

Mitchell Lake Association Annual Newsletter 2026

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MLA's 20th year: Off to a sunny start

As the Mitchell Lake Association marks its 20th anniversary in 2026, the year is shaping up to be outstanding in many ways.

Thanks to your commitment, we achieved **63% participation in the Lake Pledge program**, earning **\$5,000 in grant funding** to help protect and improve our lake. Your strong participation reflects the shared dedication to preserving Mitchell Lake.



2025 Photo Contest first-place winner
(Pauline Sly)

Encouragingly, **Mitchell Lake's water quality grade improved from a D to a C** this past year. While there is more work ahead, this progress shows that our collective efforts are making a real difference.

This summer, we enjoyed an excellent turnout at our **Summer Social**, where the Minnesota DNR's *Fishing in the Neighborhood (FIN)* program was a huge hit. Events like these bring neighbors together and help foster the next generation of lake stewards.

The **Miller Park Restoration initiative** has made meaningful progress through a strong partnership between the City of Eden Prairie, Friends of Eden Prairie Parks, the MLA, and our dedicated volunteers. Together, these efforts advanced removal of invasive species, native habitat restoration, and improved shoreline health, with additional work planned this year.

We are also excited to share that the **Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District has begun developing a holistic watershed and lake management plan** using a "systems approach" that will guide lake management for years to come. This effort looks at the many natural and built factors that influence lake health, such as wetlands, stormwater systems, and surrounding land use. The first meeting was held on February 26, with additional meetings planned to identify future projects and priorities. The MLA will stay actively involved to ensure Mitchell Lake's needs are represented.

This spring, our **Spring Cleanup Day will be held earlier to align with the city's Park Cleanup Day on April 11**, and we will continue promoting **lakeshore restoration projects**, tree plantings, and rebates for weed harvesting.

Mitchell Lake is a special place, and its future depends on all of us. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Erik Hansen

President, Mitchell Lake Association



2026 Calendar

Jan. 31	Annual memberships due (<i>see back</i>)
April 11	Spring Cleanup Day (<i>see below</i>)
May 30	Goose complaints due (<i>see page 2</i>)
June 25	Summer Social (<i>Rain date: July 9</i>)
July 15-31	Weed harvest rebate program (<i>see page 2</i>)
Sept. 15	Photo contest entries due (<i>see page 2</i>)
Oct. 8	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 our 20th annual cleanup day on **Saturday, April 11** (concurrent with Eden Prairie's Park Cleanup Day).

- **Head to the Miller Park playground parking lot.**
We'll have a picnic table set up nearby.
- **Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.**
Come early for donuts, coffee, and conversation!
- **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!**

Have a great lake photo? Share it!

 **2026 Contest now open!**

Capture the beauty of the lake and submit your entries by Sept. 15.

- Email: MitchellLakeAssociation@gmail.com

- Include: Name, photo title, and description.



Congratulations to our 2025 winners:

 1st Place: Pauline Sly (\$50 gift certificate)

 2nd Place: John Tyler (\$25 gift certificate)

View all the stunning 2025 entries at mitchelllake.org.



2025 Photo Contest second-place winner (John Tyler)

Goose management: Mark your calendars

Is your lakefront property being overrun by geese? Individual homeowners can request goose removal through the City of Eden Prairie, but **applications are only accepted from May 15th to May 30th.**



Don't miss the deadline! Scan the QR code or search "goose management" at EdenPrairie.org to file your complaint.

Aquatic plant control plan for 2026

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

Spring 2026 - RPBCWD will apply herbicide treatments.

July 2026 - 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.

LAKE PLEDGE UPDATE

\$5,000 secured for Mitchell Lake!

A huge thank you to everyone who took the Lake Pledge! Your support moved our participation from 10% to 63%, securing \$5,000 from Hennepin County for our 2026 conservation projects and earning us third place county-wide.

