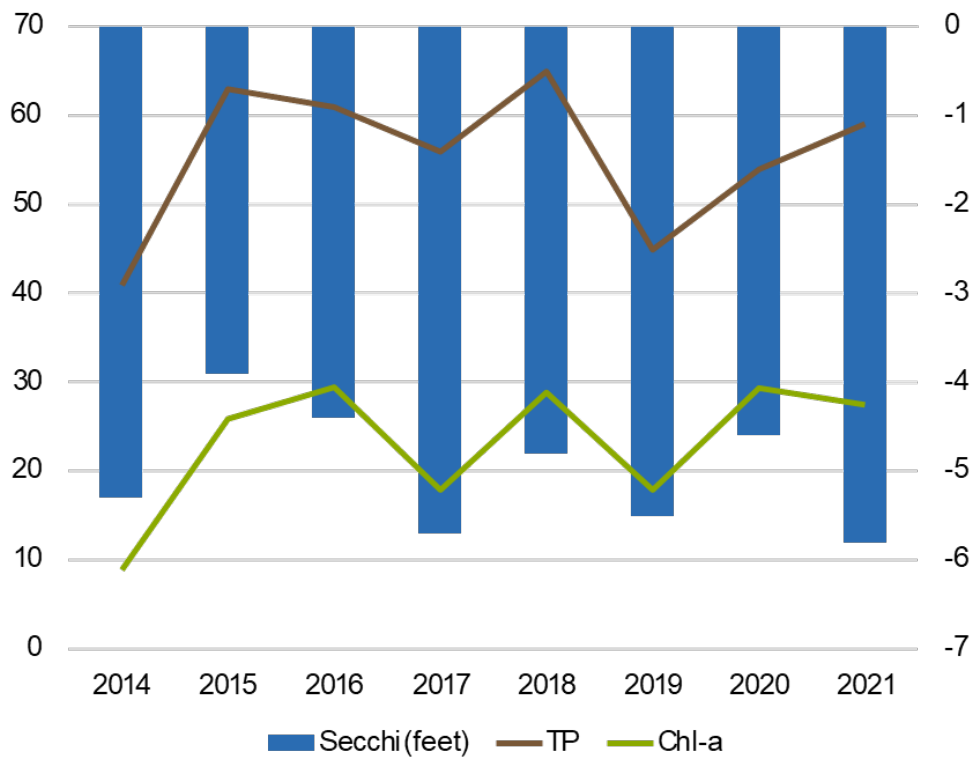


Lori Haak, Water Resources Coordinator  
[lhaak@edenprairie.org](mailto:lhaak@edenprairie.org)

