

Mitchell Lake Association

20 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP · 2006 – 2026

Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2026





2026 Annual Meeting Agenda



- Welcome
- MLA Background
- 2026 Year in Review
- Member Survey Results
- Guest Speakers
- Business Meeting
- Mitchell Lake History
- Photo Contest Results
- Wrap up

MLA Board Members

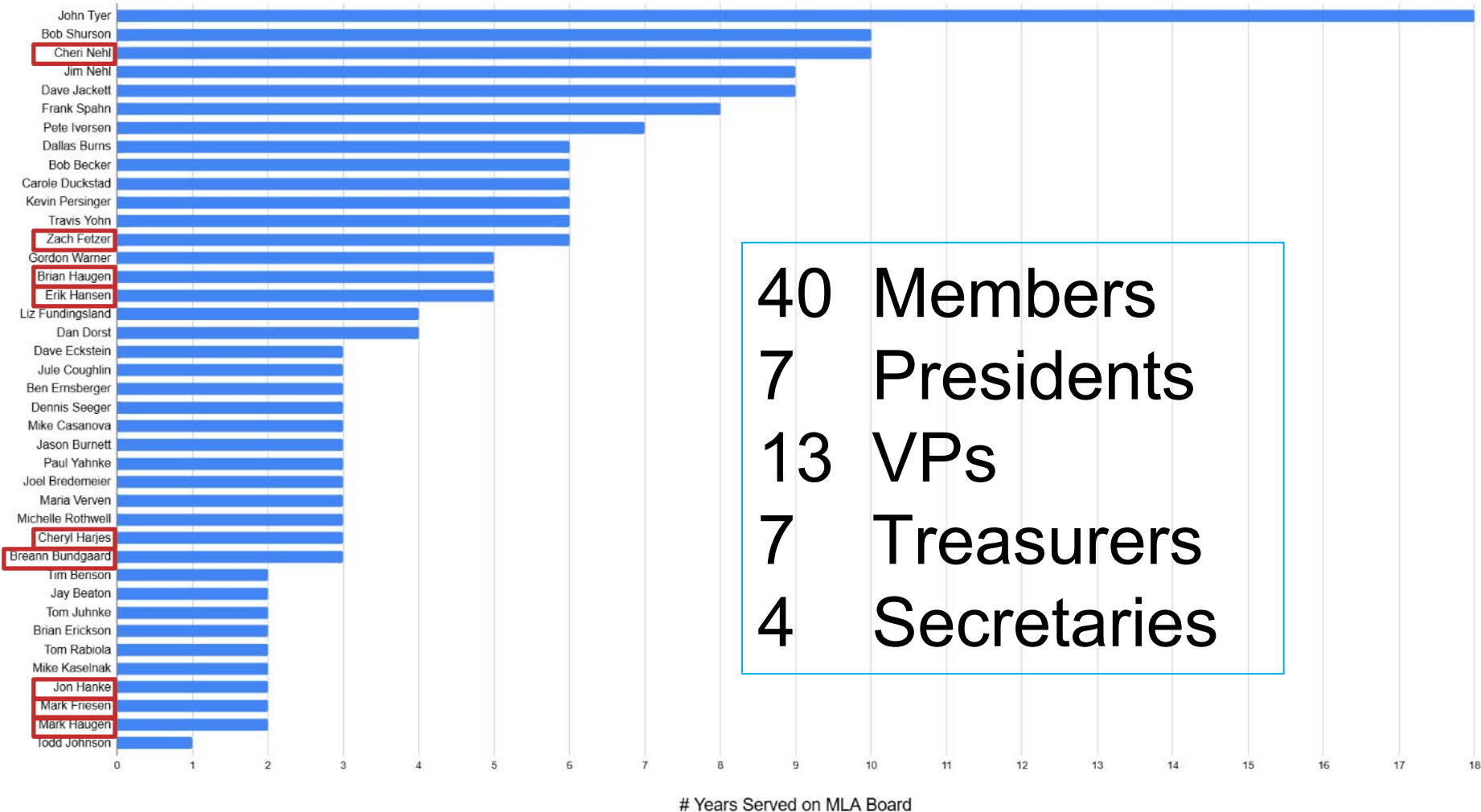


- Erik Hansen, President
- Breann Bundgaard, Vice President (Term expiring – Not renewing)
- Brian Haugen, Treasurer
- Cheri Nehl, Secretary
- Mark Friesen
- Jon Hanke
- Cheryl Harjes (Term expiring – Not renewing)
- Mark Haugen
- Zach Fetzer

MLA Board – Over the Last 20 Years



MLA Board Members over Past 20 Years (40 Different Board Members/185 Years of Service)



40 Members
7 Presidents
13 VPs
7 Treasurers
4 Secretaries

MLA Background

Formed in 2006

First lake association in Eden Prairie

PURPOSE



Lake Quality & Preservation

Maintain, protect and improve the water quality, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat and recreational capacity of Mitchell Lake



Community Outreach

Educate shoreline owners and the public about the condition and protection of Mitchell Lake



Agency Engagement

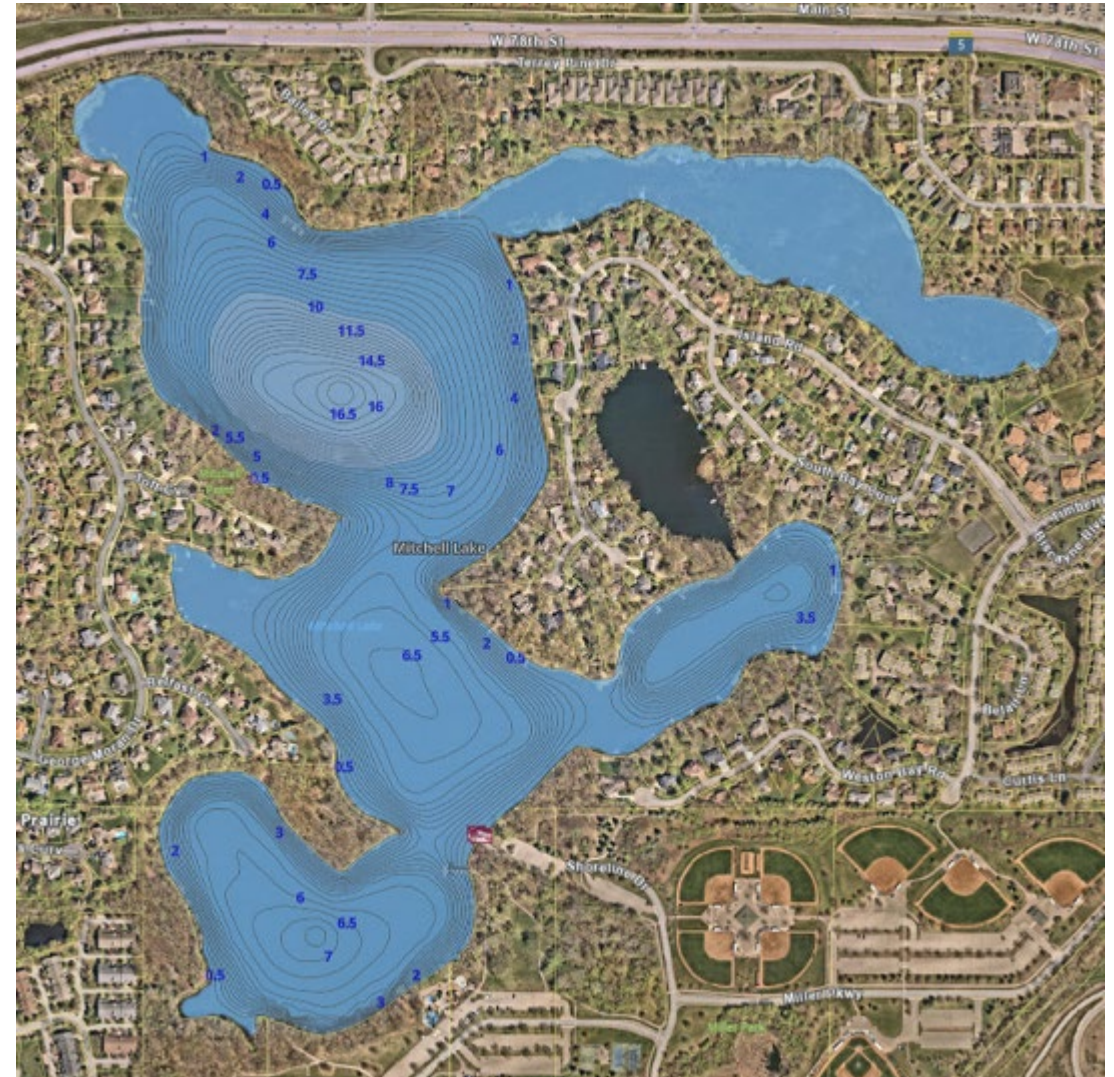
Provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state and local agencies for improving the quality of Mitchell Lake



Photo Source: Jon Hanke

Mitchell Lake Overview

- **Lake size:** 114 acres
- **Littoral Area:** 109 acres
- **Shore Length:** 4.1 Miles
- **Watershed size:** 937 acres
- **Average depth:** 5.3 feet
- **Maximum depth:** 19 feet
- **DNR Shoreland classification:** Natural Environment
- **MPCA classification:** Shallow lake (average depth less than 15 feet)
- **MPCA Impaired Waters status:** Delisted for nutrients in 2018
- **Invasive species:** Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curlyleaf Pondweed, Brittle Naiad, Purple Loosestrife



20 Years of Progress



HISTORICAL MILESTONES

2006

MLA founded — the first lake association in Eden Prairie

2007

First annual lakeshore cleanup event

2018

Mitchell Lake removed from the state Impaired Waters List

2026

20 years of member-led lake stewardship

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



20

lakeshore cleanups



15+

shoreline restorations



200+

trees planted



3,000+

fish stocked

Beyond the Milestones



LAKE HEALTH

Aquatic Plants

Worked with the City of Eden Prairie and the Watershed District on herbicide treatment and harvesting.

