

APRIL 2023

MITCHELL LAKE ASSOCIATION



Annual Newsletter



Board Members

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

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Schedule of 2023 MLA Events

JAN 1	2023 Membership Renewal Begins
APR 26	Free Resilient Shorelines Workshop
MAY 6	Tree Planting Event
MAY 6	Spring Clean-up Day at Miller Park
MAY 6	Spring Fish Release at Miller Park
JULY	MLA Summer Picnic
JULY	Weed Harvest Rebate Program
SEPT 15	Photo Contest Entries Due
OCT 5	MLA Annual Meeting

Find event details in this newsletter and visit MitchellLake.org for more information on upcoming events throughout the year.



MitchellLake.org

MEET THE NEW MLA PRESIDENT, ZACH FETZER



Board Member since: 2019

MLA involvement to date: Social Media Content, the 2021 and 2022 Annual Picnics, and Water Quality Testing

Favorite Mitchell Lake activity: Summertime swimming with my family

MLA priorities in 2023: Spring Tree Planting Event and increasing the MLA Membership

"I would like to thank all of those who support the Mitchell Lake Association. We have an excited and engaged set of board members who are looking forward to working for this community. I'm so proud to be your 2023 MLA President - If you see me in the neighborhood or out on the lake, please say Hi!" ~ Zach

JOIN US FOR A TREE PLANTING EVENT

Help improve lake quality, enhance shoreline aesthetics, and reduce noise pollution by planting trees near Hwy 5.

We have partnered with a Landscape Restoration Specialist and have purchased 75, 12"-18" bare-root trees for planting.

Tree and Shrub varieties include: Black Hills Spruce, Sugar Maple, Red Splendor Crab, American Plum, Chokecherry, Dogwood, and Elderberry

Tentative Planting Date: May 6, 2023

Volunteers are needed. Please email mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.



GOOSE MANAGEMENT



Are geese a nuisance in your part of the lake? To have geese removed from your property, file a goose complaint with the City of Eden Prairie. Go to EdenPrairie.org and search for "goose management" or scan the QR code for the form.

There is a limited window of time when geese can be dealt with, so we recommend submitting requests the last week of April through the first week of May.

2023 MLA Membership Form

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND PAY ONLINE AT www.mitchelllake.org

Name: _____
 Address: _____

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



QR CODE FOR ONLINE PAYMENT ANNUAL AUTOPAY RENEWAL NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Options	I am including:
One-Year Membership - \$35 for the calendar year	\$
Add'l Contribution for Fish Stocking	\$
Add'l Contributions (for key MLA objectives such as for weed management and shoreline restoration)	\$
Total	\$

Please send your tax-deductible donation to:
 Mitchell Lake Association
 C/O Michelle Rothwell
 8002 Island Road
 Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Attend a Free Resilient Shorelines Workshop



Wed., April 26
6-8 PM
Cambria Room
Eden Prairie Community Center
16700 Valley View Road, Eden Prairie

The City of Eden Prairie along with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed and Nine Mile Creek Watershed Districts are pleased to offer a Resilient Shorelines workshop.

This workshop offers basic tips and available resources for property owners who are interested in starting a shoreline project, including site assessments, plant selection tips and regulatory reminders.

The workshop fee will be waived when you sign up with the coupon code "healthyshorelines."

See <https://bluethumb.org/even/resilient-shorelines-workshop-eden-prairie/>



Protect Your Shoreline With Native Plants.