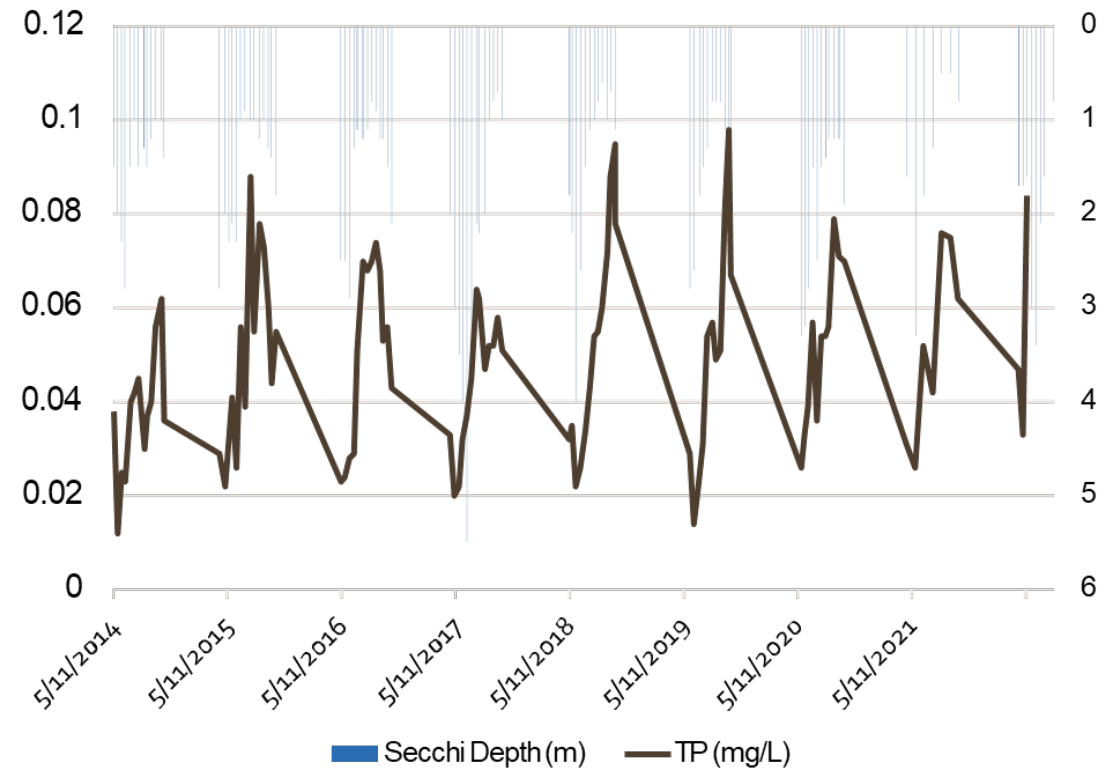
# Water Quality



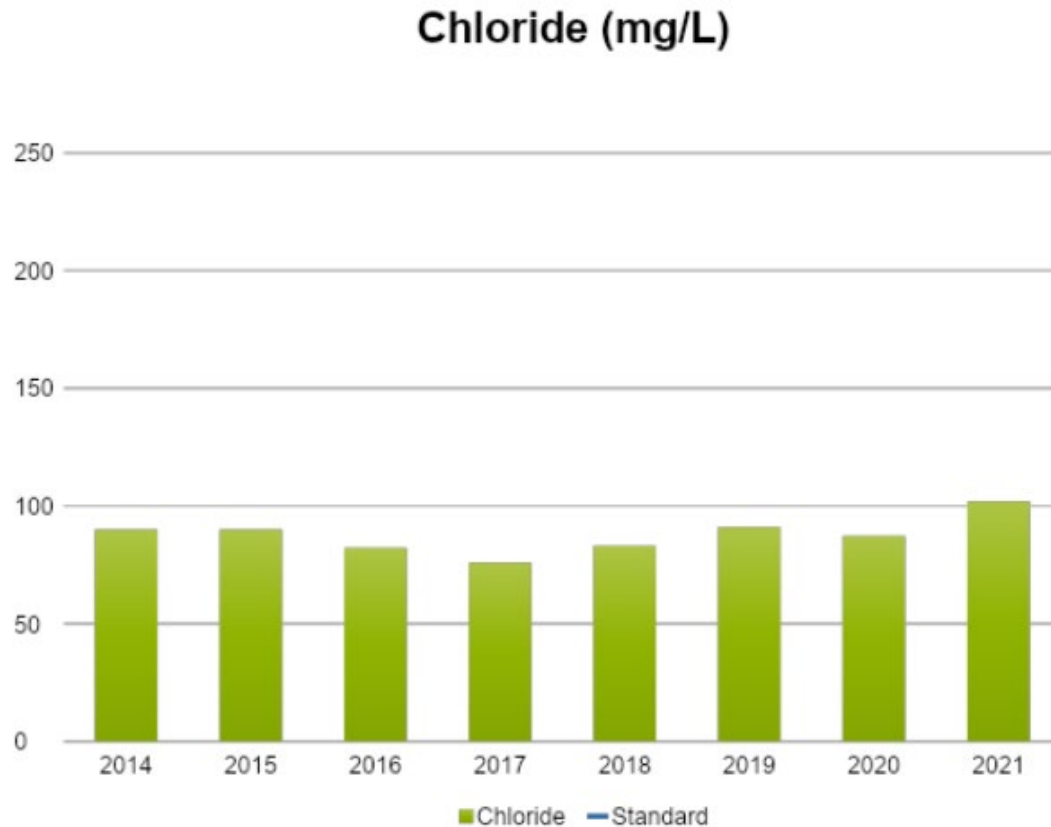
### Average Water Quality



### Water Visibility



# Handling Chlorides



road density = 27%

## City Operations

- Annual smart salting training
- Pre-treat roads with brine
- Pre-wet salt with brine

## At Home and Work

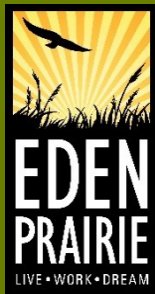
- Remove snow and ice
- Use salt sparingly
- Sweep up excess salt
- No need for water softeners





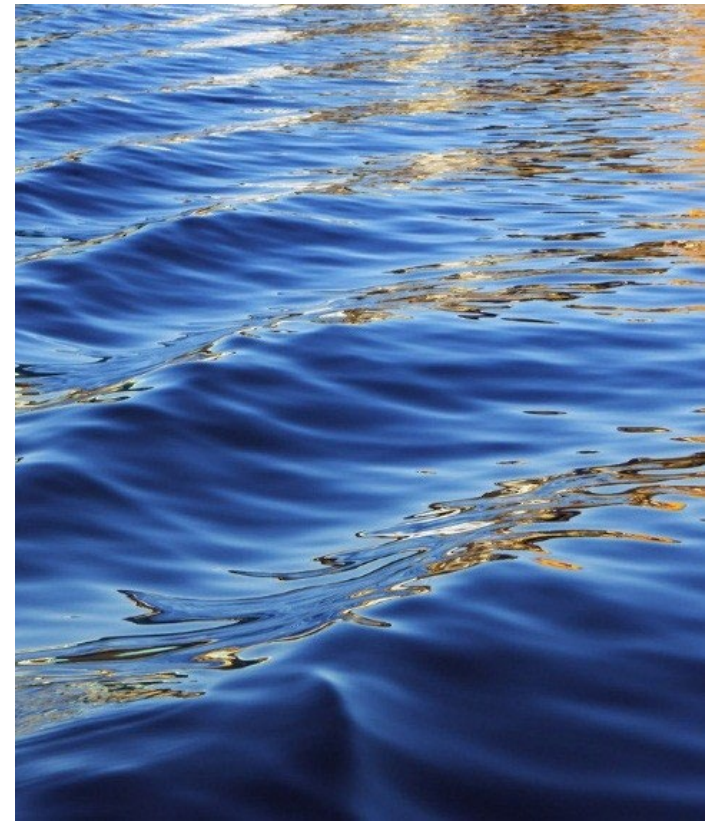
# Other Clean Lake Practices

- Restore your Shore
- Storm Drains
- Pick up Pet Waste
- Manage Geese
- Report Illegal Dumping



# Thank you!

Lori Haak, Water Resources Coordinator  
[Lhaak@edenprairie.org](mailto:Lhaak@edenprairie.org)  
952-949-8327



# Business Meeting





# Business Meeting

- 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Elections - two open board seats



# 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

- Live/Zoom Meeting
- Held Oct. 7, 2021 at 7 pm
- Agenda:
  - Introduced current MLA Board
  - MLA Background
  - 2021 Year in Review
  - Aquatic Plant Management Discussion
    - Leslie Stovring - City of EP & Terry Jeffery - RPBC Watershed
  - Photo Contest Results
  - Business Meeting
    - Financial Report
    - Election of New Board Members
  - 2022 Plans

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

# MLA 2022 Financial Statement

## Mitchell Lake Association (MLA) Financial Summary

October 1, 2022

*Number of Active Members: 63*

*2022 Annual Membership Dues: \$35.00*



### 2022 MLA Income & Expenses

#### Income

Membership Dues	\$ 1,474.21
Fish Stocking	\$ 1,071.62
Weed Management	\$ 200.00
General Lake Cleanup	\$ 50.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,795.83</b>

#### Expenses

Fish Stocking	\$ 1,550.00
Shoreline Restoration - Rebates	
Lake Harvesting Weed Control- Rebates	\$ 400.00
Website Expenses	\$ 341.16
Newsletter	
Annual Spring Lake Cleanup	\$ 365.03
Summer Picnic	\$ 250.00
Annual Fall Meeting	\$ 75.00
Filing/Membership Fees	\$ 80.00

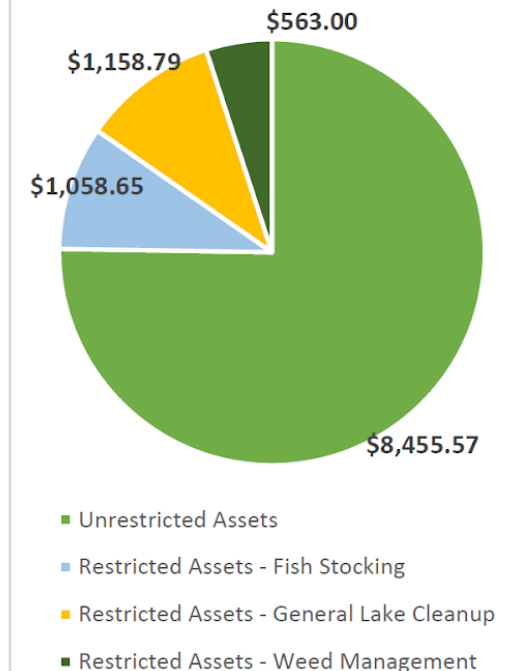
### MLA Balance Sheet

Checking:Old National Bank	\$ 10,506.88
Paypal	\$ 729.13
MLA Reserve	\$ 11,236.01
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 11,236.01</b>