Lake Monitoring

Tracked water quality and invasive species year over year.

Goose Management

Communicated the annual goose removal process to residents.

PARTNERS & COMMUNITY

Partnerships

Established quarterly meetings with the MLA board, the City of Eden Prairie, and the Watershed District.

Community Building

Strengthened the lake community through education and community events.



Photo Source: Erik Hansen

MLA Year in Review

20 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP · 2006 – 2026



20th Annual Lake Clean-up Event

EVENT DATE

April 11, 2026

EP City Cleanup Day

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteer Hospitality

MLA provided coffee and donuts to kick off the morning and support local volunteers.

Focused Action

More focused cleanup efforts along Highway 5 to target high-priority roadside areas.



20th ANNUAL CLEANUP

Dedicated to keeping
Mitchell Lake &
surrounding areas clean.

MLA Summer Social

EVENT DATE

June 25, 2026

Annual Community Gathering & Activities

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MLA Cookout

Delicious cookout provided by the MLA including hamburgers & brats.

DNR Fishing In the Neighborhood

FIN was back with engaging fishing activities for kids and local families.

Native Plant Giveaways

Free native plant giveaways distributed to promote environmental stewardship.



Aquatic Plant Management

MITCHELL LAKE AQUATIC PLANTS

- 11+ Native Plant Species, including: Coontail
- Plus invasive species including: Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Brittle Naiad

2026 CONTROL EFFORTS

Target	Method	Actions	Funded By
Curly-leaf Pondweed	Herbicide Application	12.94 acres treated in May 2026	RPBCWD
Navigation paths	Mechanical Harvesting	63,000 lbs harvested in July 2026	City of EP
Private Shoreline	Mechanical Harvesting	15 private shorelines harvested in 2026	Homeowners • MLA issued 7 \$100 rebates.
Eurasian Watermilfoil	Herbicide Application	3.36 acres treated in August 2026	RPBCWD



Highway 5 Tree Planting

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Natural Noise & Visual Barrier

- **Over 200 native trees** planted over last 20 years
- **Ten additional trees** planted and buckthorn removed in 2026

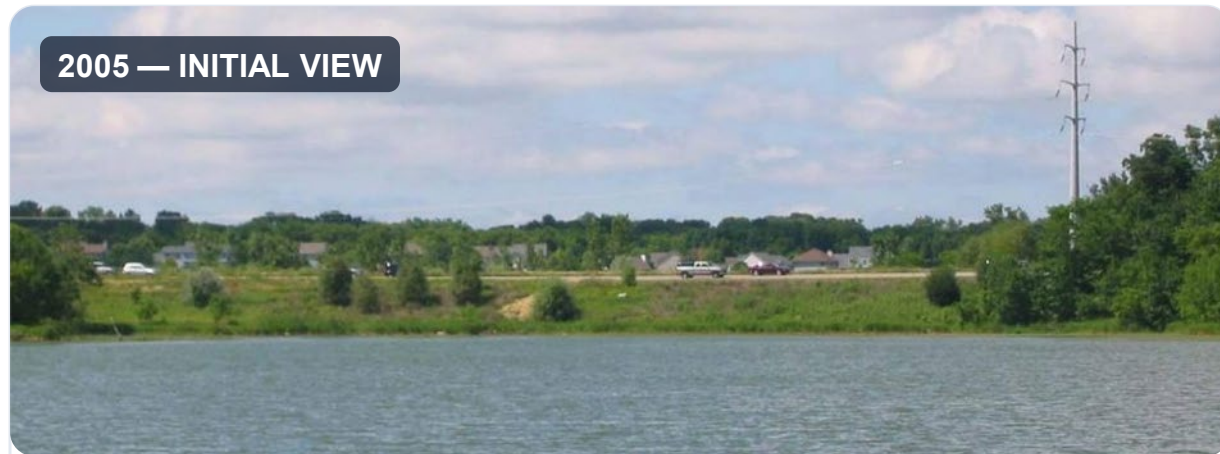
2025



2005 — Volunteer Planting Day

Neighbors plant the first trees along Highway 5
Shared interest in the lake sparked the founding of the MLA

2005 — INITIAL VIEW



Highway 5 corridor prior to full buffer maturation

2025 — 20 YEARS OF GROWTH



Dense, fully grown natural tree barrier

Invasive Species: Stop the Spread

VOLUNTEER MONITORING

Adopt-a-Dock

(4) Mitchell Lake Volunteers inspected for Zebra Mussels in 2026

PREVENTION STATION

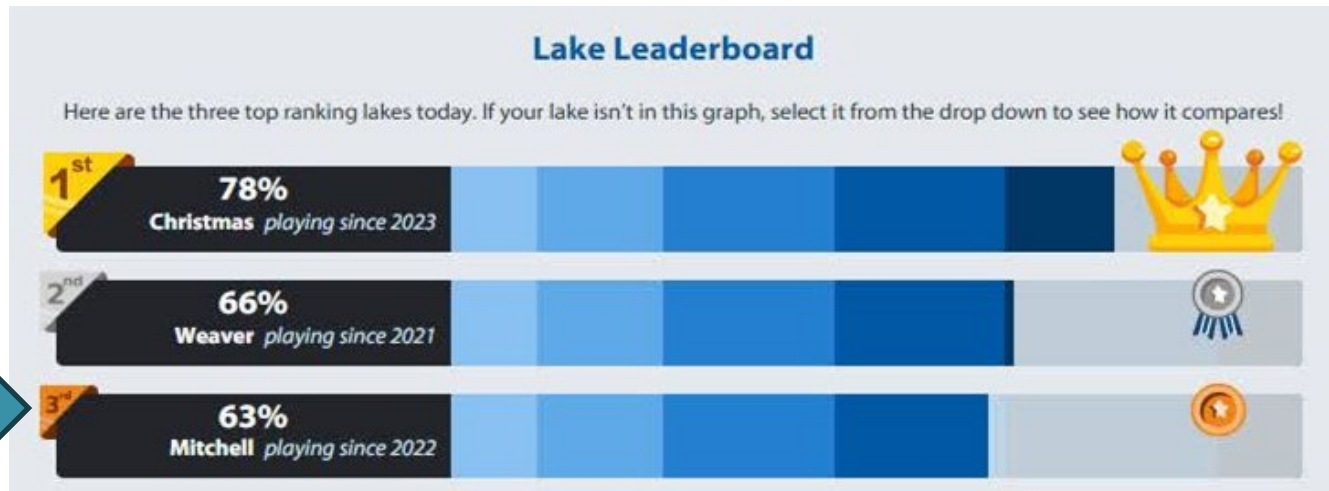
Boat Inspection & Cleaning Station

Available at Boat Launch – Remember to use it!

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Lake Pledge Challenge – Educational Program to stop spread of invasive Species

- **60%+ participation** earned MLA the full \$5K Hennepin Co. award. **Thank you!**
- Special thanks to **Timberlake Townhouse Association** and **Villas at Mitchell Lake** for outstanding participation
- Funds will be used to support shoreline restoration projects



TAKE THE PLEDGE

www.lakepledge.com

Help protect Mitchell Lake by taking your pledge today!

Lakeshore Buffers

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Benefits of Native Plant Buffers/ Rain Gardens

- **Capture Pollutants** (natural filtration)
- **Reduce Erosion** (stabilized shorelines)
- **Provide Wildlife Habitat**

LOCAL IMPACT

16

**Mitchell Lake Restoration
Projects Completed**



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funding Opportunities

Source	What	Coverage	Max Amount
RPBC Watershed District	Mini Cost Share Projects	95% of Project Cost	up to \$500
	Standard Cost Share Projects	75% of Project Cost	up to \$5,000
City of Eden Prairie	Landscaping for Water Quality Rebates	80% of Project Cost	up to \$2,000
Mitchell Lake Association	Supplemental Rebate	For approved RPBCWD/EP projects	\$500

Timberlake Townhouse Shoreline Restoration

GOAL: Replace dense buckthorn and ditch lily infestations with native, non-invasive plants.

Summer 2026 results: Two plantings added 2,400 plants across more than 50 varieties, including prairie/savannah, wet-meadow and aquatic emergent plants.

Scope: 300 feet of shoreline and adjacent upland, totaling 14,000 sq ft.

Funding: Grants and in-kind work cover 80% of the \$49,000 project cost.

Planning and partners: Natural Shore Technologies (NST) scoped the restoration during a spring 2025 site visit. NST developed the grant proposal with support from MLA, RPBCWD and Eden Prairie.



