

A scenic view of Mitchell Lake with a large tree on the right and a field of wildflowers in the foreground. The lake is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The foreground is filled with various wildflowers, including purple, orange, and yellow blooms. The background shows a dense line of trees and a few buildings in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds.

# Mitchell Lake Association

## Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2023



# Agenda

- Welcome
- MLA Background
- 2023 Year in Review
- Guest Speakers
  - Tony Brough – Hennepin County
  - Lori Haak - City of EP
  - Terry Jeffery - RPBC Watershed
- Business Meeting
- 2024 Plans
- Photo Contest Winners

# MLA Board Members

Zach Fetzer, President

Brian Haugen, Vice President

Michelle Rothwell, Treasurer

Cheri Nehl, Secretary

Dave Jackett

Erik Hansen

John Tyler

Maria Verven (Term expiring)

Travis Yohn (Term expiring)



# 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 17 lakeshore cleanup events
- Supported 12 lakeshore restoration projects
- Planted over 175 trees along Hwy. 5
- Built a stronger community through fun events
- Monitored lake for water quality and invasive species
- Stocked the lake with over 3,000 fish



# Mitchell Lake Association

## 2023 Year in Review



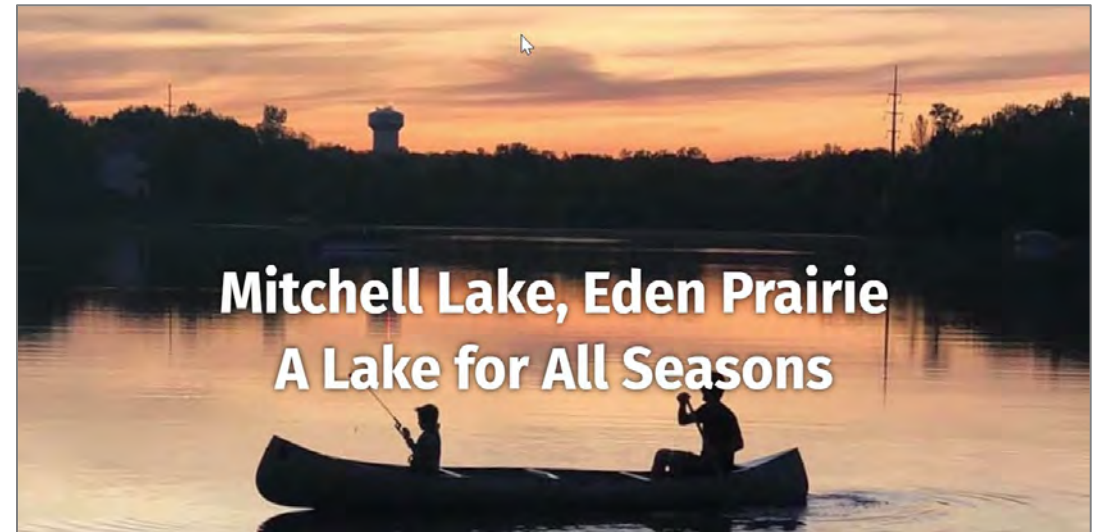
# 2023 Objectives

- Lake Quality Focus Areas

- Weed management
- Invasive species management
- Shoreline Restoration
- Tree planting
- Fish Stocking
- Geese management

- Plus...

- Government Advocacy
- Community Events
- Communication/Education
- Membership Campaign



# Spring Cleanup

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Event held May 6

- Over 30 participated
- Gathered trash and planted trees near HWY 5
- Fish stocking held after picnic





# Fish Stocking

**Over 3,000 fish were released over the past four years**

- Released 140 adult black crappies, 16 adult walleye, and 12 largemouth bass up to 16" this year
- Next fish stocking planned for fall 2023
- This program is funded exclusively by fish stocking donations, which can be made on our website.



# Fish Stocking

**Current fish stocking fund is \$637.38**



Year	Season	Date	Species	Size	Number	Cost
2019	Spring	Spring 2019	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	350	\$1,921
			Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20	
	Fall	Fall 2019	Walleye	Fingerlings 4"-6"	1050	
2020	Spring	Spring 2020	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	250	\$1,750
			Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20	
	Fall	Fall 2020	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	200	
			Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	16	
2021	Spring	Fall 2021	Black Crappies	Adults 3" to 11"	150	\$1,100
			Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20	
2022	Spring	Spring 2022	Black Crappies	Up to 3"	850	\$1,550
			Largemouth Bass	Adults	26	
2023	Spring	Spring 2023	Black Crappies	up to 11"	140	\$1,070
			Walleye	up to 20"	16	
			Largemouth Bass	Up to 16"	12	
<b>TOTAL</b>					3120	\$ 5,470

