

Mitchell Lake Association Annual Newsletter 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A great year to be part of the MLA

Last year was a successful one for Mitchell Lake. We reached 46% participation in the Lake Pledge program run by Hennepin County, and this fantastic participation earned us \$3,000 in grant money from the county.

For 2025, we look to continue to work to preserve Mitchell Lake. The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District will be undertaking a whole-lake survey

of Mitchell Lake to assess the lake's fish stock, invasive species, water quality and aquatic plants. This survey will guide how the watershed and the City of Eden Prairie will work to preserve and restore the lake in the years ahead. The MLA will have an active voice in that process.

The snow cover on the lake was light this year and lake levels are lower absent more spring rains. This is looking like a year similar to last year which resulted in significant aquatic vegetation on the lake. The MLA will be working with the city and the watershed to address the vegetation and ensure that Mitchell Lake is accessible to everyone.

Please consider joining us in preserving and improving the lake this year. The MLA sponsors an annual spring cleanup, scheduled this year for April 26. Additionally, the MLA has been working with the Friends of Eden Prairie Parks to remove invasive buckthorn in Miller Park. That work will continue this year as we work to restore the native habitat that supports the wildlife on our lake. The MLA has many ways to get involved and join with your neighbors to make the lake a better place. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will consider participating in some of our events.

- Erik Hansen

President, Mitchell Lake Association



2024 Photo Contest second-place winner (Brian Haugen)



2025 Calendar

Jan. 31	Annual memberships due (<i>see last page</i>)
April 26	Spring Cleanup Day (<i>Rain date: May 3</i>)
May 30	Goose complaints due (<i>Eden Prairie</i>)
June 26	Summer Picnic
July 15-31	Weed harvest rebate program
Sept. 15	Photo contest entries due
Oct. 2	Annual Meeting

Stay informed - subscribe to our email list!

To get on the list, just send us a request at MitchellLakeAssociation@gmail.com.




Join us for Spring Cleanup Day!

Help keep Mitchell Lake beautiful by joining the 19th annual cleanup day on **Saturday, April 26**.

Event details:

- **Head to the Mitchell Lake playground parking lot**
We'll have a picnic table set up nearby.
- **Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.**
Come early for donuts and coffee!
- **Cleanup begins at 10 a.m.**
We'll clean up the Miller Park shoreline and the north shore along Highway 5.

What to bring:

-  Gloves & rakes
-  Waders (if you have them)
-  We'll provide trash bags

Join MLA members and neighbors for a rewarding day of community and conservation. We'd love to see you there!

Give us your best shot!

2024 highlights

- 1 1st Place: Paul Yahnke (\$50 gift certificate)
- 2 2nd Place: Brian Haugen (\$25 gift certificate)

View all 2024 contest submissions at mitchelllake.org.

2025 Contest

Submit your best lake photos by **September 15**.

- Email to: MitchellLakeAssociation@gmail.com
- Include your name, photo title and description.



2024 Photo Contest first-place winner (Paul Yahnke)

Report goose problems by May 30

Are geese becoming a nuisance on your property? You can request removal by filing a goose complaint with the City of Eden Prairie.



How to file a complaint



Scan the QR code. Or visit EdenPrairie.org and search for goose management.

File between May 15-30.

Complaints must be submitted by individual homeowners.

Take the Mitchell Lake Pledge

Protect the lake, stop AIS!



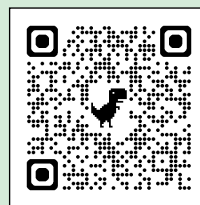
Eurasian Watermillfoil

Help keep Mitchell Lake healthy by pledging to prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS)! These harmful species disrupt the lake's ecosystem, lower water quality, and impact recreation. By adopting simple lake-friendly practices, you can make a big difference.

- ✓ In 2024, 46% of residents participated, securing \$3,000 for AIS prevention and lake improvements.
- ✓ In 2025, we can do even more!
 - 50% participation earns an additional \$1,000.
 - 60% participation unlocks another \$1,000!

Participating is as easy as watching a few short videos.

- 1 Visit LakePledge.com or scan the QR code and sign in.
- 2 Select your lake activities and watch the short videos (1–2 minutes each).
- 3 Click “Accept Pledge” for each video to complete your pledge and help us reach our 60% goal!