### Asset Categories

Unrestricted Assets	\$ 8,455.57
Restricted Assets - Fish Stocking	\$ 1,058.65
Restricted Assets - General Lake Cleanup	\$ 1,158.79
Restricted Assets - Weed Management	\$ 563.00
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 11,236.01</b>

MLA Asset Categories  
October 2022

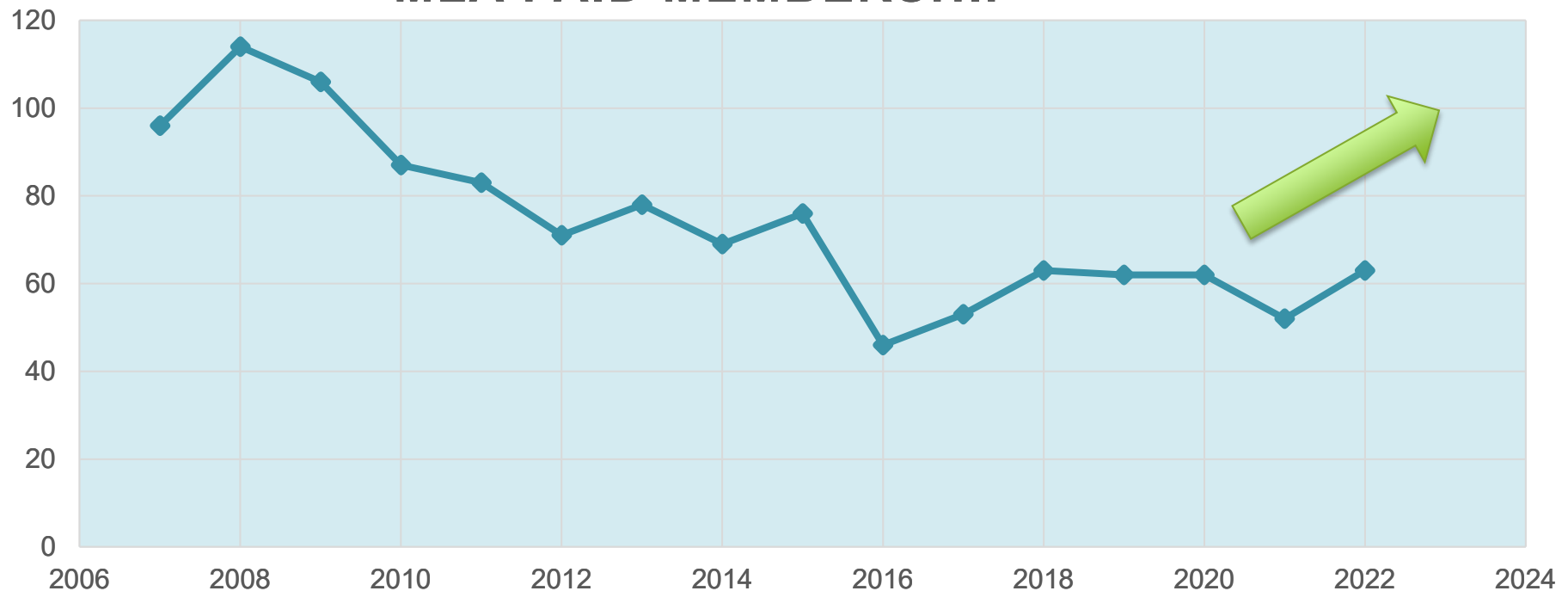


# MLA Membership Status

## MLA Paid Membership: 63 Current Members

- New in 2022: Annual autopay option now available
- Encourage friends and neighbors to join!

MLA PAID MEMBERSHIP





# MLA Board Elections

## Two Open Board Member Positions

- Incumbents (Cheri Nehl & Zach Fetzer) will rerun

## Board Member Roles

- Three-year term with 6-8 meetings/year
- Support MLA activities
- Interface with partners (EP/WD District)

## Elections

	Candidate	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheri Nehl	Incumbent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zach Fetzer	Incumbent
<input type="checkbox"/>		New

New  
Candidates?