# Tree Planting Near Hwy. 5

- Initial tree planting completed in 2005
- Partnered with Seth Ristow, Landscape Restoration Specialist
- Planted 75 bare root saplings in spring of 2023
- Drought conditions posed challenges to survival of saplings – 50% of plantings still growing and is considered a success

2005



2022



2023

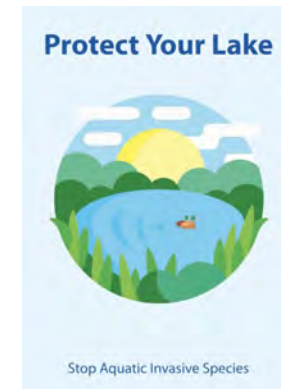


# Stopping the Spread of Invasive Species

## New Invasive Species found in Mitchell Lake – Brittle Naid

### 3 Programs to Stop the Spread

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



# Aquatic Plant Management

- Mitchell Lake is home to over 15 species of aquatic plants, most are native
- Methods to control invasive aquatic plants:
  - Herbicide application - annual
  - Mechanical harvesting – annual
  - Alum treatments – city is exploring
- Herbicide was applied to 13 acres in May 2023
- Mechanical harvesting completed in July 2023

**Note:** Mechanical harvesting is not effective against Brittle Naid



# Lakeshore Restoration

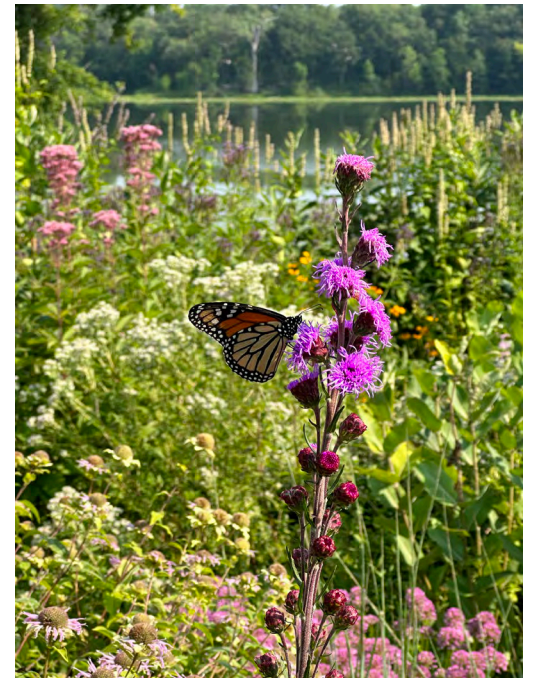
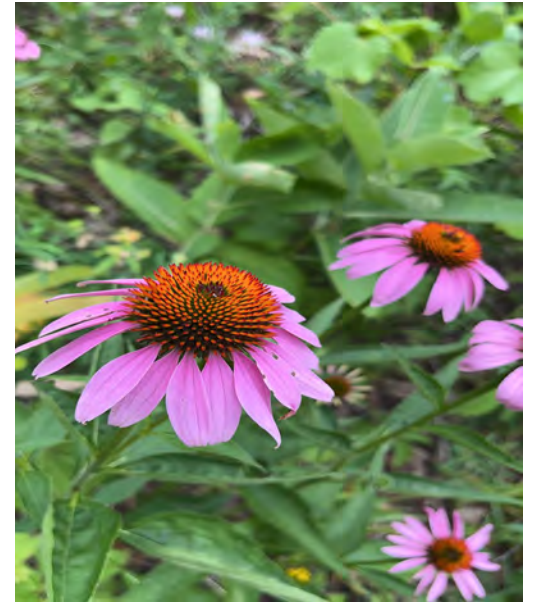
Natural shorelines protect the lake by reducing runoff and capturing pollutants and fertilizer before they reach the water.

## Over the Years on Mitchell Lake

2007-09	5 restoration projects with DNR grant assistance
2015-Present	7 restoration projects with the City of EP, Watershed, MLA assistance
2017	MLA introduced \$250 rebate

### Funding Sources:

1. Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District 75% of Project  
Cost up to \$5,000
2. City of Eden Prairie 80% of Project  
Cost up to \$2,000
3. MLA Grant \$250





# How Does Your Shore Score for lake health?



**Trees or shrubs overhang water**  
+1 point

Native plants, trees, and shrubs protect shorelines from erosion and provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.