Miller Park lakeshore restoration: Success and next steps

Miller Park's 2024 lakeshore restoration project was a success! Six volunteer events, led by Jim Nehl, cleared about an acre of buckthorn.

This spring, in partnership with the City and Friends of Eden Prairie Parks, native plant seeds and plugs will be planted to prevent buckthorn regrowth, prevent erosion, and boost biodiversity.

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities to join the planting efforts! Additionally, the City of Eden Prairie will expand restoration work to the land surrounding the southernmost bay of Mitchell Lake. Together, we're making a lasting impact on Mitchell Lake.



Buckthorn brigade: Jim Nehl and 10 volunteers pose after a buckthorn removal event on the south shore of Mitchell Lake.

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Water Quality Report Card

rpbcwd.org/grades

D

Mitchell Lake's water quality fell from C to D last year due to increased chlorophyll, likely caused by heavy spring rains carrying lawn clippings, fertilizer and other nutrient-rich runoff into the lake, along with algal growth linked to our late-summer drought and heat.

The full report for Mitchell Lake can be found here:

rpbcwd.org/factsheets

Aquatic plant control plan for 2025

Following another mild winter conducive to rapid curly-leaf pondweed growth, the following actions will be taken:

Spring 2024

RPBCWD will apply herbicide treatments.

July 2024

The City of Eden Prairie will conduct mechanical weed harvesting.

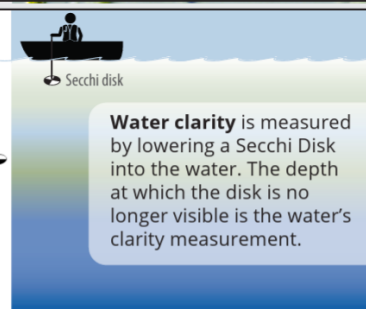
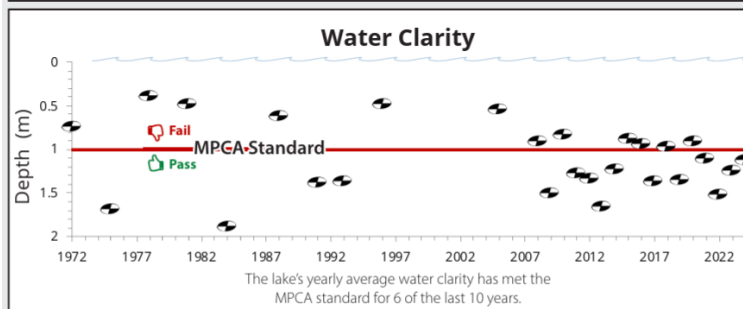
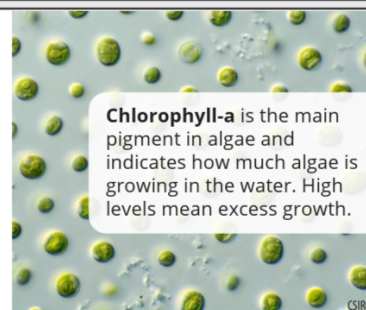
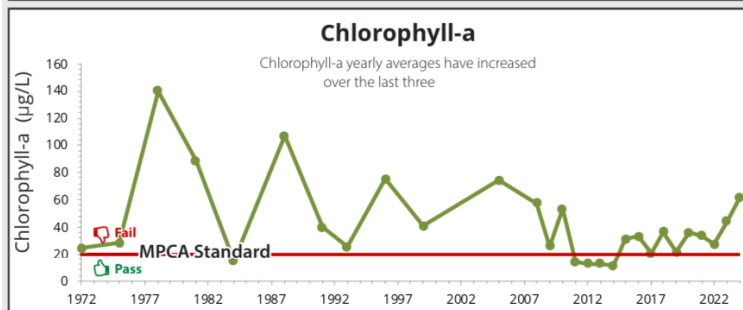
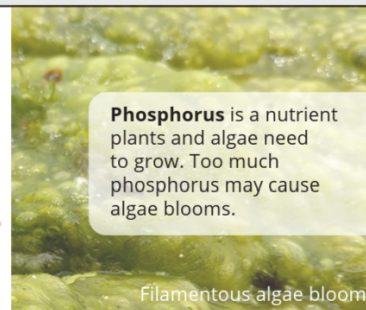
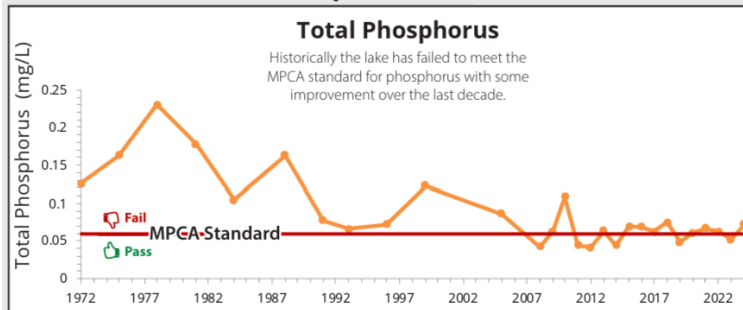
Private shoreline harvesting