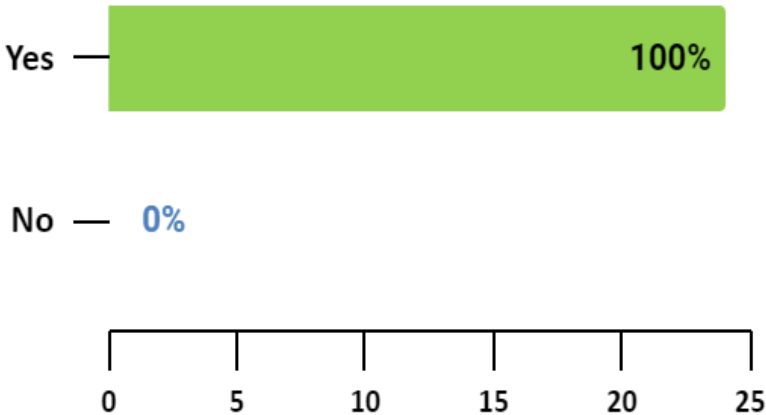


# Plans for 2023

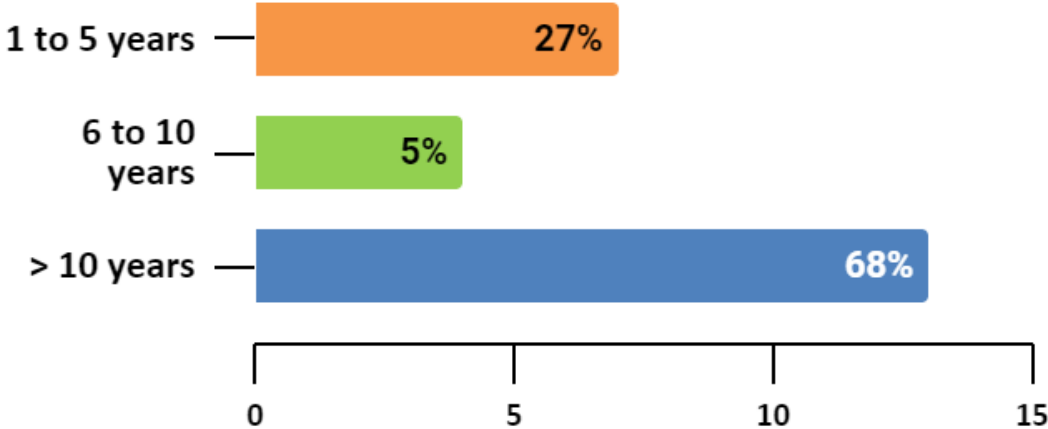


# MLA 2022 Survey Results

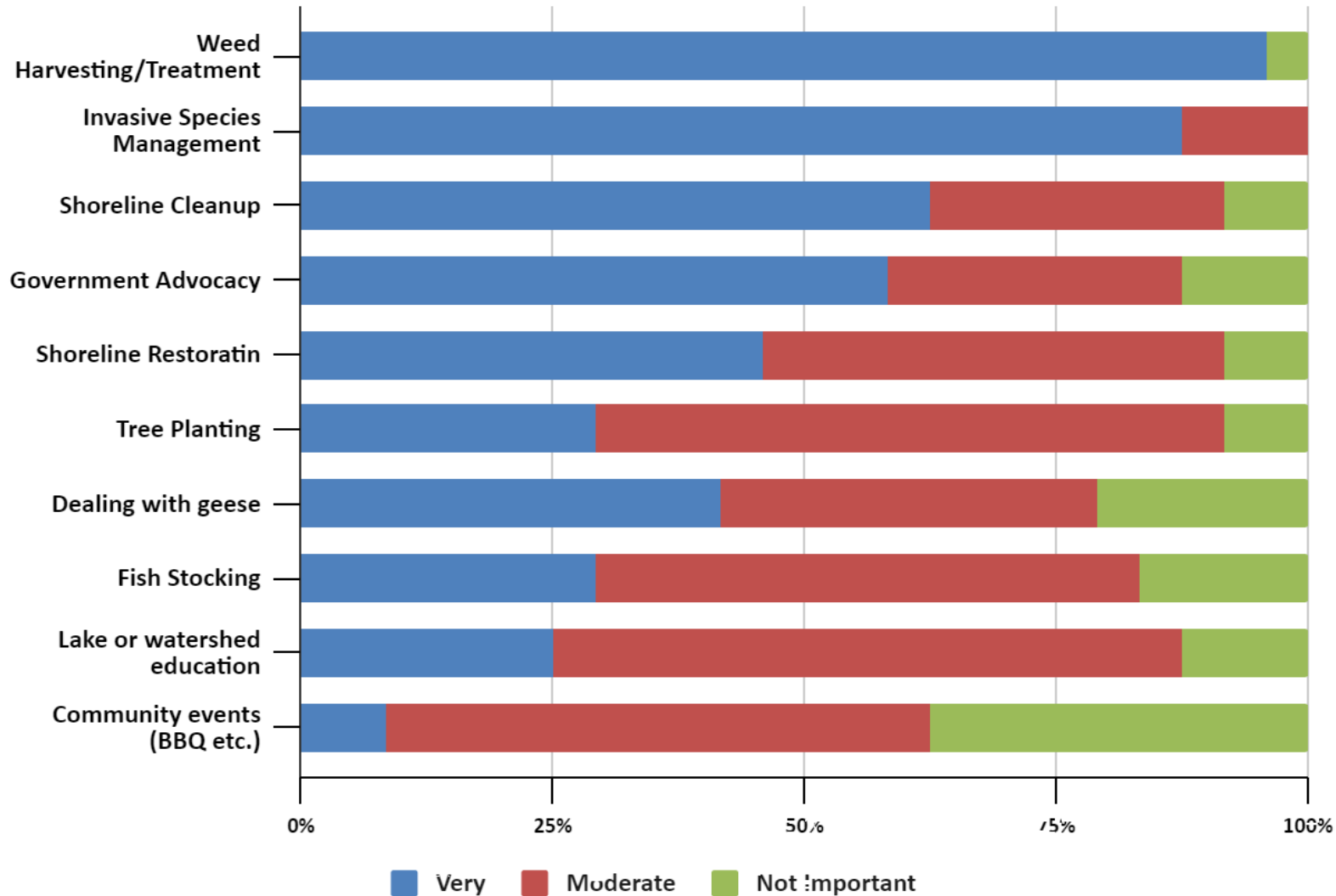
**Are you a member of Mitchell Lake Association?**



**How long have you lived near Mitchell Lake?**



# What should we focus on in 2022?



## What else?

- Buffer zones x3
- Lake classification
- Pollinator gardens
- Buckthorn management
- Wildlife sustainability
- More community events



# How can we make MLA even better?

## **What we heard from our members...**

- Make meetings available virtually
- Promote Mitchell Lake in the community
- Grow our membership
- Provide reminders for annual dues

## **What else can we do?**

# 2022 Photo Contest



# 2022 Photo Contest

- Received 38 photo submissions from members portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife and lake activities
- All photos will be posted on the MLA website