**Vegetated buffer along shore**  
+1 point

Native plants filter stormwater runoff so less pollution enters the lake and their roots protect soil from erosion.

**Aquatic plants along shore**  
+1 point

Aquatic plants reduce shoreline erosion by absorbing wave energy.

**Aquatic Plant Types**

Emergent	
Floating-leaved	
Submergent	

A healthy lake has three types of aquatic plants.

**Logs for wildlife**  
+1 point

Logs and branches provide underwater habitat for wildlife. Young fish hide from big fish, turtles bask in the sun, and aquatic insects feed on the wood.

**Limited use of lawn chemicals**  
+1 point

What greens up your lawn, greens up the lake. Limit or eliminate use of fertilizers and pesticides.

What we do on land impacts lake health.

**If everyone contributes, small actions will make a big difference in lake health!**

# 2023 Summer Social

- Live music
- Food truck
- Root beer floats
- Socializing with neighbors
- Lakeshore restoration tour!





# Guest Speakers



# Welcome to our Meeting...

**Tony Brough**



**Hennepin County**

AIS Program Coordinator

**Lori Haak**



**City of Eden Prairie**

Water Resources Coordinator

**Terry Jeffery**



**RPBC Watershed District**

District Administrator & Watershed Planning Manager



# MLA Survey Question/Concerns

## Water Levels

- What are we doing about low lake levels and is it a concern
- What can we do about managing the water level?
- How does the drought affect the lake long term?
- Can I dig where the water used to be to make my shoreline deeper if the water ever returns?

## Water Quality

- Have the Watershed representatives describe how watershed districts operate, what is their power to improve our water/lake and how they could be more effective and what are the impediments to their work.
- I would love to see the rest of the city get excited about water quality in our lakes - not sure how we do that, but some kind of campaign so they understand how their actions affect the water quality and why they should care.
- I would love to know the water quality as the summer progresses to know if it is safe to swim, safe for pets, etc.
- Dashboard on lake health
- Can anything be done to quickly improve water quality?
- Are there lake safe ways to have a nice lawn?
- Are there lawn companies that specialize in that?

## Weed Control

- Drastic measure need to me taken for weed control. Over the last three years with the lake level down as far as it has been, some area's are extremely difficult to get your boat through.
- Parts of the lake are completely unusable due to weeds, what can be done?
- What can be done to reduce the quantity lily pads on the east side of the lake. Is it a responsibility of the property owner to figure out a way to remove them, or does the association have that decision making authority?

## Invasive Species

- Is the boat cleaning system at Miller Park being used by boaters coming on the lake? I am very concerned about keeping zebra mussels out of our lake.

# Business Meeting





# Business Meeting

- 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- MLA Dues
- Elections - two open board seats



# 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

- Held Oct. 6, 2022, at 7 pm at Chanhassen American Legion
- 38 in attendance
- Agenda:
  - Welcome & Introductions
  - MLA Background
  - 2022 Year in Review
  - Guest Speaker
    - Lori Haak - City of EP
  - Business Meeting
    - Financial Report
    - Election of New Board Members
  - 2022 Plans
  - Photo Contest Results

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

# MLA 2023 Financial Statement

September 17, 2023

Number of Active Members: 60

2023 Annual Membership Dues: \$35.00



2023 MLA Balance Sheet	
Checking:Old National Bank	\$ 6,424.21
Paypal	\$ 1,948.83
<b>MLA Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 8,373.04</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,373.04</b>

Asset Categories	
General Fund	\$ 7,735.66
Fish Stocking Fund	\$ 637.38
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,373.04</b>

2023 MLA Income & Expenses General Fund	
<b>Income</b>	
Membership Dues	\$ 1,493.83
Contributions	\$ 55.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,548.83</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Lake Harvesting Weed Control- Rebate	\$ 400.00
Events (Spring Cleanup/ Picnic)	\$ 868.76
Operating Expenses( Website, etc.)	\$ 1,749.52
<b>Total Association Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,018.28</b>
<b>Net Income General Fund</b>	<b>\$ (1,469.45)</b>

2023 Fish Stocking Fund	
Contributions	\$ 798.73
Fish Stocking	\$ (1,470.00)
<b>Net Income Fish Stocking Fund</b>	<b>\$ (671.27)</b>



# MLA Assets: Cash Balance 2013-2023

MLA operates on a cash basis and does not carry any liabilities.