MLA Joins Minnesota Lakes & Rivers

STATEWIDE VOICE

One of 300+ member organizations protecting Minnesota waters through advocacy, education, and science.

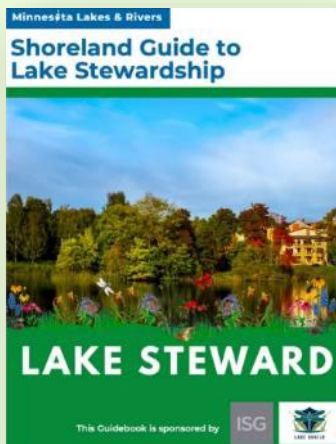
MEMBER RESOURCES

Webinars, monthly newsletters, and web hosting for our members.



FEATURED INITIATIVE

Lake Steward Program



This initiative recognizes property owners who take steps to protect our lake through sustainable shoreline practices.

Are you a Lake Steward:

1. Take the Lake Steward Quiz
2. Schedule a Shoreline Evaluation
 - Get a Lake Steward guidebook
 - Learn about cost-share funding opportunities
3. Earn your Lake Steward Award
 - Qualifying properties receive official Lake Steward recognition sign



Lakeshore Restoration – Miller Park



The City's multi-year shoreline restoration continues

FEBRUARY 2026

Biochar with Winnebago

30

buckthorn piles removed

JUNE 2026

Home Depot + Winnebago

800

native plants + buckthorn removal

FALL 2026

3 Buckthorn Removal Events

Oct 10, 24, Nov 14

Sign up tonight!

2026 volunteer efforts coordinated by Friends of Eden Prairie Parks (FEPP) Miller Park Steward Jim Nehl

The 'Grate' Drain Race (Aug 1- Nov 30, 2026)

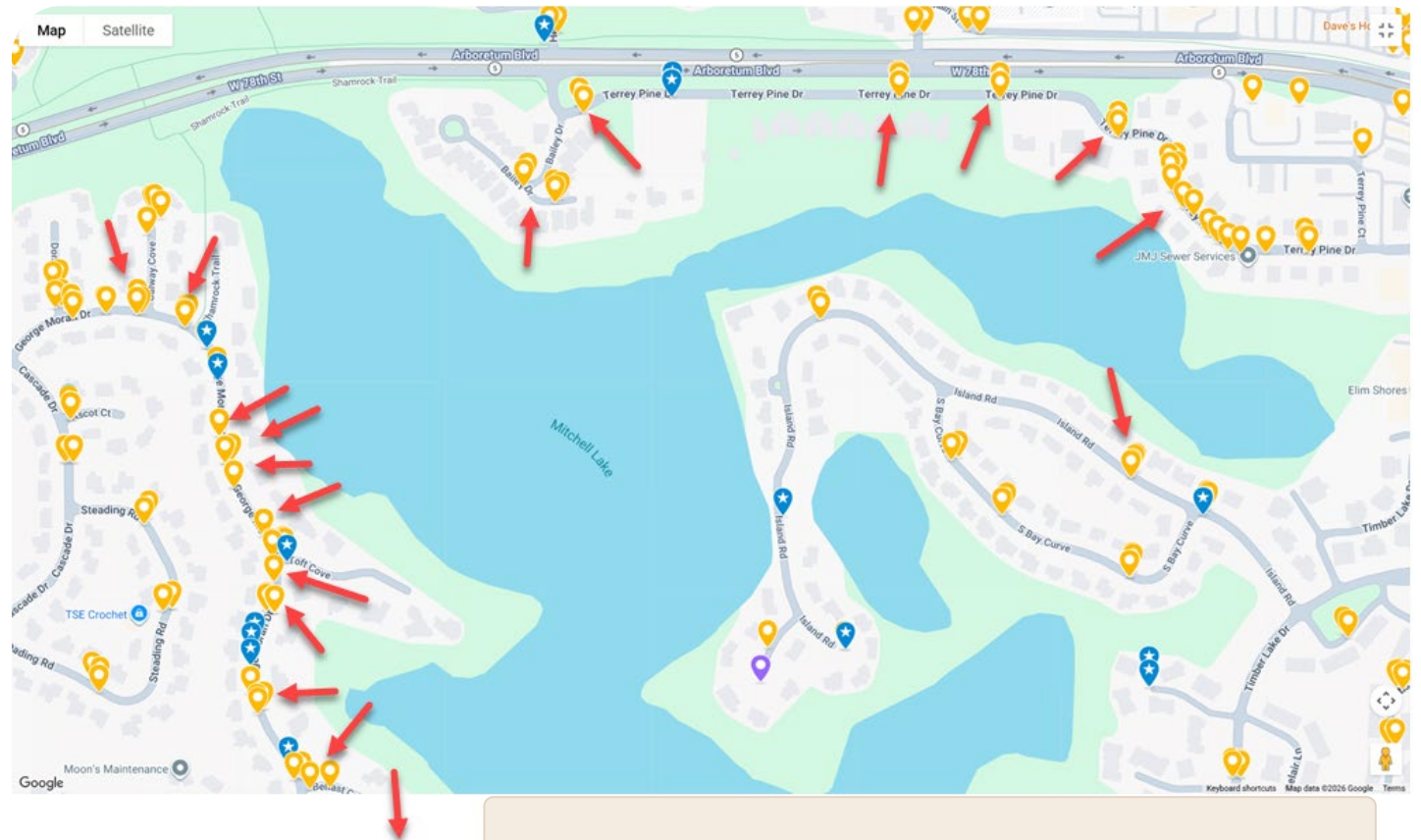
THE CHALLENGE: Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed vs. Nine Mile Creek Watershed competition

TAKE PART:

Use Adopt-a-Drain to adopt a drain. Clear debris twice a month to protect our lake.

SCORING & PRIZES:

Adoptions, cleanings and debris weight determine the winner. Participants can win rain barrels, park passes and memberships.