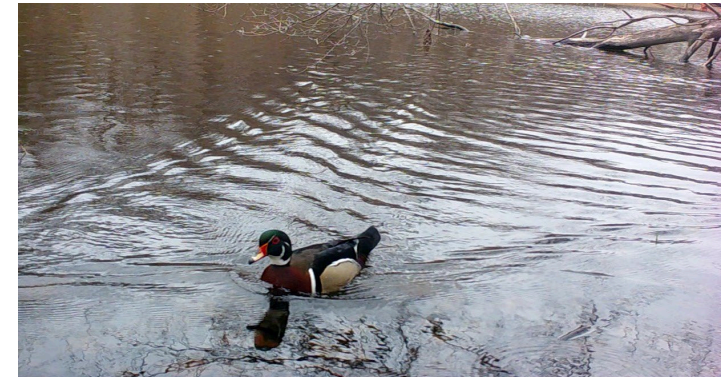


**2021 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Submitted by Jon Hanke**

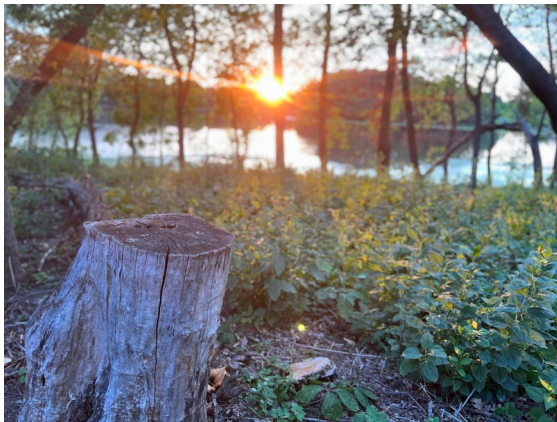


**2021 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Submitted by Travis Yohn**

# 2022 Photo Entries

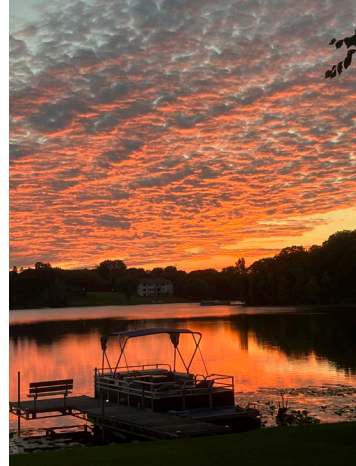
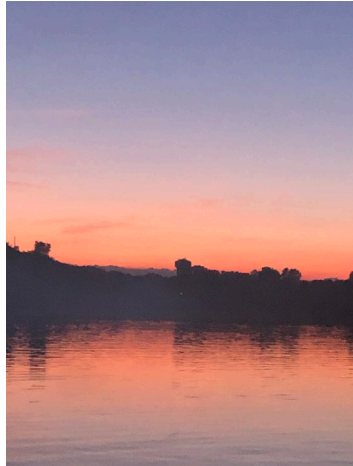
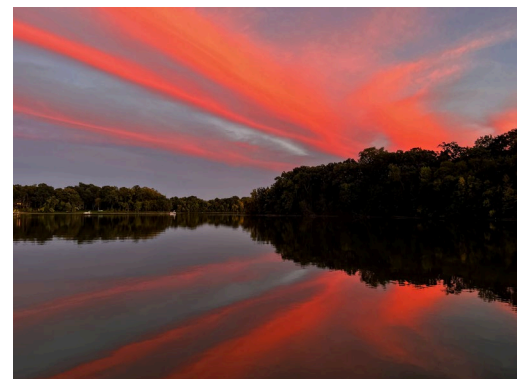


# 2022 Photo Entries

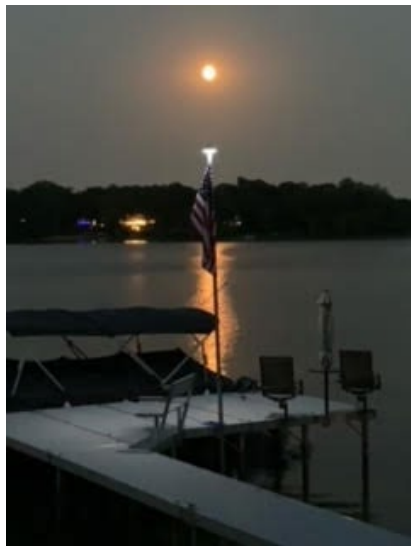
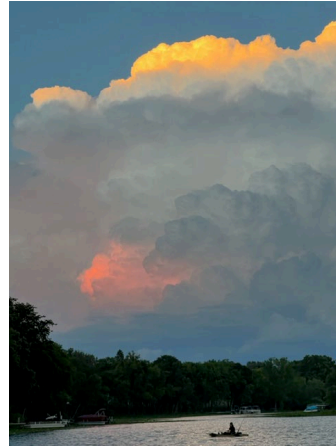




# 2022 Photo Entries



# 2022 Photo Entries



And the Winners are...

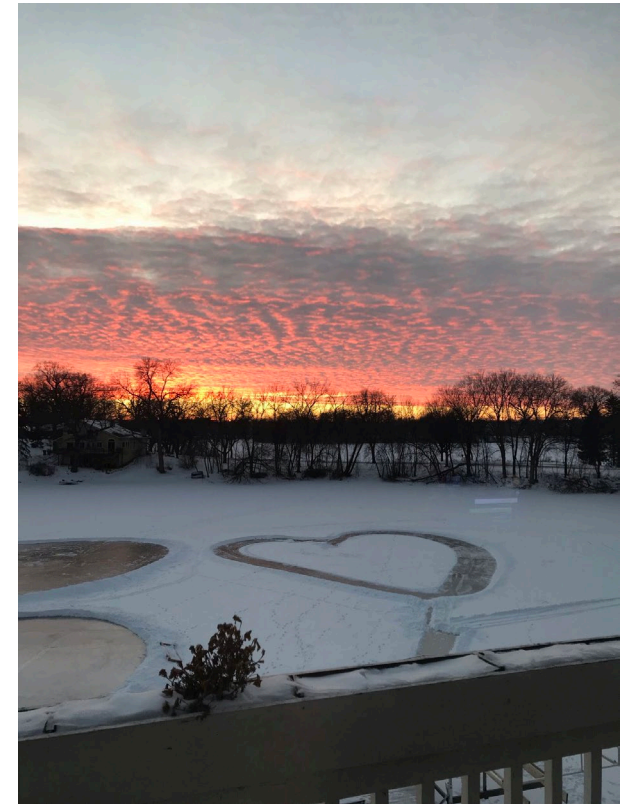
**Honorable Mention**



**Cheri Nehl**



**Cheri Nehl**



**Nadia Guidarini**

# And the Winners are...

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

Submitted by Cheri Nehl



# And the Winners are...

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

Submitted by Erik Hansen





# Thank You!!!

Our MLA Board

Our Partners

Terry Jeffery  
Lori Haak

Our Members

## Ways to Get Involved!

- Join the Citizen Advisory Committee
- Help plant trees along Hwy. 5
- Adopt a Drain
- Plant a shoreline buffer
- Join as a MLA member!  
(Consider annual renewal)



Back up

# Mitchell Lake Watershed Boundary



Water that falls anywhere inside the gold boundary drains to Mitchell Lake.

## Top 3 things you can do at HOME to protect the LAKE



### Protect storm drains.

Prevent grass clippings, lawn fertilizer and debris from entering storm drains so they don't end up in the lake.



### Pick up dog waste.

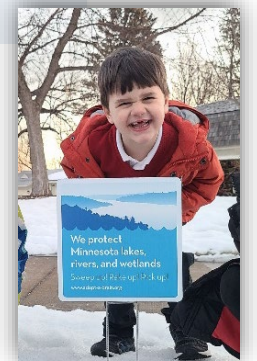
Did you know that pet waste pollutes water? It's full of nutrients and bacteria. Bag it and toss it in a trash can.



### Reduce stormwater runoff.

Reduce the flow of stormwater off your property by installing a rain garden, native planting, or rain barrel.