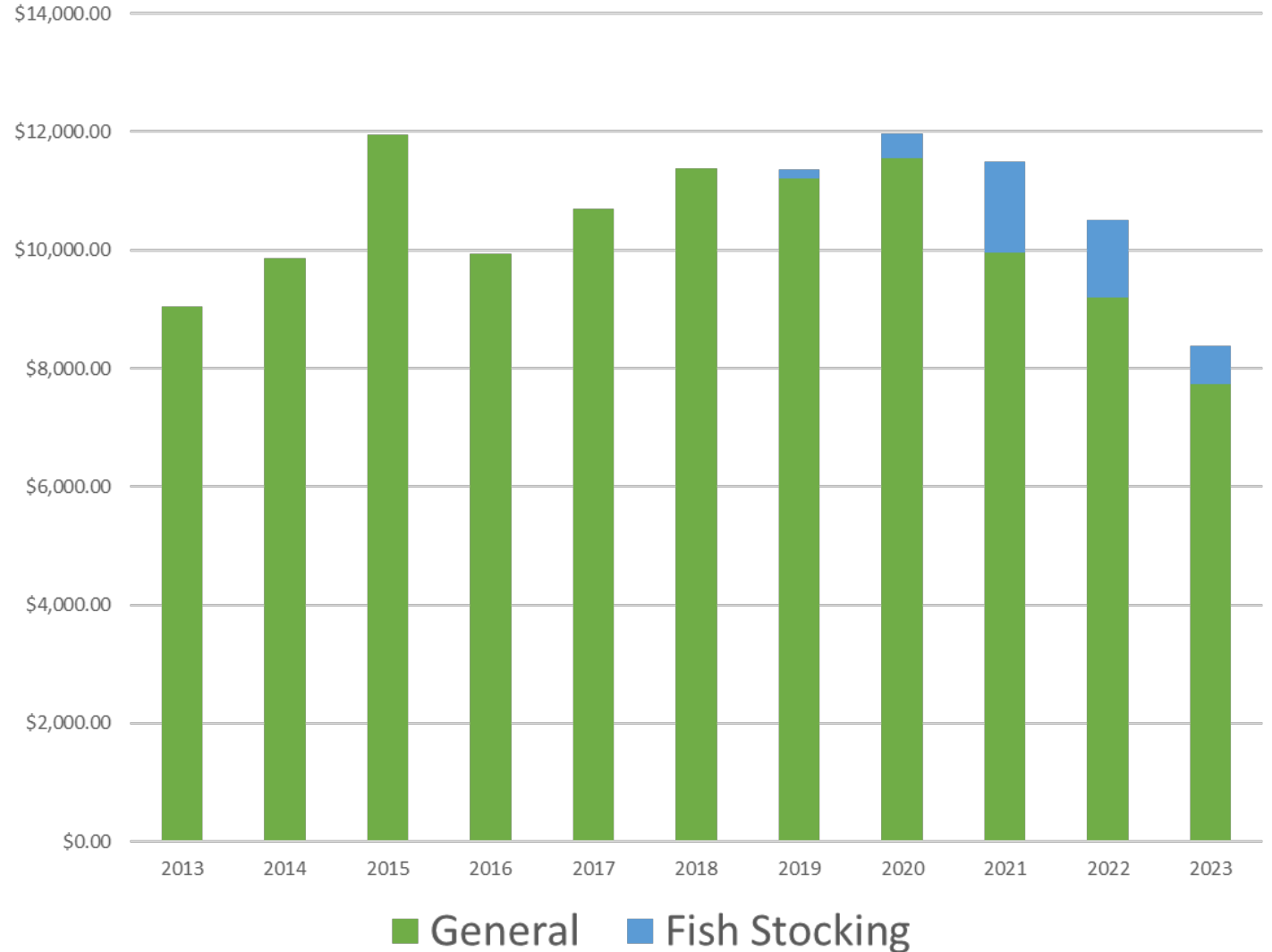
In 2023 the MLA Board consolidated four asset categories to only a **General Fund** and a **Fish Stocking Fund**.

## Cash Balance Highlights

Highest cash balance in 2020 at \$11,978

Lowest cash balance in 2023 at \$8,373

Average (10-year) cash balance is \$10,579





## Fish Stocking Highlights

There was a one-time General Fund contribution to Fish Stocking of \$1,000 in 2019.

All other contributions have been designated for Fish Stocking.

All expenses in this fund are payments to fish suppliers.

<b>2019-2023 Cumulative</b>	
Contributions	\$8,428
Expenses	\$7,791



# MLA Membership Status

## MLA Paid Membership: 60 Current Members in 2023

- Annual autopay option now available
- Encourage friends and neighbors to join!