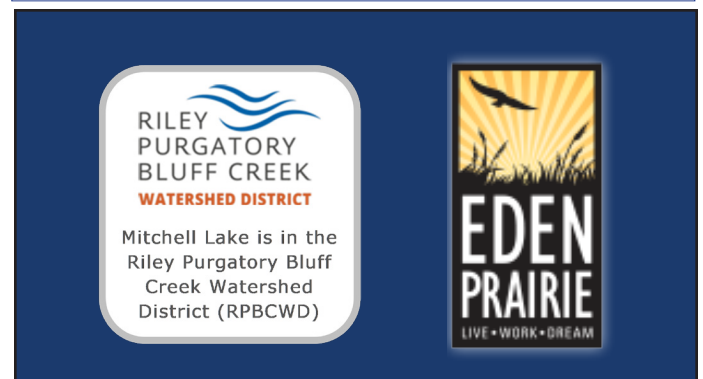
Landscape for Water Quality

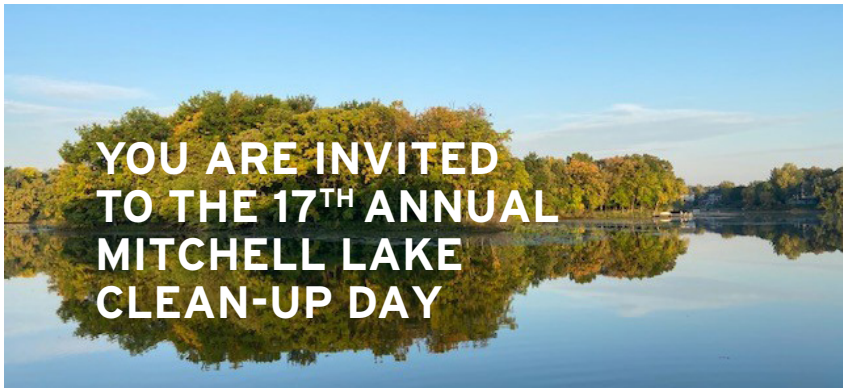
The best thing that you can do to improve the water quality of our lake is to control the water flowing into the lake from the surrounding watershed.

More than half of the Mitchell Lake watershed is used for residential housing. Rain and snow that flows over that land carries pollutants and chemicals that end up in the lake. By planting shoreline buffers and rain gardens, much of these pollutants can be intercepted before they enter the lake. Even better, shoreline buffers and rain gardens serve as important wildlife habitat.

The Mitchell Lake Association in partnership with the City of Eden Prairie and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) can help with both the financing and planning of a shoreline restoration project or rain garden. The City of Eden Prairie and RPBCWD both offer rebates for approved restoration and planting projects. The MLA offers a supplement **rebate of \$250.00** to any MLA members who complete a project approved by the city or watershed district.

For more information on the benefits of planting a native shoreline buffer or a rain garden please visit <https://mitchelllake.org/blog-2/> or contact the MLA for help with your project.





YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 17TH ANNUAL MITCHELL LAKE CLEAN-UP DAY

SAT., MAY 6, 2023

CLEANUP: 10 AM

LUNCH: NOON

FISH RELEASE: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: MILLER PARK WARMING HOUSE

(NEAR THE HOCKEY RINK)



Cleanup

What to Bring:

- Gloves
- Rakes
- Waders if you have them
- We'll provide trash bags

The team will focus on the lakeshore along Miller Park as well as the North shore along Highway 5.



Lunch

Lunch will be provided. Bring a side or dish to share (optional).

Catch up with your neighbors over lunch after the long winter.

Prizes will be awarded for most unusual trash!



Fish Release

Meet at the public access landing to view the spring fish release!

Thanks in advance to everyone who will join! Past years have seen great attendance and made a tremendous impact in keeping our lake clean.

The MLA has stocked Mitchell Lake with 2,950 fish over the past four years. This is a combined total of the following species: Black Crappies, Largemouth Bass, and Walleye.

For more details on the MLA fish stocking program as well as DNR fish stocking and fish surveys, go to mitchelllake.org/fish-stocking/.



Interested in Contributing to the Fish Stocking Program?

- Send a check to Mitchell Lake Association, C/O Michelle Rothwell, 8002 Island Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347, with "fish stocking" in the memo line.
- Send a contribution with your annual membership dues, or
- Pay online at our website mitchelllake.org. Go to the "Membership & Donations" page.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT: OUR TOP PRIORITY

Invasive Plants or "Weeds" continue to be the number one concern from our members.

They impact navigation, swimming and aesthetics of our lake. 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 and swimming.