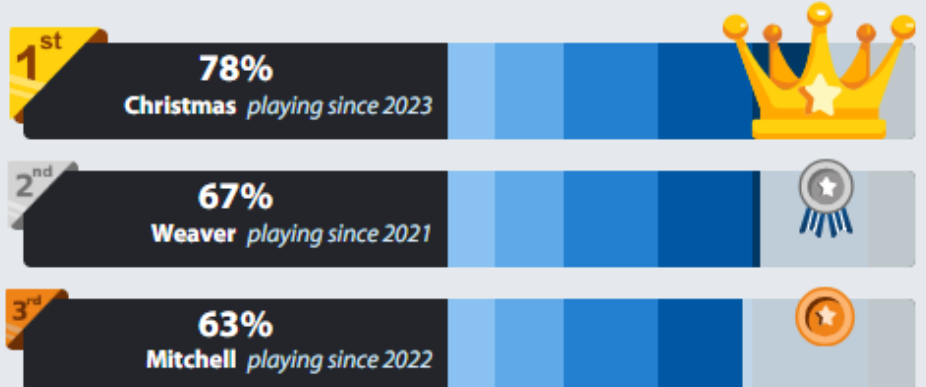
HOA Winners: Congrats to Timber Lakes and Villas of Mitchell Lake! Each HOA earned \$500 for shoreline restoration by recruiting 10+ new pledges.

Join Us! It's not too late to help protect our waters from invasive species.



 Take the pledge: LakePledge.com

Lake Leaderboard



Consider adding a lakeshore buffer to your property

Do your part to protect and enhance the water quality of **Mitchell Lake** by installing a lakeshore buffer and joining the growing network of **15 successful shoreline restoration projects already completed** around the lake.

The **Mitchell Lake Association (MLA)**, **City of Eden Prairie**, and the **Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD)** are partnering to provide **financial incentives, technical guidance, and project planning support** for lakeshore restoration projects of all sizes.

Benefits of a lakeshore buffer

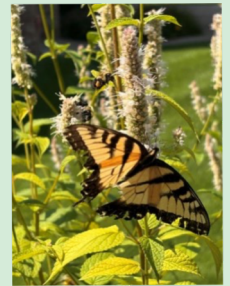
- **Improved water quality** by filtering nutrients, sediment, and pollutants from runoff
- **Enhanced shoreline beauty** with diverse, flowing native plants and natural landscaping
- **Increased biodiversity**, supporting birds, pollinators, and aquatic life critical to a healthy lake ecosystem



In 2026, the MLA is excited to announce that it will increase its contribution to qualifying lakeshore buffers to \$500! This is a limited-time offer funded by money earned through the Lake Pledge program and will be offered on a first come/first served basis to the first 10 approved lakeshore buffers on Mitchell Lake.

Learn more about lakeshore buffers, available rebates, and personalized project assistance from the MLA. Whether your project is large or small, expert support is available to help you get started.

Take the first step! Drop us a line at MitchellLakeAssociation@gmail.com.



Miller Park restoration update: 2025 progress and next steps



The Miller Park Restoration initiative made significant and exciting progress in 2025. Over the course of the year, more than **2,000 native plants**—including shrubs and plugs—were installed, and approximately **five acres of invasive buckthorn** were removed and restored with native seed. These efforts encompassed roughly **2,100 feet of lakeshore**, marking a major step forward in habitat and shoreline restoration.

This success was made possible through a strong collaborative partnership among the **City of Eden Prairie**, **Friends of Eden Prairie Parks** (friendsofeparks.org), and dedicated volunteers from **Winnebago Industries**, **The Home Depot**, and the **Mitchell Lake Association**. Their collective

commitment and hard work were instrumental to our success.

Looking ahead to 2026, restoration efforts will continue with **garlic mustard removal and additional native plantings in the spring**, followed by **continued buckthorn removal and native seeding in the fall**. Volunteer opportunities will be announced in the coming months.

Together, these efforts are making a meaningful impact—improving the water quality of **Mitchell Lake** and restoring vital habitat to support greater biodiversity. Stay tuned as this important work continues.






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 2026

- 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 \$