ADOPT-A-DRAIN.ORG OPPORTUNITIES

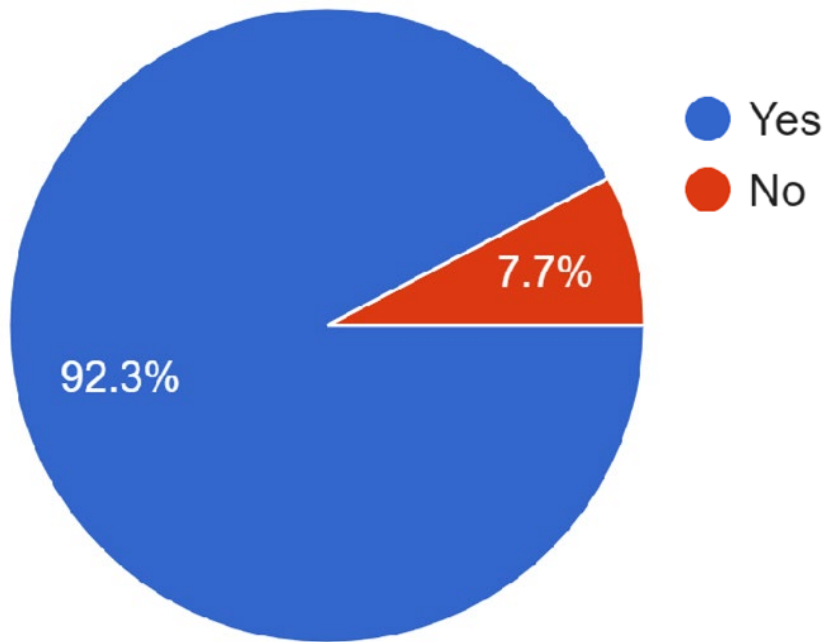
MLA Survey Results

20 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP · 2006 – 2026

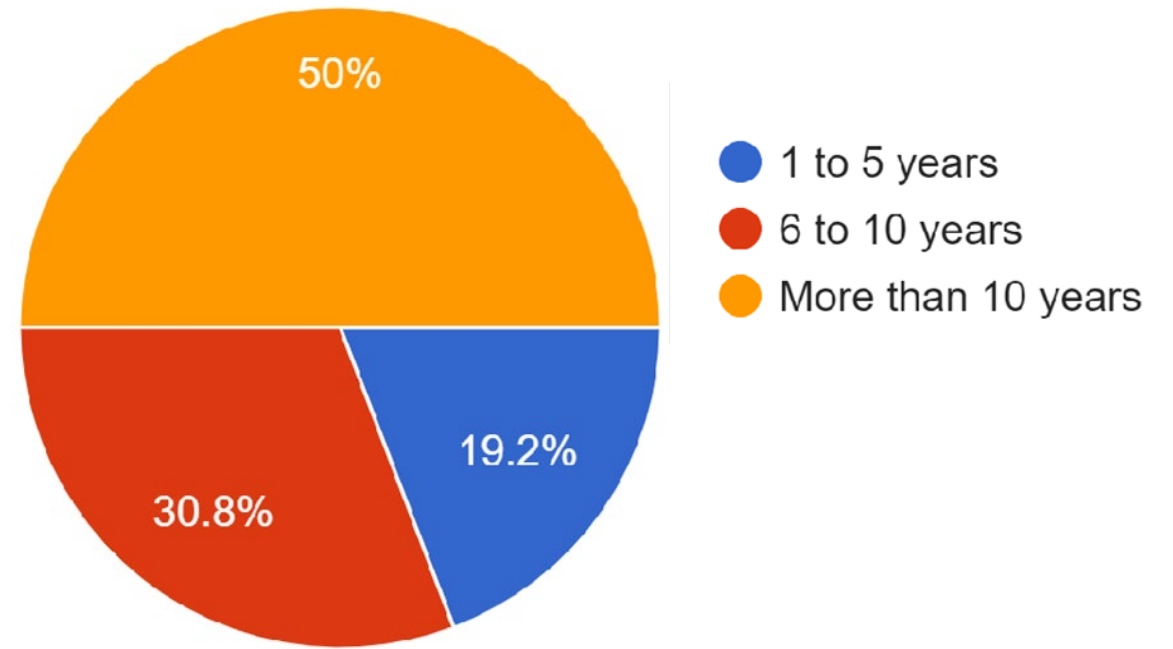


2026 Member Survey (26 responses)

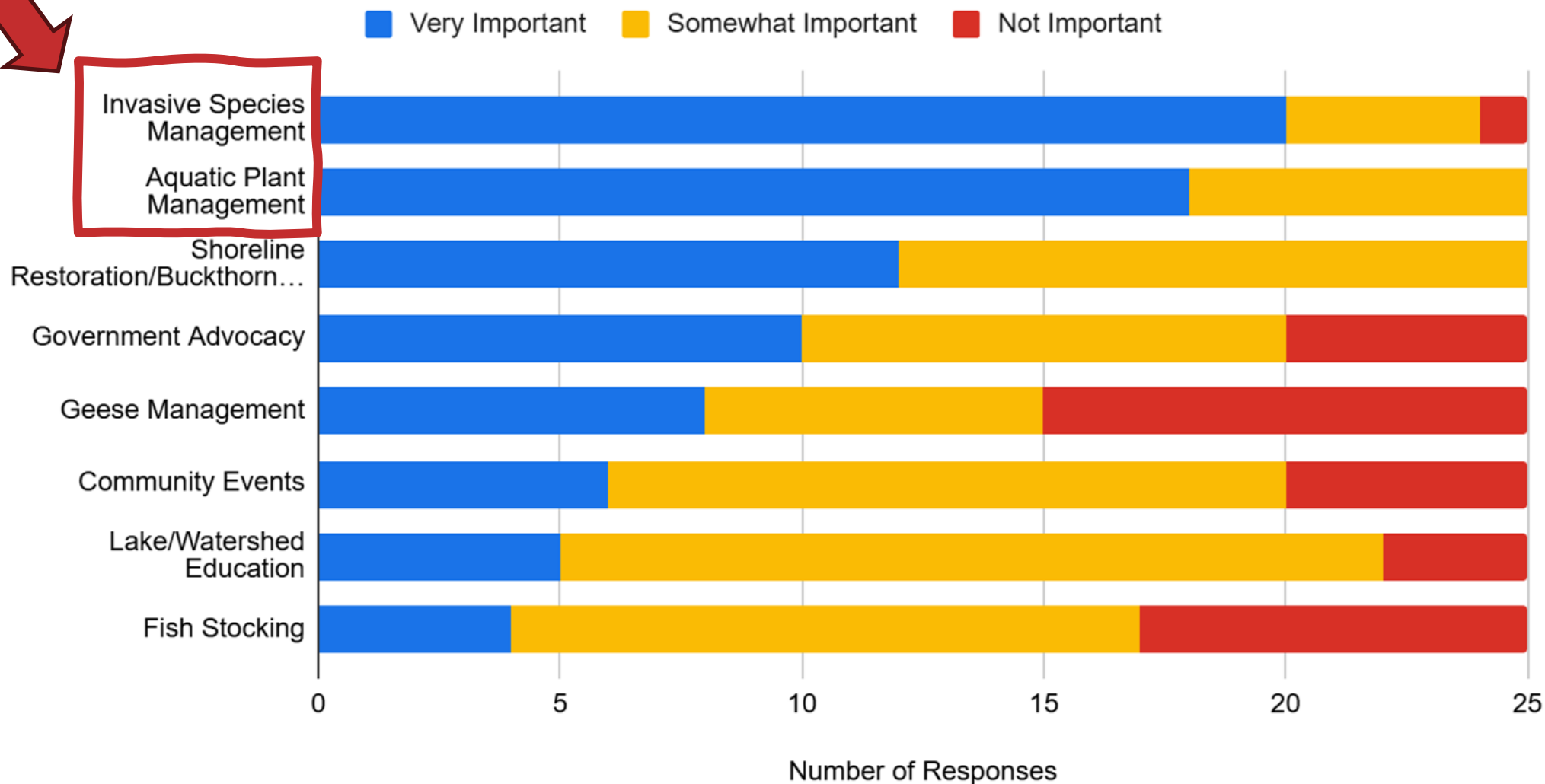
**Are you a member of
Mitchell Lake Association?**



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

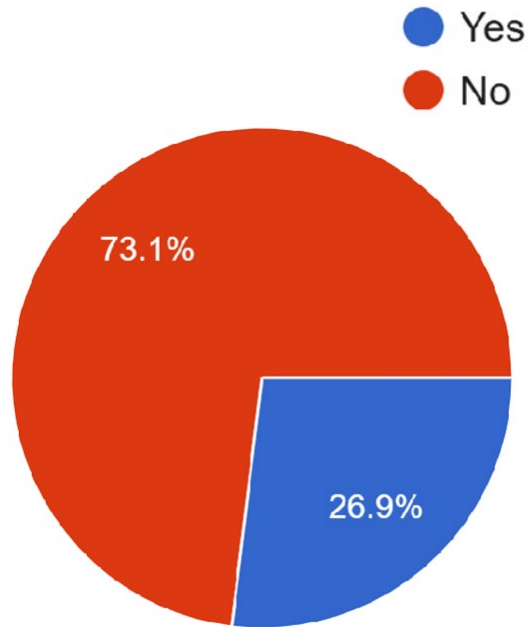


MLA Survey: Focus Area Priorities



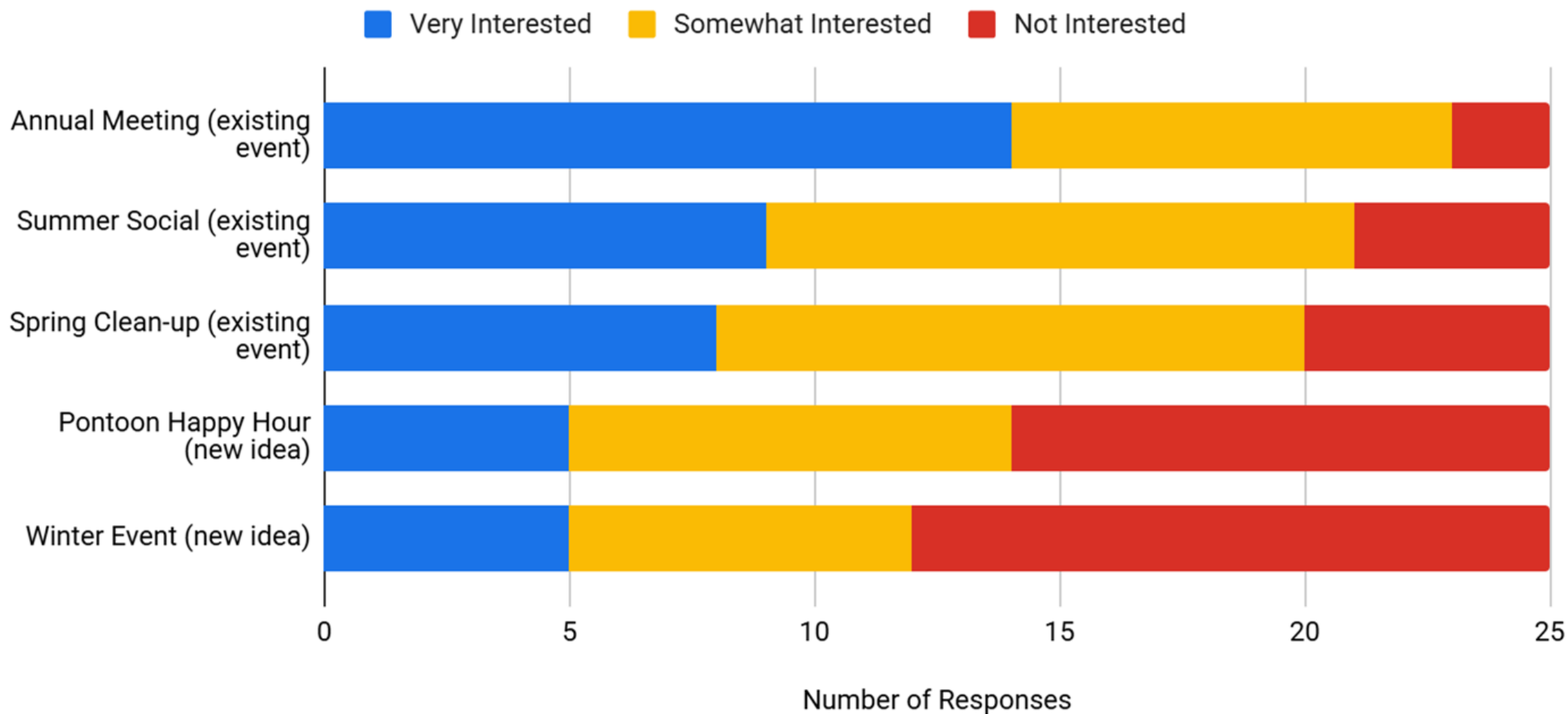
MLA Survey: Aquatic Plant Harvesting

Did you pay for private shoreline harvesting this season?