- [Adopt-a-Drain.org](https://www.adoptadrain.org)
- [Storm Drain Volunteer Programs](#)





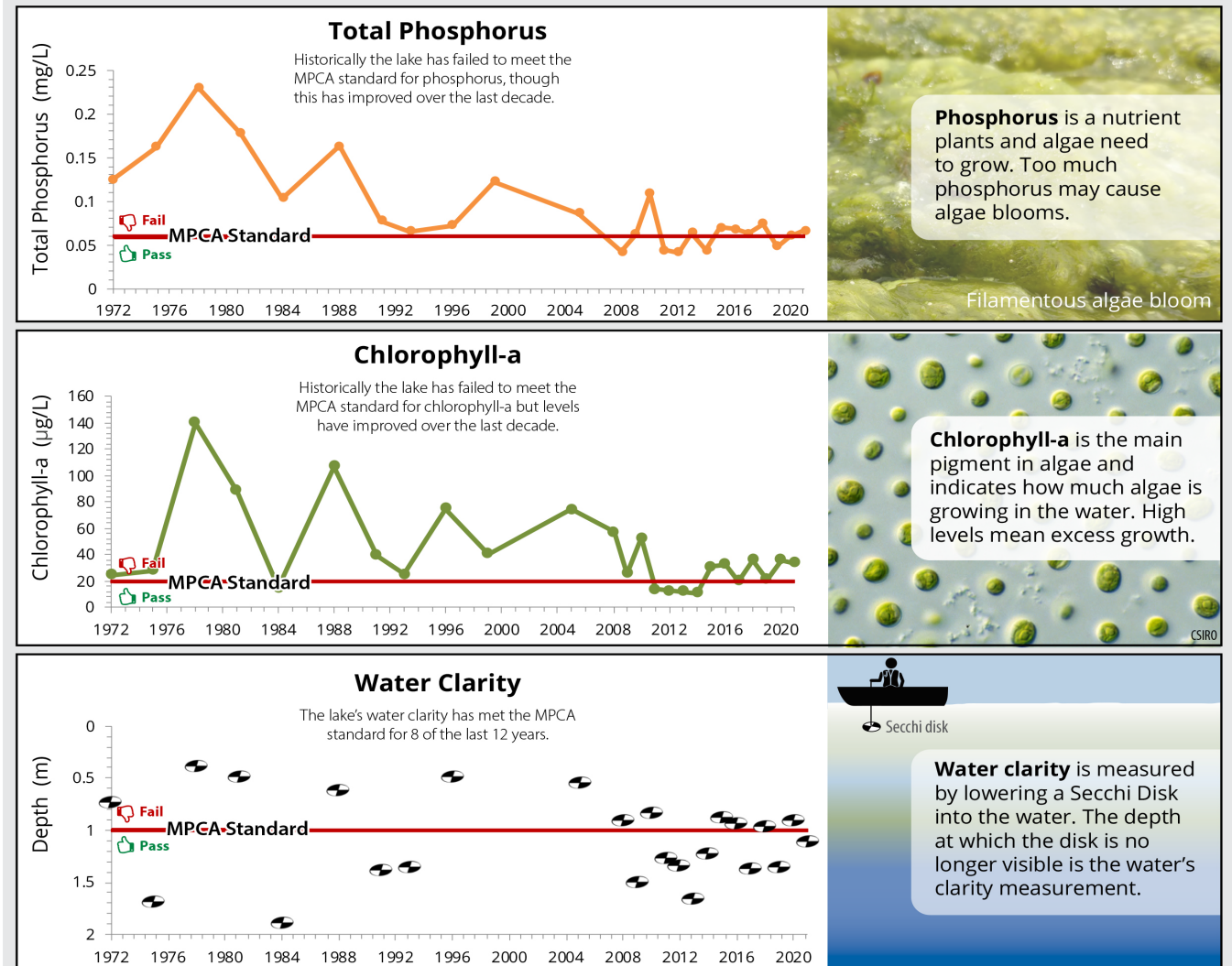
# Mitchell Lake Water Quality

## The Health of our Lake is Monitored by:

- RPBCWD
- DNR
- City of Eden Prairie
- Your neighbors

### Trends Over Time: 1972-2021

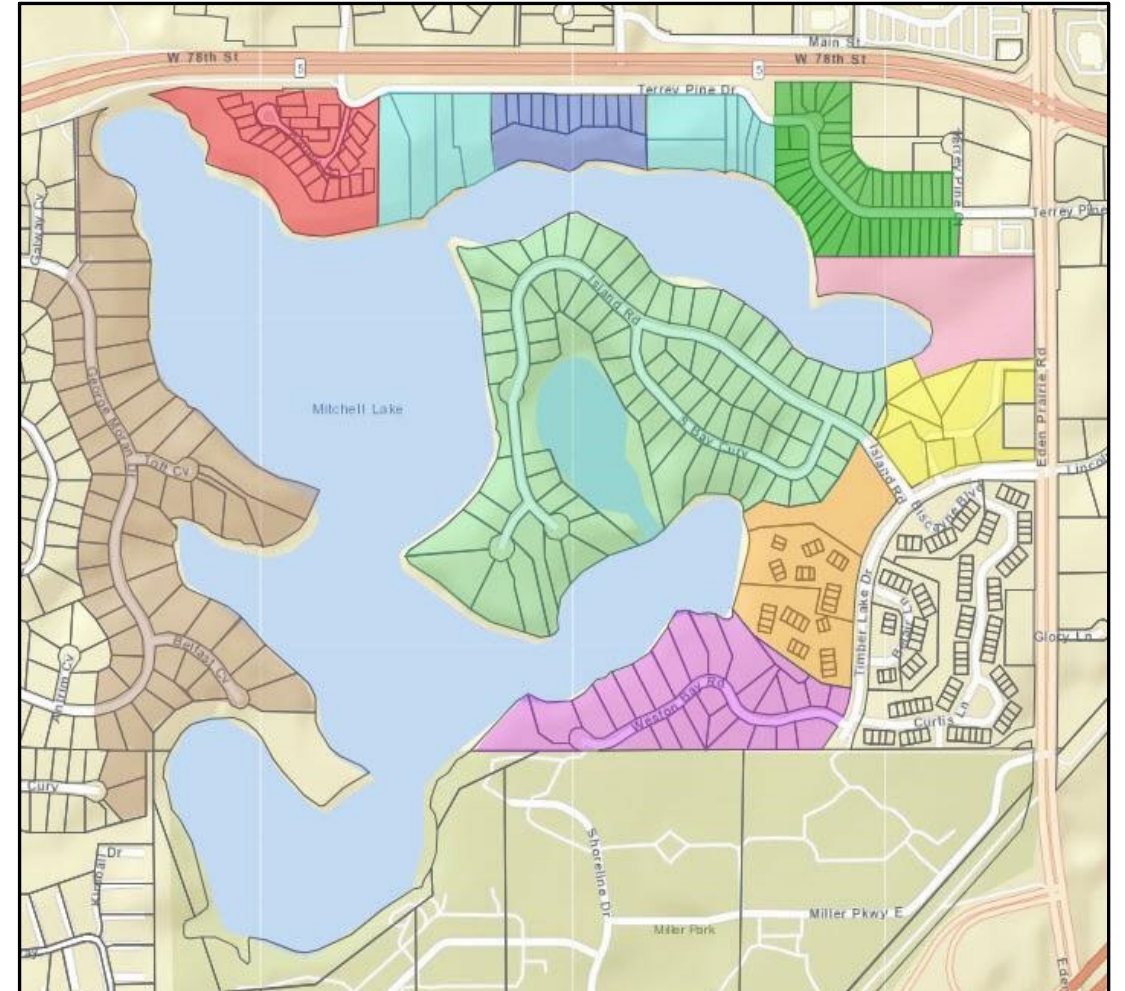
Read the [2021 Water Resources Report](https://rpbcwd.org/annualreport) at [rpbcwd.org/annualreport](https://rpbcwd.org/annualreport)