# MLA Dues Increase Proposal

**Recommendation:** Increase annual dues to \$50 on January 1, 2024

## Rational

- No increase since founding (>15 years)
- Follow inflation: \$1 in 2007 = \$1.50 today ( $\$35 \times 1.5 = \$50$ )
- Increasing investment in water quality, social, education etc.
- Comparison with other associations (up to \$200/yr)
- Straw poll at 2022 meeting supported increasing dues

## Details

- Approved by board and announced at 2023 annual meeting
- To take effect on January 1, 2024
- Recurring charges will increase to \$50 for future years
- Members can cancel membership at any time. No refund for current year.





# MLA Board Opportunities

## Two Open Board Member Positions

- Thank you to retiring board members, Maria Verven and Travis Yohn

## Board Member Commitment

- Three-year term with 6-8 meetings/year
- Support MLA activities
- Interface with partners (EP/WD District)
- Great opportunity to get involved and meet your neighbors



# MLA Board Elections

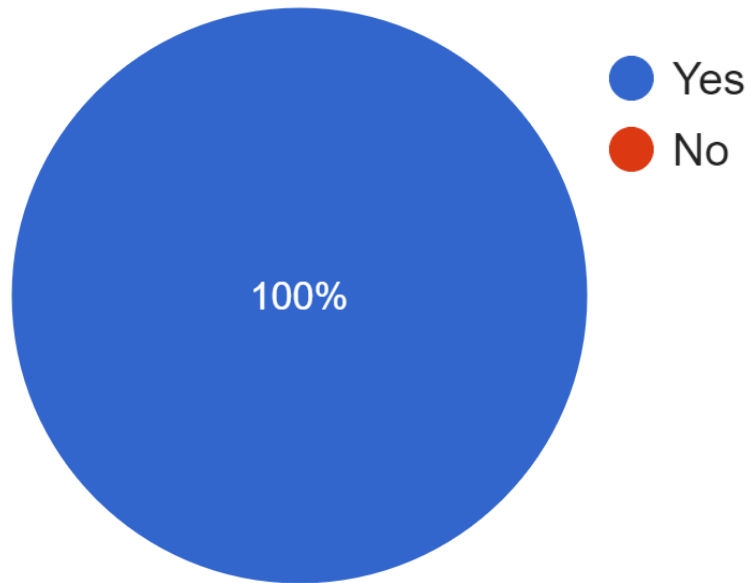
- **New Candidate Introductions**
  - Name
  - Share a bit about yourself
  - How long have you lived on/near the lake?
  - Why you would like to join the board?
  