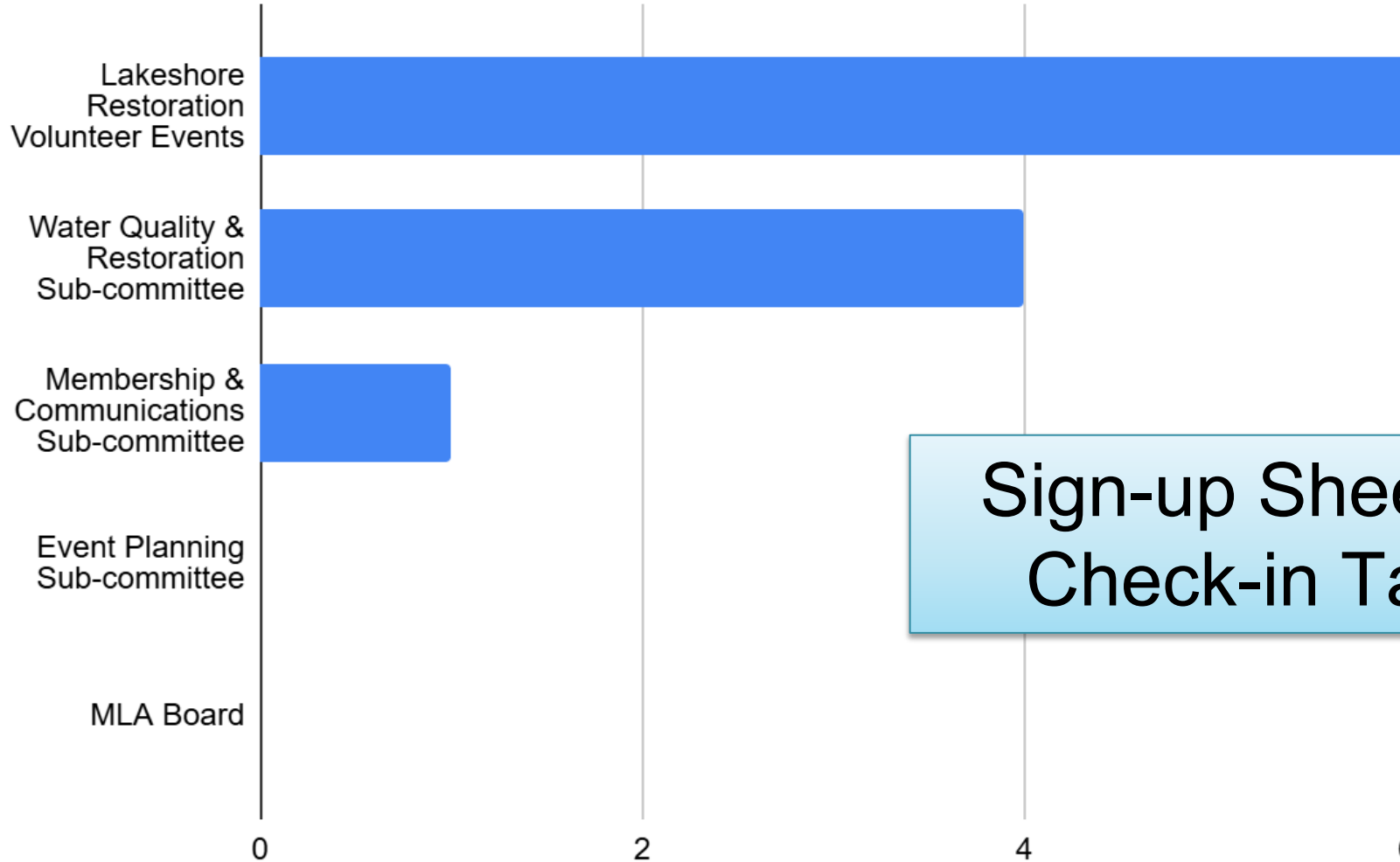


Reason for Not Participating	# Responses
Cost / Too expensive	7
Shoreline did not require harvesting	6
Previous results were not effective	3
Concerned about ecological/environmental impact	2
HOA / Neighborhood restrictions	2
Managed it by myself	1
Do not own boat / use water frequently	1

MLA Survey: Community Event Interest



MLA Survey: Volunteer Interest



Sign-up Sheets at
Check-in Table



Members Prioritize Water Quality and Aquatic Plants

Water Quality

- What programs are available to improve water quality/current water status

Aquatic Plant Management

- Vegetation is turning North Bay from “lake” to “marsh”.
- Weeds seem to be getting significantly worse, what are the options?

Next Up

- City and Watershed partners walk through the science, actions, and homeowner solutions.

Guest Speakers

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Welcome to our Meeting...

GUEST SPEAKER

Lori Haak

City of Eden Prairie

Water Resources Coordinator



GUEST SPEAKER

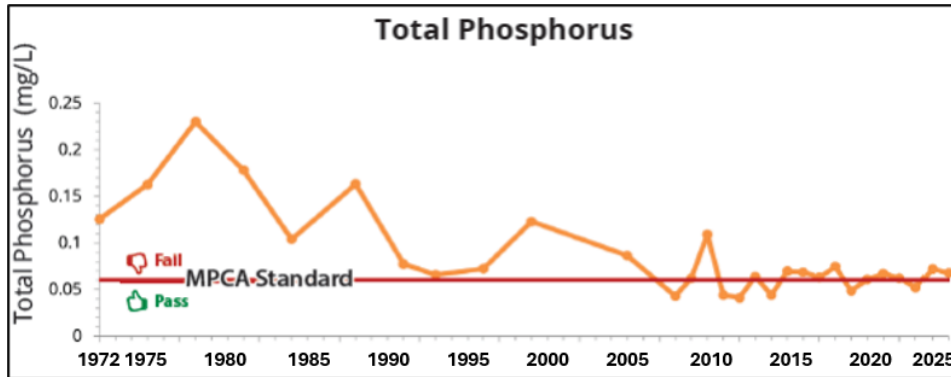
Shauna Capron

RPBC Watershed District

Water Resources Technician



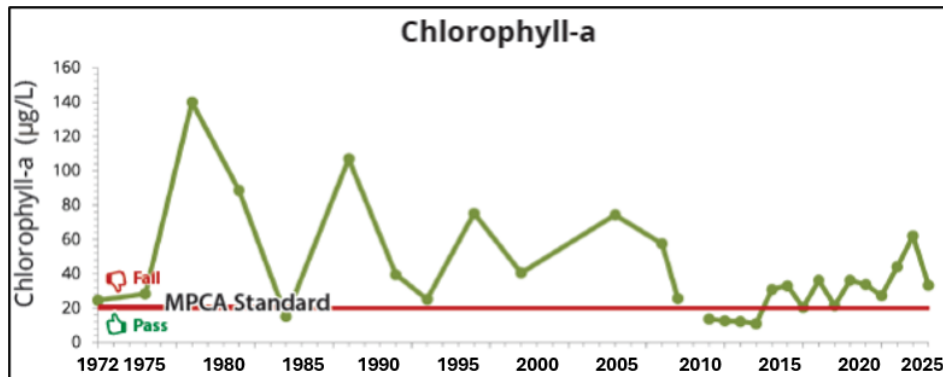
Water Quality 1972-2025 (2026 data still in progress)



Total Phosphorus

A key nutrient plants and algae need to grow.
Too much can cause algae blooms.

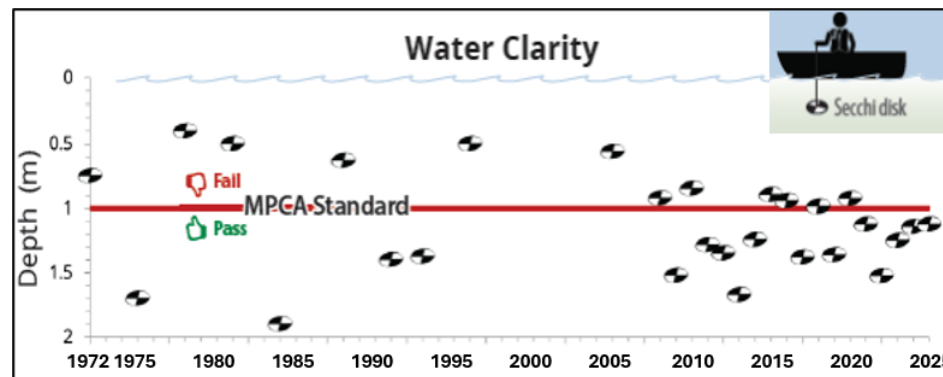
Historically, has failed to meet MPCA standard, but has improved in the last decade.



Chlorophyll-a

Indicates how much algae is growing in the water.