# Mitchell Lake Neighborhoods

## MLA reaches out to:

- 326 residents/property owners surrounding the lake
- 266 households, including townhomes with lake access
- 131 single family households directly on the lake
- 6 homeowner associations



# Aquatic Plant Management Summary

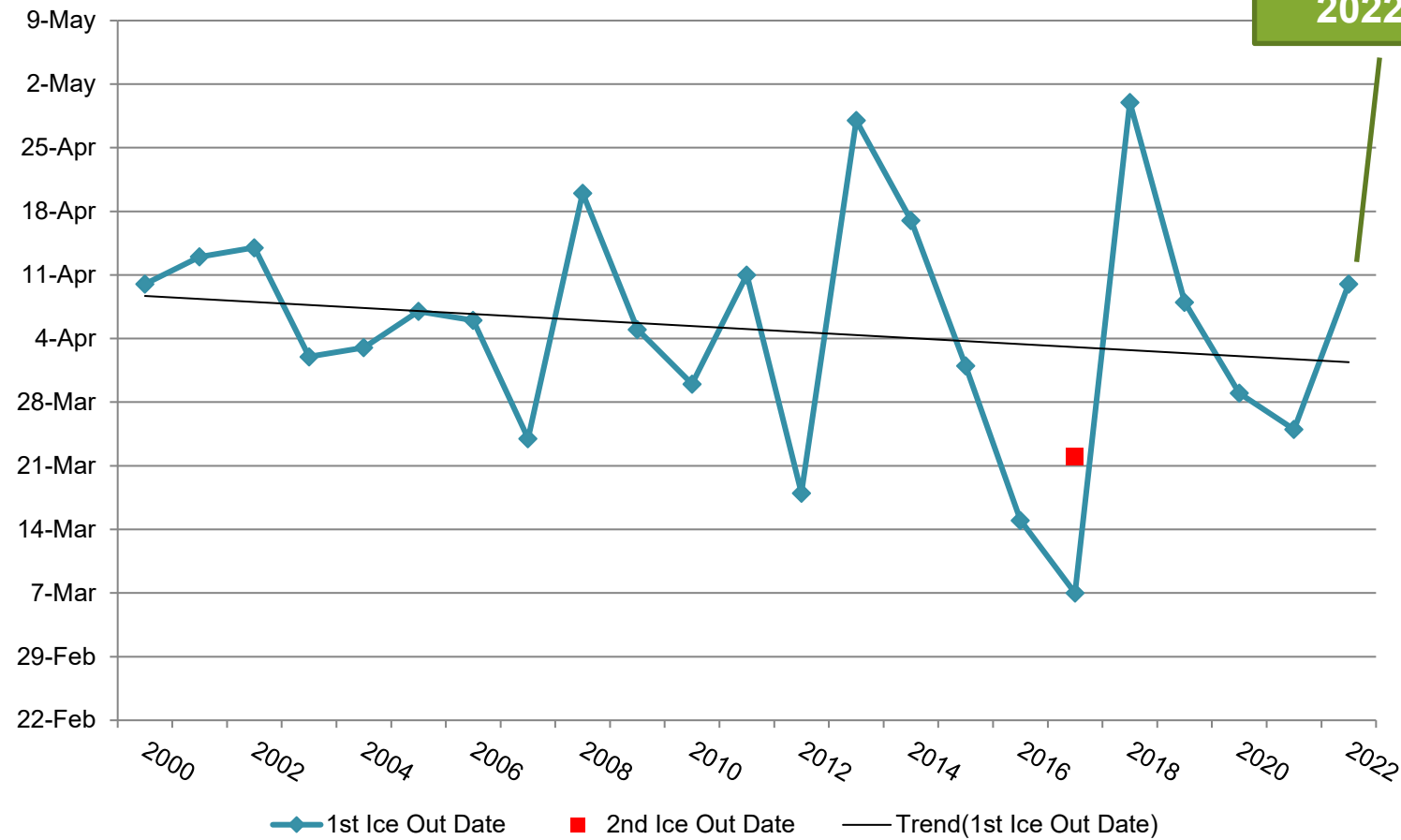


MLA  
Formed  
2006

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)
2022	RPBCWD	Herbicide treatment (Diquat) to control Curly-leaf Pondweed (13 acres)
2022	City	Harvesting (Premier Lake Harvesting) in July (12 Acres)