- **Elections – Vote for 2**

# Plans for 2024

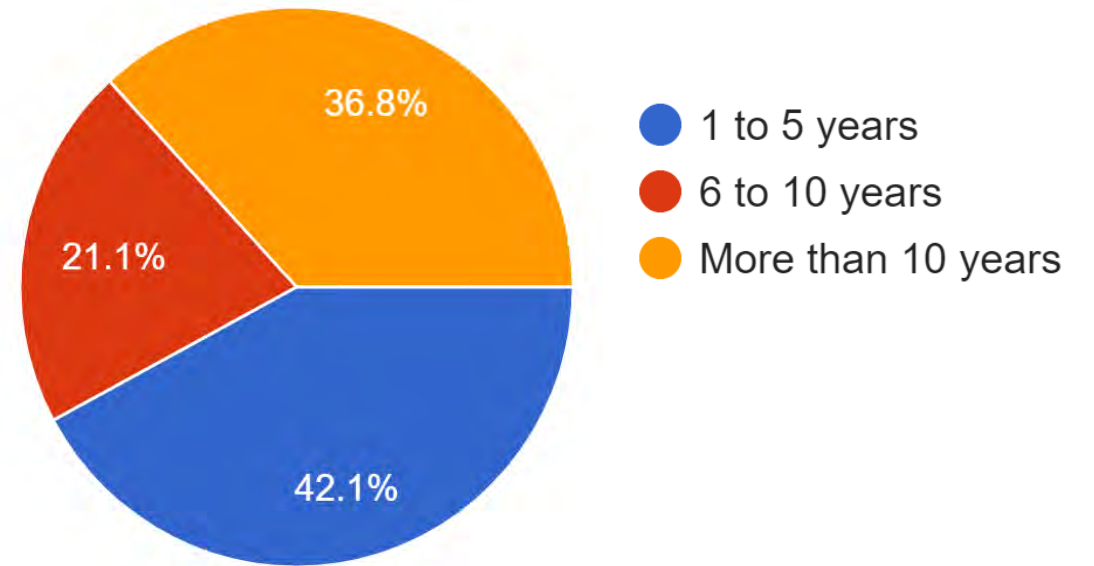


# MLA 2023 Survey Results

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

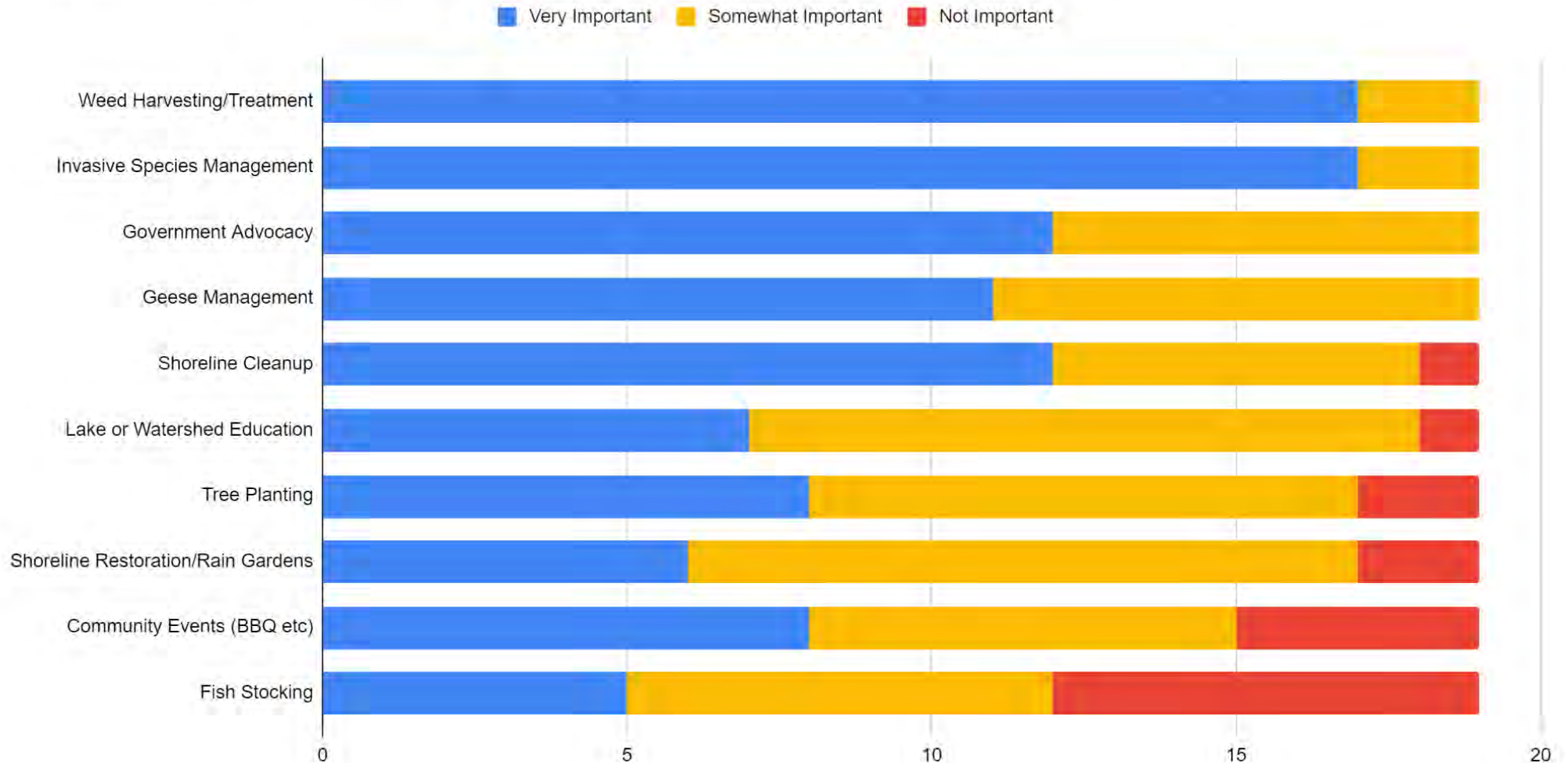


**How long have you lived near Mitchell Lake?**



# What should we focus on in 2024?

Very Important, Somewhat Important and Not Important





# 2023 Photo Contest



# 2023 Photo Contest

- Received 45 photo submissions from members portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife and lake activities
- All photos will be posted on the MLA website