Our Mitchell Lake Board members interact regularly with the watershed, DNR and City of EP personnel to develop and execute plans to address the invasive plant species. We have two primary methods of managing invasives in our lake: herbicide or other lake treatments and harvesting. We are also exploring a new approach this year. The following are some details of our plans for the next year:

Treatment: The Watershed District plans to treat about 15 percent of the lake with herbicide this spring. They are also looking at two other options for the future; whole lake treatment with a different herbicide that is put under the ice and alum which binds to phosphorus sinking it to the bottom.

Harvesting: Mitchell Lake harvesting is planned for July/August. We offer a **\$100 rebate** to MLA members for private shoreline harvesting and will work with the city to get notifications out to those on our email list.

NEW - Relocation: Our board is partnering with the DNR, City and Watershed to look at a new option for invasive plant management. It involves relocating native species from one part of our lake to another where invasives are prevalent. The hope is that this would crowd out invasives and form natural barriers to their spread. We'll share as we learn more.

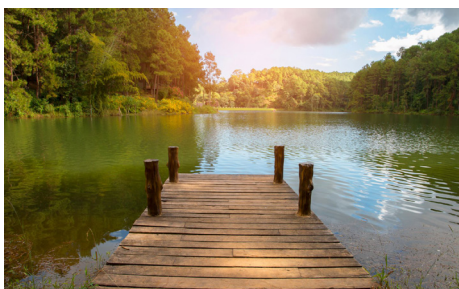


PROTECT OUR LAKE: STOP AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Become an Adopt-a-Dock Volunteer

Volunteers attach monitoring plates to the end of their docks, check them once a month and record observations to aid in early detection of zebra mussels. In 2022, Mitchell Lake had three participants with no zebra mussels detected.

To participate in 2023, contact EMahon@rpbcd.org.



Join Your Mitchell Lake Neighbors and Take the 'Lake Pledge'

Hennepin County launched the Lake Pledge program for Mitchell Lake. Lake Pledge is a fun, free program with entertaining videos showing how we can protect our lake from Aquatic invasive species (AIS).

- AIS can cause irreparable damage to native fish and plant populations and affect our health, recreation, property values, and the economy.
- Join Lake Pledge today at www.lakepledge.com

Prevent the Spread

Please remember to clean all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors, and other recreational equipment before leaving the lake. Mitchell Lake now has a cleaning station installed at our public boat launch.



2022 MLA PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to Erik Hansen, the first-place winner, and Cheri Nehl, the second-place winner of our 2022 photo contest! Check our website to see all 2022 photo submissions.



1st Place Erik Hansen



2nd Place Cheri Nehl

MLA 2023 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, 2023** 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 and winners will be announced at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- 5) Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st Prize: \$50 Gift Card, 2nd Prize: \$25 Gift Card.

Summer Picnic

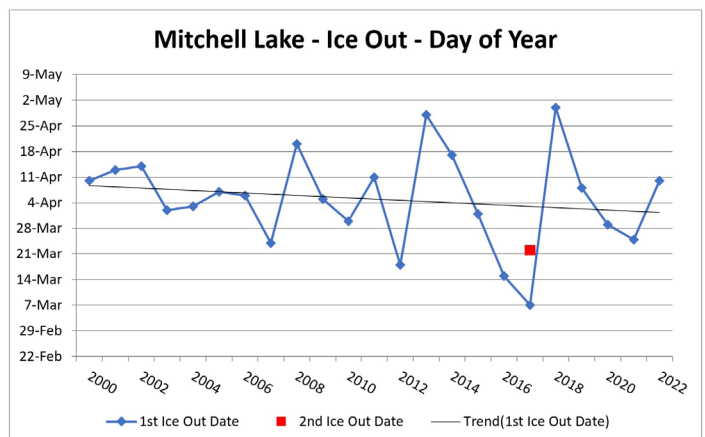
The 2022 Summer Picnic was well attended with live music, a food truck, free root beer floats, and a station to learn more about the Mitchell Lake Association (MLA).



The MLA board plans to host the event again this summer, and the date will be communicated via MitchellLake.org, email, Mitchell Lake Association Facebook, and road signs.

Mitchell Lake Ice-Out Dates

The 2022 ice-out date was April 10.



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



MLA Website:

Contact us by email:

Find us on Facebook:

MitchellLake.org

MitchellLakeAssociation@gmail.com

Mitchell Lake Association