# Ice Out

## Mitchell Lake - Ice Out - Day of Year



April 10,  
2022



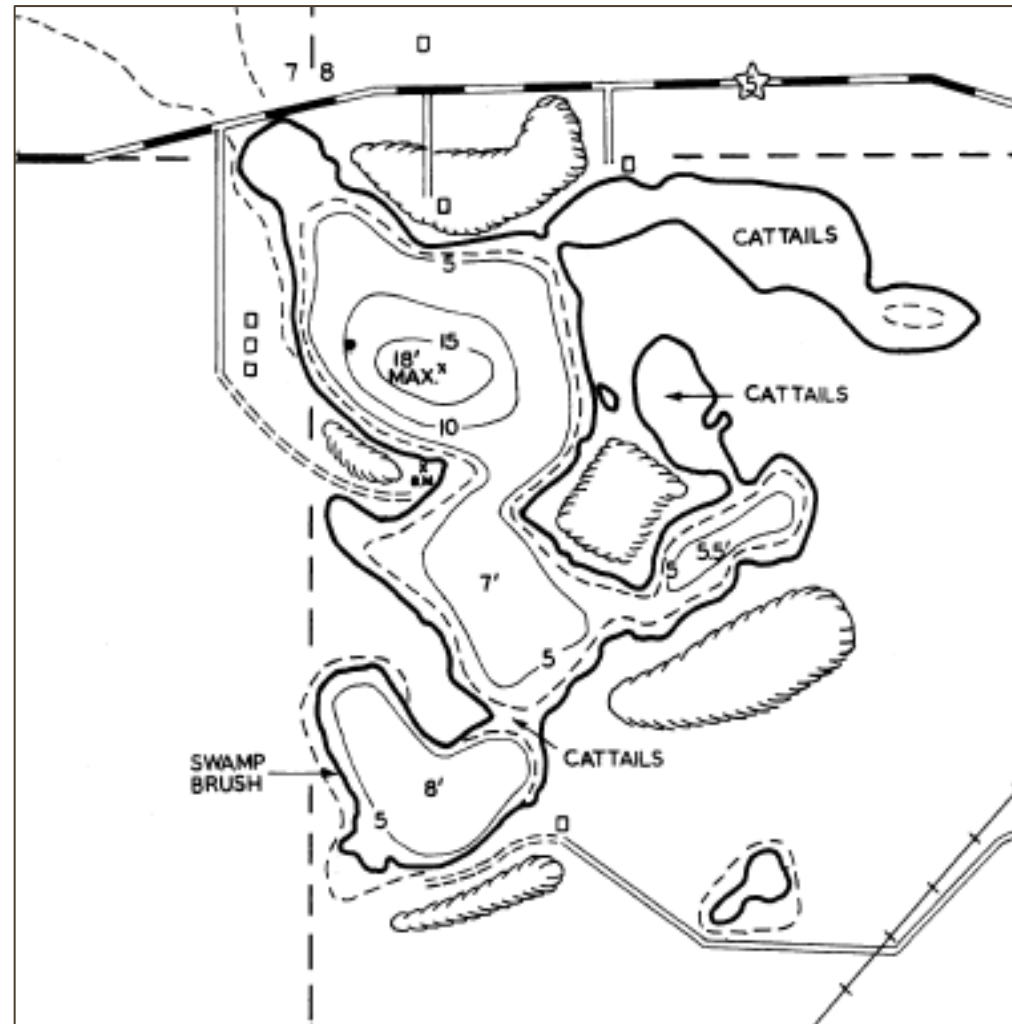
**Ice out definition:**  
*Ability to navigate from the inlet at Highway 5 to the Miller Park boat launch.*

# Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

- RPBCWD is a local unit of government tasked with protecting, managing and restoring the water resources within its boundaries.



# Mitchell Lake



area = 114 acres

4.1 miles of shoreline

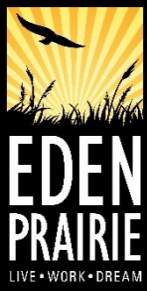
average depth = 5.3feet

max depth = 19feet

# Mitchell Lake Watershed



area = 114 acres  
watershed area = 862 acres  
watershed:lake ratio = 7.6:1



# 2022 Canada Goose Management

## The City of Eden Prairie:

- The City removes geese from Mitchell Lake
- Residents can file a goose complaint with the City
  - File by the last week of April through the first week of May
  - Go to [EdenPrairie.org](http://EdenPrairie.org) and search for goose management



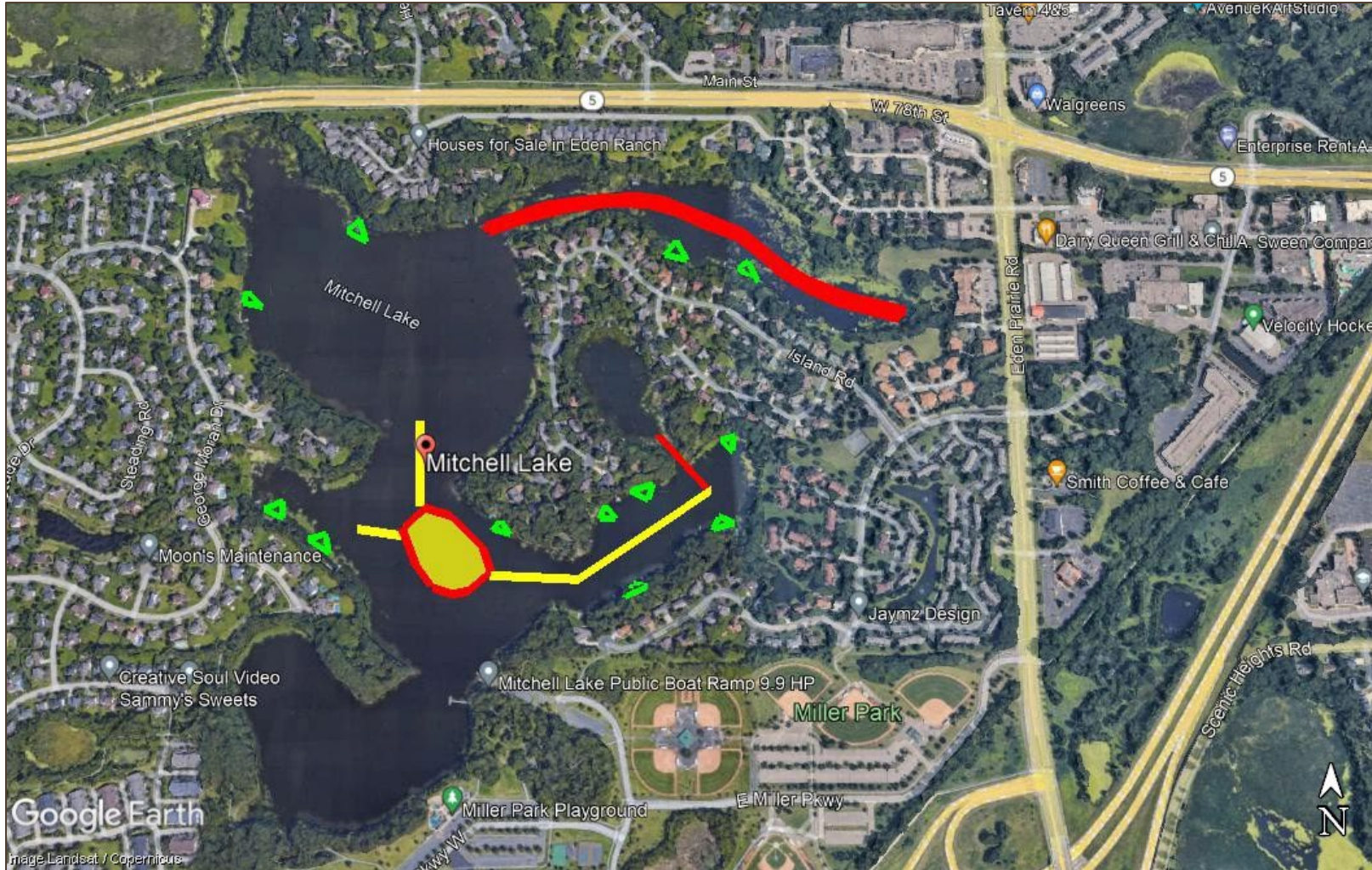
## How Residents can Manage Geese:

- 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 shoreline





# 2023 Harvesting



- 5 days in late July
- 63 cubic yards of weeds removed

red = most dense vegetation  
yellow = less dense vegetation  
green = private contract