2025 average has improved from previous 2 years

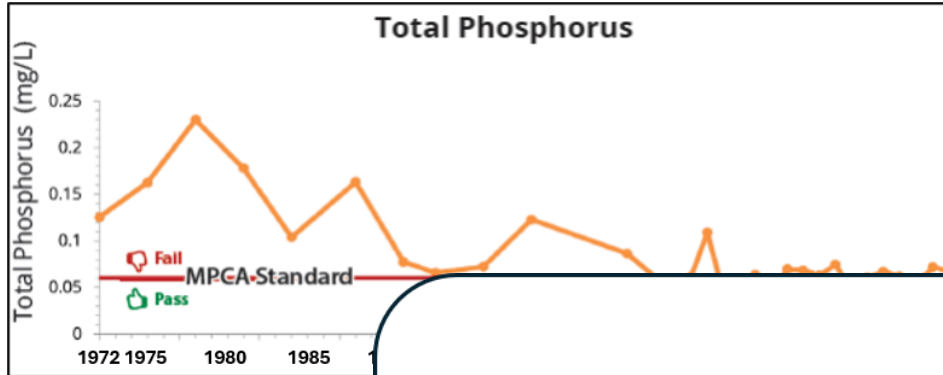


Water Clarity

How deep you can see into the water.

Water clarity has met MPCA standard for a majority of the past 10 years

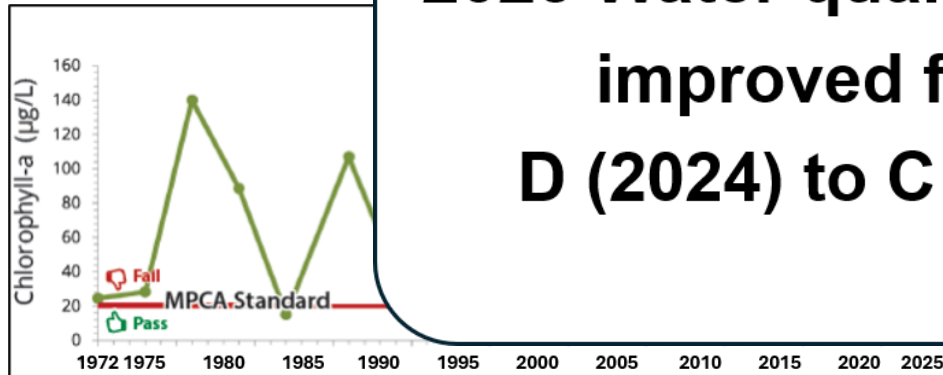
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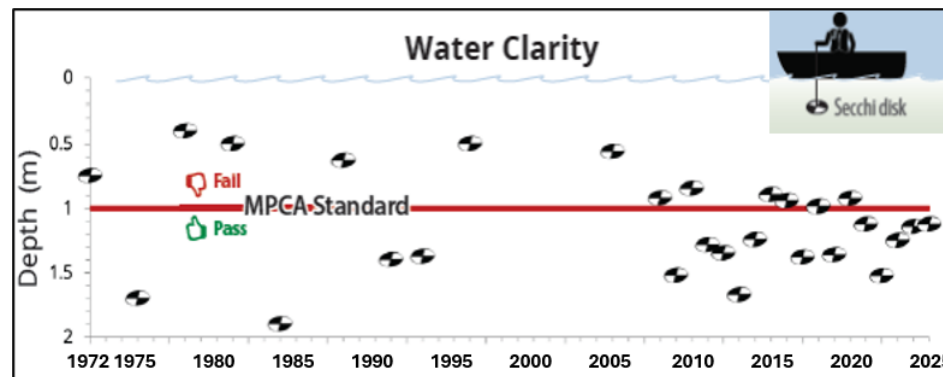
**2025 Water quality grade:
improved from
D (2024) to C (2025)**



rpbcwd.org/grades

e is growing in

previous 2 years



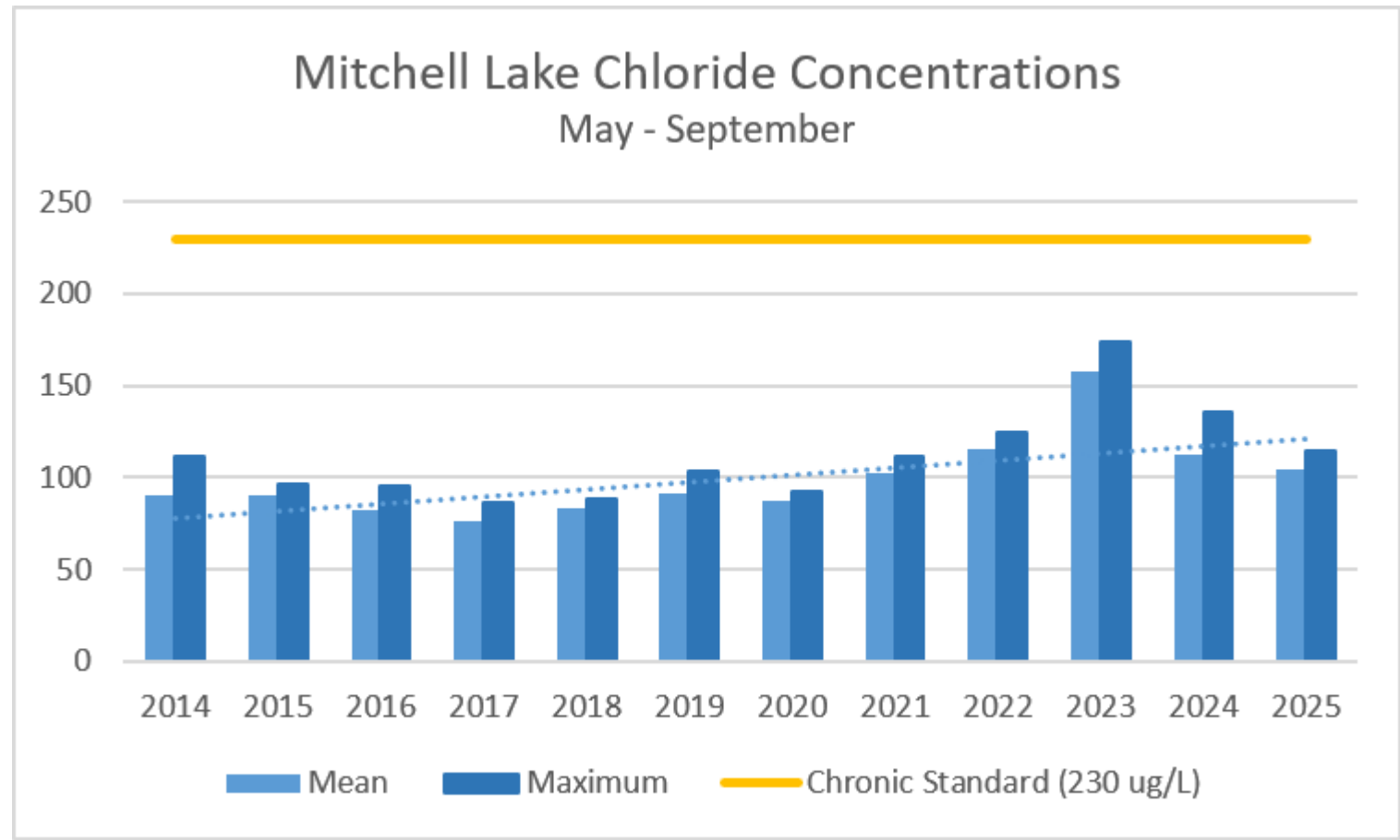
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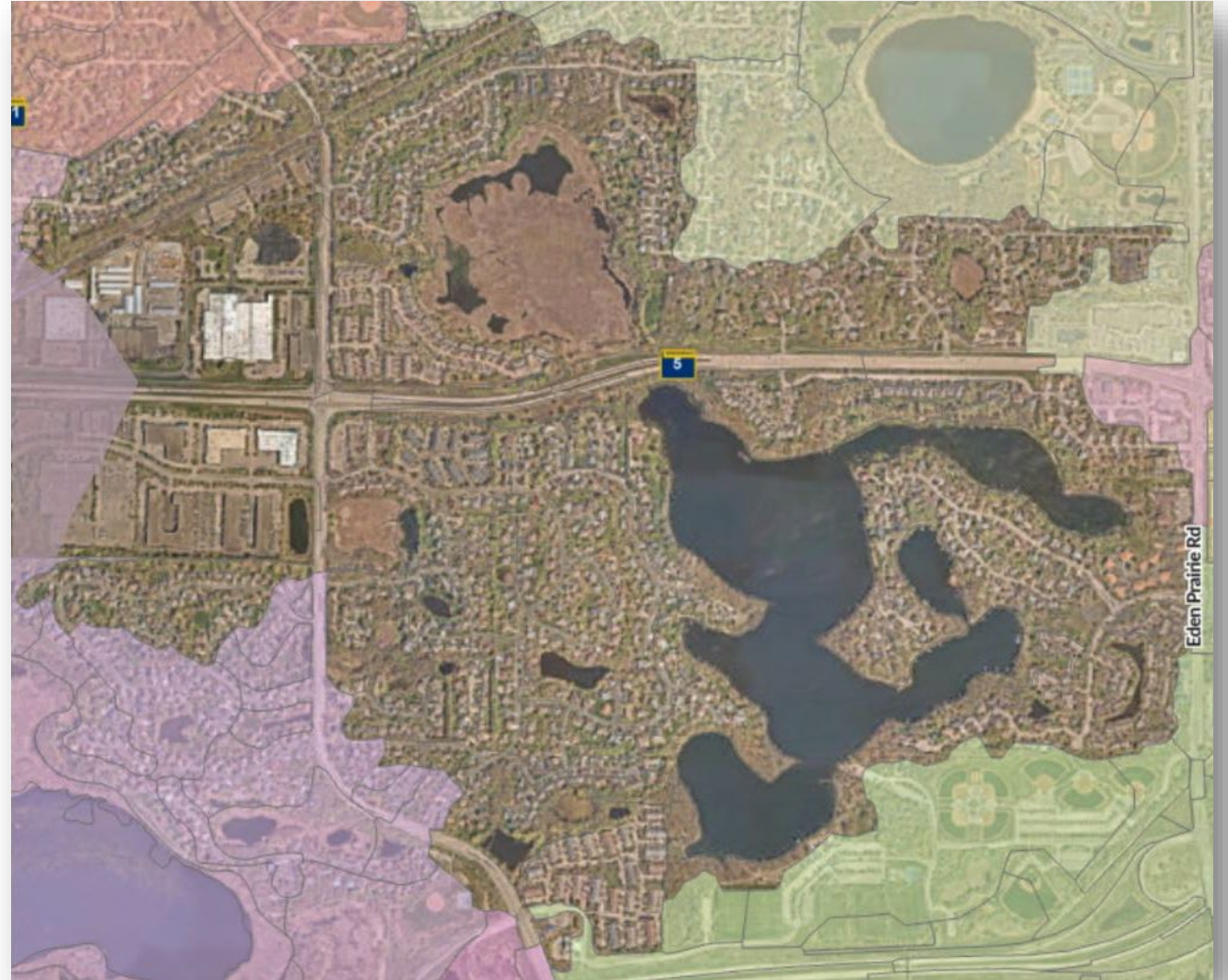
Water Quality – Chlorides