MLA members can receive a \$100 rebate. Apply at mitchelllake.org.

Stay informed

MLA members will receive updates via email. For permit requirements, consult the RPBCWD website.

Trends Over Time: 1972-present



Mitchell Lake's future: Integrated management in action

Mitchell Lake will be the focus of a new, holistic lake and watershed management plan developed through a partnership between the Mitchell Lake Association (MLA) and the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD).

This plan will comprehensively address the lake's ecological health and recreational use aiming to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Community members will have the opportunity to provide input through upcoming stakeholder meetings. Look for updates to be shared via email.

LANDSCAPING REBATES

Enhance the lake's health through shoreline restoration

Protect and improve the water quality of Mitchell Lake by restoring your shoreline as a buffer zone! The MLA, City of Eden Prairie, and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) are providing financial and planning assistance for projects of all sizes.

Benefits include:

- Rebates from the City of Eden Prairie and RPBCWD
- An additional \$250 supplement for MLA members with approved projects
- Improved water clarity and ecosystem health

Learn more about the Mitchell Lake Landscape for Quality Rebate at mitchelllake.org, or contact the MLA for personalized project support.



Stay connected with Mitchell Lake updates

Stay informed about lake initiatives, events, and conservation efforts!



Visit our website at mitchelllake.org for all kinds of information about the lake.



Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg



Join our email list to get updates year-round.

To get on the list, just send us an email at MitchellLakeAssociation@gmail.com.

Stay involved and help protect Mitchell Lake!

Become a Mitchell Lake supporter

The Mitchell Lake Association is open to anyone who cares about our lake and wants to contribute to its improvement as a habitat and recreational resource. Membership dues are \$50 a year, and your tax-deductible contribution directly supports a variety of efforts to protect and enhance Mitchell Lake for the enjoyment of all.

Join or renew now



- **Online:** Scan the QR code or visit MitchellLake.org.

- **By mail:** Fill out and return the form below.



A thank-you gift for automatic renewers

If you join or renew online, you have the option to become an auto-renewing member - and if you choose this option, you'll receive a set of Mitchell Lake coasters as a token of our appreciation.

(While supplies last)

Set your account to auto-renew and get a set of four Mitchell Lake coasters as a thank-you!

About Mitchell Lake Association

Founded in 2006 as Eden Prairie's first lake association, the Mitchell Lake Association (MLA) is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving Mitchell Lake's water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational use.

We educate residents, advocate for lake conservation, and collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure a healthy future for our lake.

Board members for 2025

- Erik Hansen, President
- Breann Bundgaard, Vice President
- Cheri Nehl, Secretary
- Brian Haugen, Treasurer
- Cheryl Harjes
- Jon Hanke
- Mark Friesen
- Mark Haugen
- Zach Fetzer

2025 MLA mail-in membership form		Options	I am including:	
Name: _____		One-year membership \$50 for the calendar year	\$	
Address: _____ _____			Additional donation for: <input type="checkbox"/> Fish stocking <input type="checkbox"/> Additional contributions (for key MLA objectives such as weed management and shoreline restoration)	\$
Phone: _____				
Email: _____				
Date paid: _____	<i>Please send your tax-deductible donation to:</i>	Mitchell Lake Association c/o Brian Haugen 8003 Island Road Eden Prairie, MN 55347	Total \$	