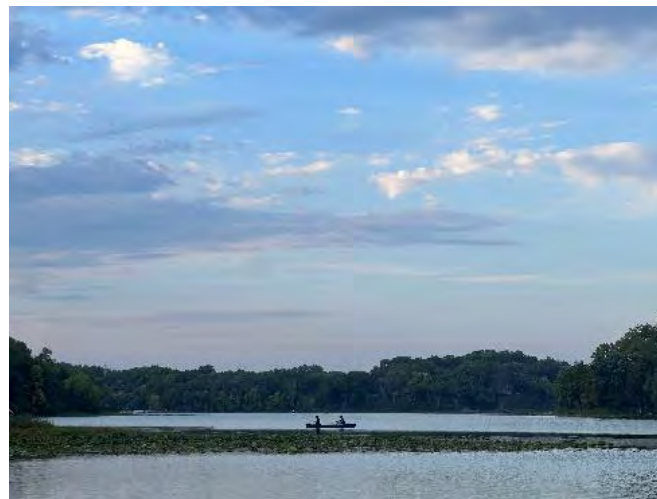
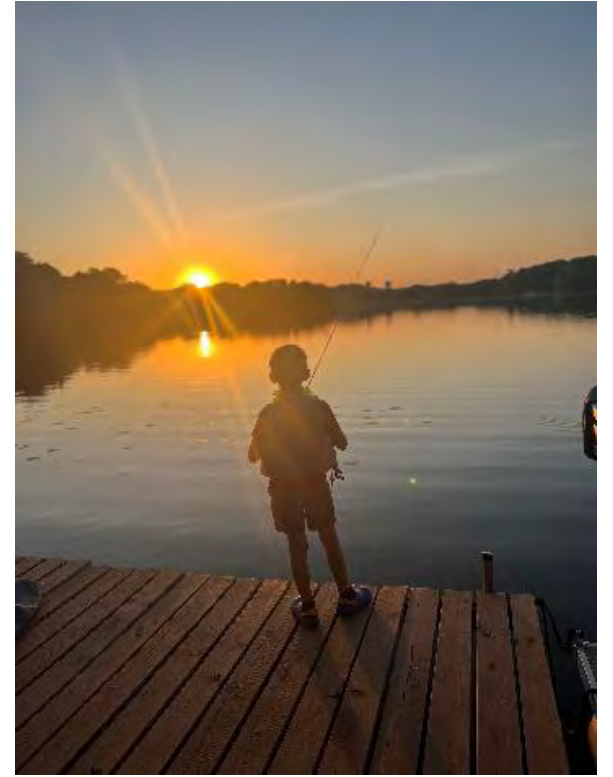