- General upward trend with annual variability based on weather
- Freeze/thaw cycles increasing



Chlorides and Land Use

- Most of lake subwatershed is low density residential
- Individual property owners have an impact: driveways, sidewalks, fertilizers, water softeners
- Talk to local businesses, HOAs, houses of worship, etc.



Why Aquatic Plants Thrive in Mitchell Lake

1 Shallow Lake = Sunlight Reaches Lakebed

Sunlight reaches the lakebed across nearly 100% of the lake, allowing plants to grow across most of the lake.

2 Nutrients Entering from the Watershed

Runoff from a 937-acre watershed funnels fertilizers, herbicides, stormwater, lawn clippings, leaves, and pet waste directly into the lake.

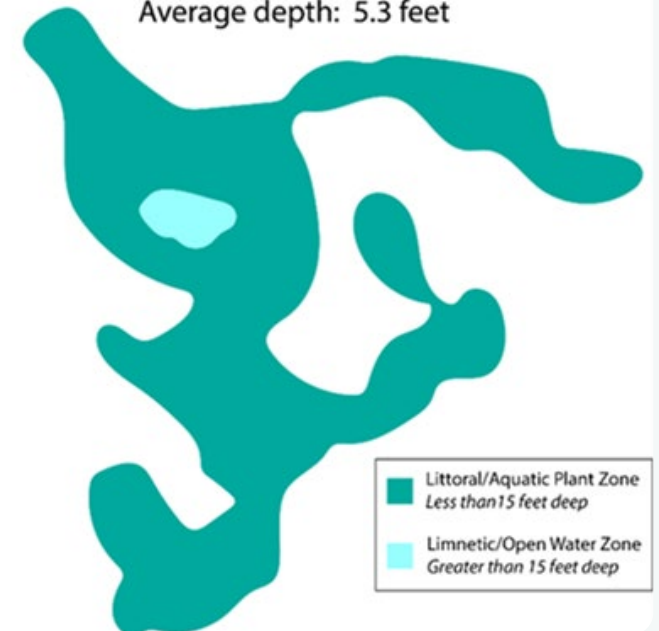
3 Nutrients Recycled Within the Lake

Decaying organic material releases trapped phosphorus, making it available for plant growth. Previously accumulated phosphorus in sediment fuels plant growth.

95%

of the lake is in the littoral zone
(<15 ft deep)

MITCHELL LAKE
Shallow Lake
Average depth: 5.3 feet





Other Factors that Influence Plant Growth

1 Longer Growing Season

The growing season for aquatic plants can be extended if there is reduced snow cover (light goes through ice) or if the ice-cover period is shortened.

2 Clear Water & Sunlight

Clear, early-season water allows sunlight to reach the lakebed (before sediment and algae and reduce water clarity) can initiate early season plant growth.

3 Invasive Plants Emerge Early

Curly-leaf pondweed (which can grow under ice!) and Eurasian watermilfoil emerge early and form dense canopies.

Results in dense surface mats that interfere with recreation by early summer.



Aquatic Plants: Benefits and Challenges

Ecological Benefits of Native Aquatic Plants:

- + Stabilize bottom sediments & reduce erosion
 - + Improve water clarity
- + Take up excess nutrients/ prevent algae blooms
- + Oxygenate the water
- + Provide critical fish and wildlife habitat

Recreational Challenges of Aquatic Plants

- Boat access and other recreation can become restricted due to dense mats of invasive and aggressive native vegetation

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

Preserving healthy native plant community while providing reasonable navigation. Balance on a budget.



Management Options

1 Chemical Treatment of Invasive/Non-Native Plants

RPBCWD treats the maximum allowable area for chemical treatment of invasive species (15% of the littoral zone/16.5 acres) under variance from DNR. Additional chemical treatments are not allowed; could upset lake balance.

2 Mechanical Harvesting of Nuisance Native Plants

City hires mechanical harvester in July to cut access channels; residents can opt in to pay for harvesting at their properties. Additional harvesting could be undertaken by MLA /private property owner with appropriate DNR permits.

This is THE ONLY OPTION for managing native aquatic plants.

3 Discussion with the DNR

DNR Aquatic Plant Management open to pilot project to control native coontail by increasing native plant diversity. MLA would have substantial involvement & must partner with others (RPBCWD). ***Similar pilot projects had mixed results.***



City Management



1 Mechanical Harvesting

Secures DNR permits and contracts commercial harvesters to cut navigation paths through high-traffic channels

2026 Impact:

11 acres harvested in July 2026 to connect docks, bays, and open water.



2 Street Sweeping

Captures leaf litter, seeds, trash and sediment before rain carries phosphorus-rich material to the lake.

Key Benefit:

- Sediment and nutrients are pollutants that are captured from streets where they are relatively easy to access.



3 Water Quality Rebates

Provides financial assistance to property owners installing landscaping to help improve water quality, including shoreline buffers and rain gardens.

Maximum Rebate:

Up to \$2,000 / 80% of pre-tax cost

Watershed Management

Targeted Treatment & Resilience



Targeted Chemical Treatments of Invasive Species

2026 Treatment:
12.94 acres of CLP (May)
3.36 acres of EWM (August)



Delineations & Point-Intercept Surveys

Ongoing monitoring of plant species density, track invasive spread, and support state DNR permits.



Cost-Share Grants

Funding Support:
Up to \$5,000 / 75%

Financial assistance to property owners installing shoreline buffers and other water quality projects.



Questions?

Business Meeting

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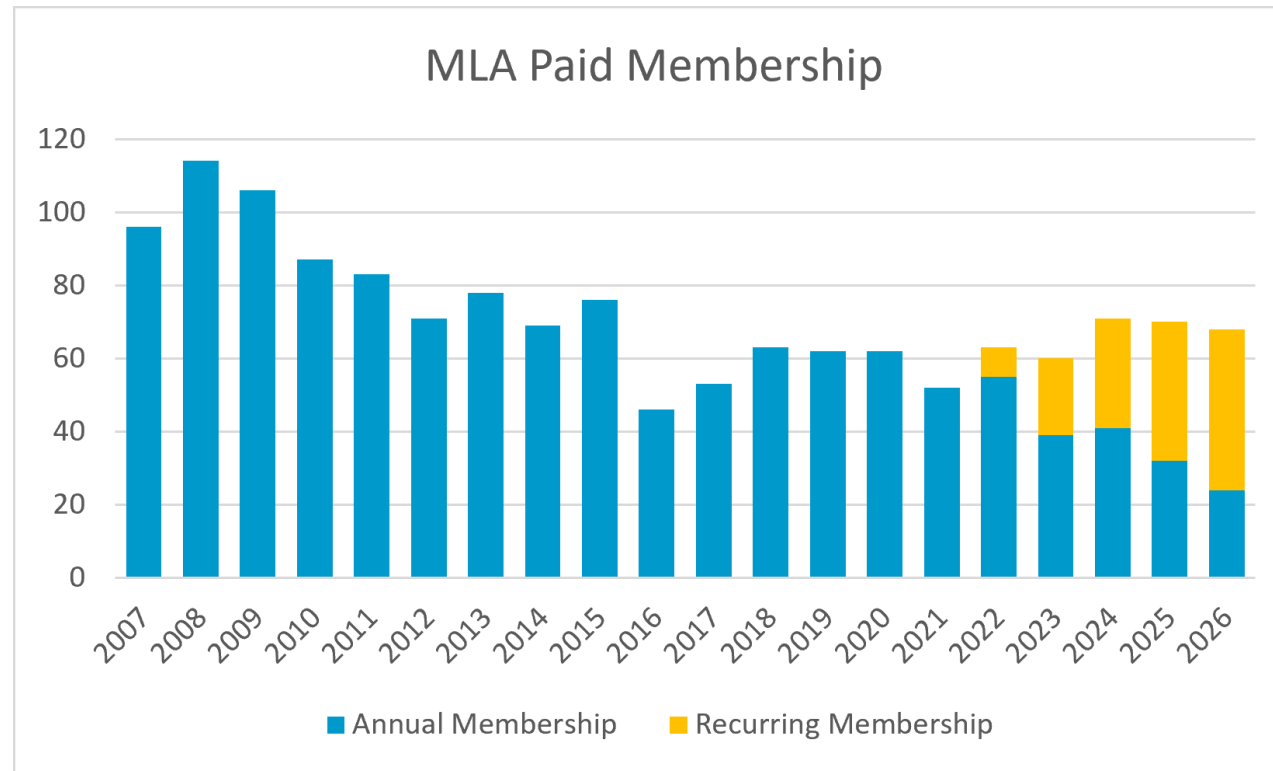
Business Meeting