**2022 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Submitted by Erik Hansen**



**2022 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Submitted by Cheri Nehl**

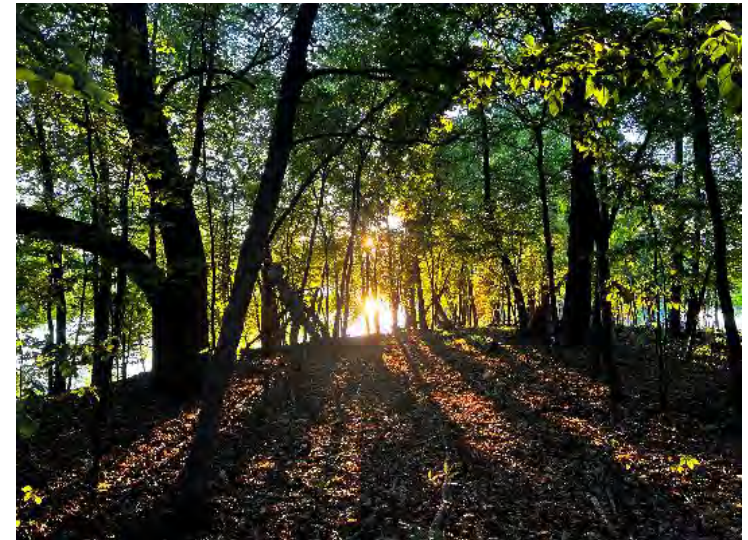
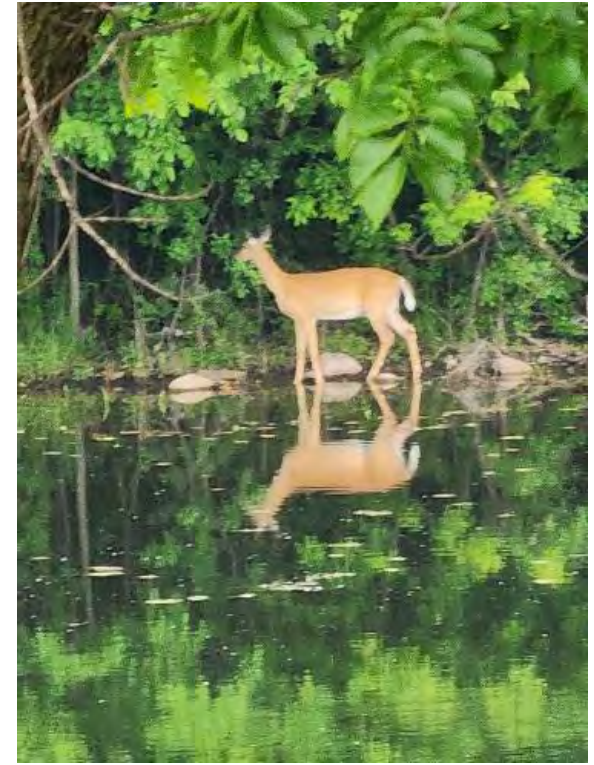
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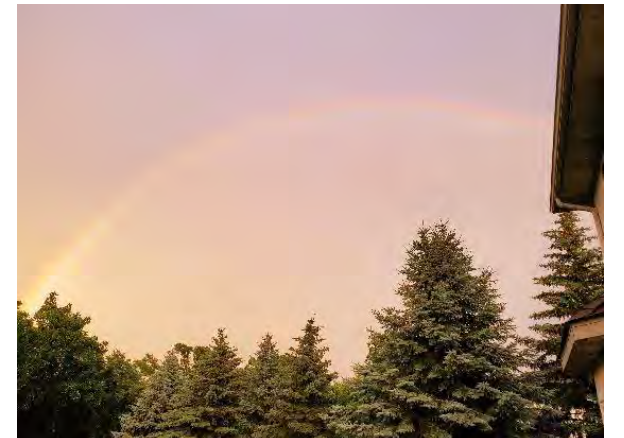
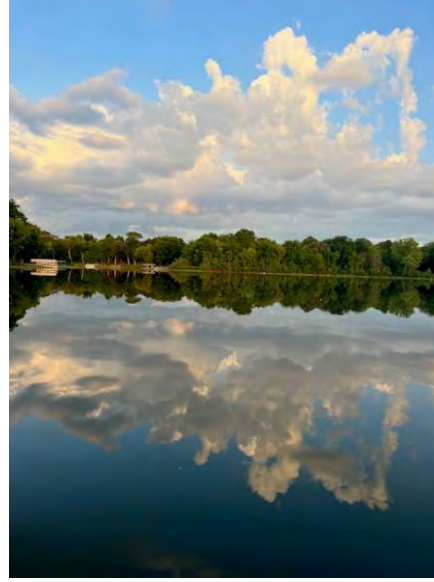
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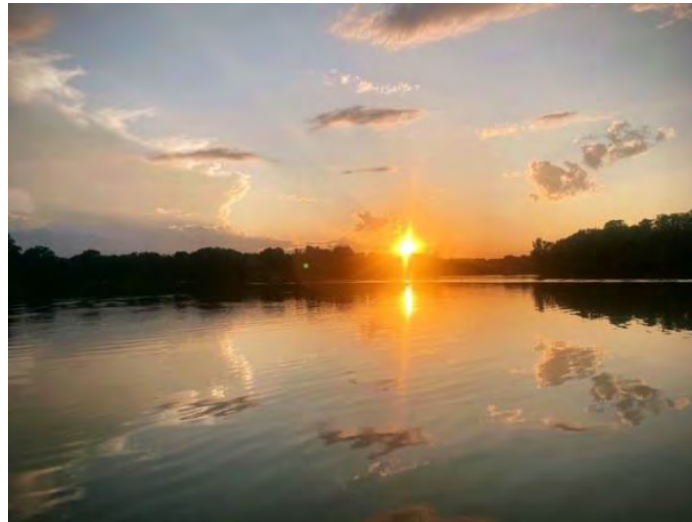
# 2023 Photo Entries



# 2023 Photo Entries



# 2023 Photo Entries





And the Winners are...

## Honorable Mention



**Erik Hansen**



**Paul Yahnke**

# And the Winners are...

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

**Jessica Thompson**



**The Loud Neighbor**



# And the Winners are...

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

Lorinda Fraboni  
Schlauderaff



**Ducks Feeding or Bottoms Up!**



# Thank You!!!

## Our MLA Board

### Our Partners

Tony Brough  
Terry Jeffery  
Lori Haak

## Our Members

# Ways to Get Involved!

- Join as an MLA member!  
(Consider annual renewal)
- Join the Mitchell Lake Association Facebook page and visit our website
- Adopt a Drain
- Plant a shoreline buffer