- 2025 Annual Meeting Recap
 - 44 Attendees
 - Guest Panel: Josh Maxwell (RPBCWD), Liz Forbes (RPBCWD), Lori Haak (EP)
 - Minutes available at the check-in table and posted on <https://mitchelllake.org/>
- Membership Status
- Treasurer's Report
- Elections for open board seats

MLA Membership Status

- 68 current members (including 44 recurring members)
 - Membership dues \$50/year
 - Coasters for new recurring members
 - Welcome packets for new neighbors



Mitchell Lake coasters
still available for new
recurring members

MLA 2026 Financial Statement

Mitchell Lake Association (MLA) Financial Summary September 30, 2026

2026 Annual Membership Dues: \$50.00

MLA Balance Sheet

Checking: Old National Bank	\$ 10,683.08
Paypal	\$ 467.22
MLA Reserve	<u>\$ 11,150.30</u>
Liabilities	0

Total Net Assets	\$ 11,150.30
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Asset Categories

General Fund	\$ 10,609.68
Fish Stocking Fund	\$540.62
Total Net Assets	\$ 11,150.30

*Anticipate dues to
end year \$3K-\$3.6K*

2026 MLA General Fund (Income & Expenses)

Income

Membership Dues	2,544.72
Non-membership Income	75.00
Total Income	\$2,619.72

Expenses

Member Rebates and Program Expenses	\$ 1,700.00
Events (Spring Cleanup/Picnic/Annual Meeting)	\$ 1,124.10
Operating Expenses (Website/Newsletter/Fees)	959.68
Total Association Expenditures	\$ 3,783.78
Net Income General Fund	\$ (1,164.06)

*Includes Timber Lake
Townhomes Association
Native Shoreline Rebate*



MLA Board Opportunities

- Two Open Board Member Positions
 - Breann Bundgaard (Term expiring – Retiring)
 - Cheryl Harjes (Term expiring – Retiring)
- Board Member Commitment
 - Three-year term with 6-8 board meetings/year
 - Support MLA activities
 - Interface with partners (EP/WD District)
 - Great opportunity to get involved and meet your neighbors
- Short on Time? Join an MLA Committee
 - Restoration/Water Quality/Aquatic Plants
 - Community Events
 - Communications/Membership
 - Or volunteer for buckthorn removal/planting events

**Sign-up Sheets at
Check-in Table**



Board Member Election

- New Candidate Introductions
 - **Motivation:** What are your primary reasons for wanting to join the MLA board?
 - **Experience:** Describe your relevant experience and skills that would benefit our efforts.
 - **Goals:** What specific goals or initiatives do you hope to contribute to if elected?
- Vote for 2
 - Voting eligibility: Each address with a paid membership is entitled to one vote



Mitchell Lake History

From Dakota Homeland to Modern Sanctuary
(see separate file)

2026 Photo Contest

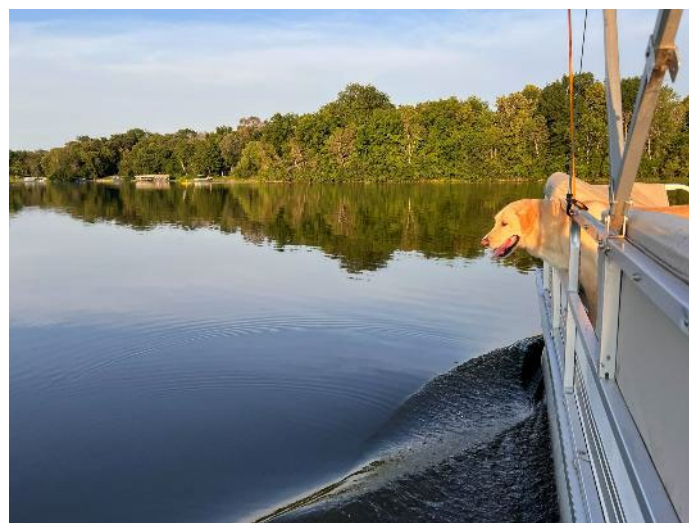
20 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP • 2006 – 2026



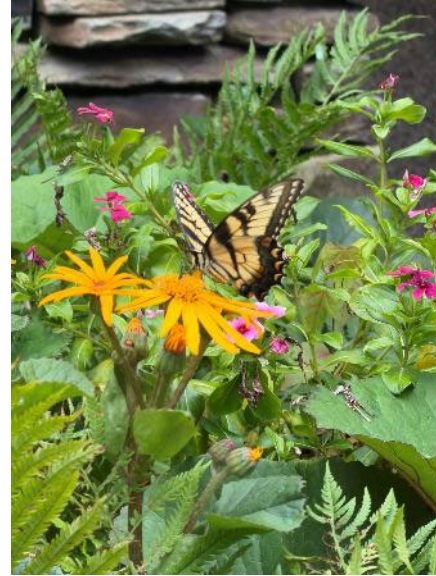
2026 Photo Entries: Capturing Lake Life



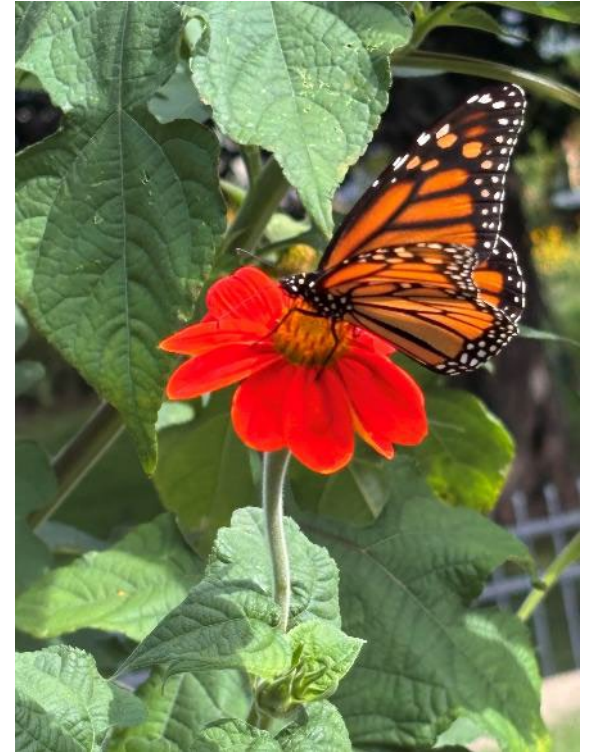
2026 Photo Entries: Docks & Dogs



2026 Photo Entries: Pollinators



2026 Photo Entries: More Pollinators



2026 Photo Entries: Lilies in Bloom



2026 Photo Entries: More Lilies



2026 Photo Entries: Around the Lake



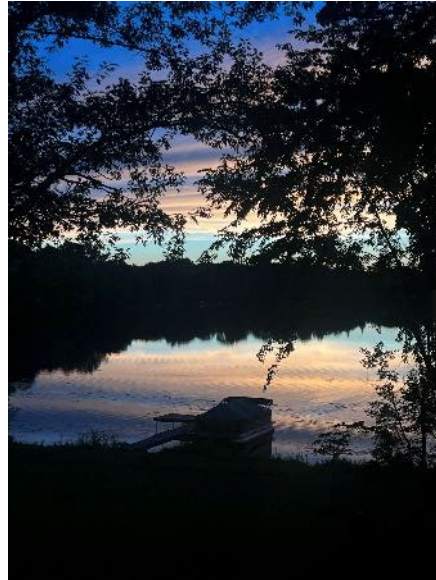
2026 Photo Entries: Oh Deer!



2026 Photo Entries: Birds



2026 Photo Entries: Sunsets on the Lake



2026 Photo Entries: More Lake Sunsets



2026 Photo Entries: Moonlight & Fireworks



2026 Photo Entries: Northern Lights



And the Winners are...

Honorable Mention



Erik Hansen



Eric Hoel

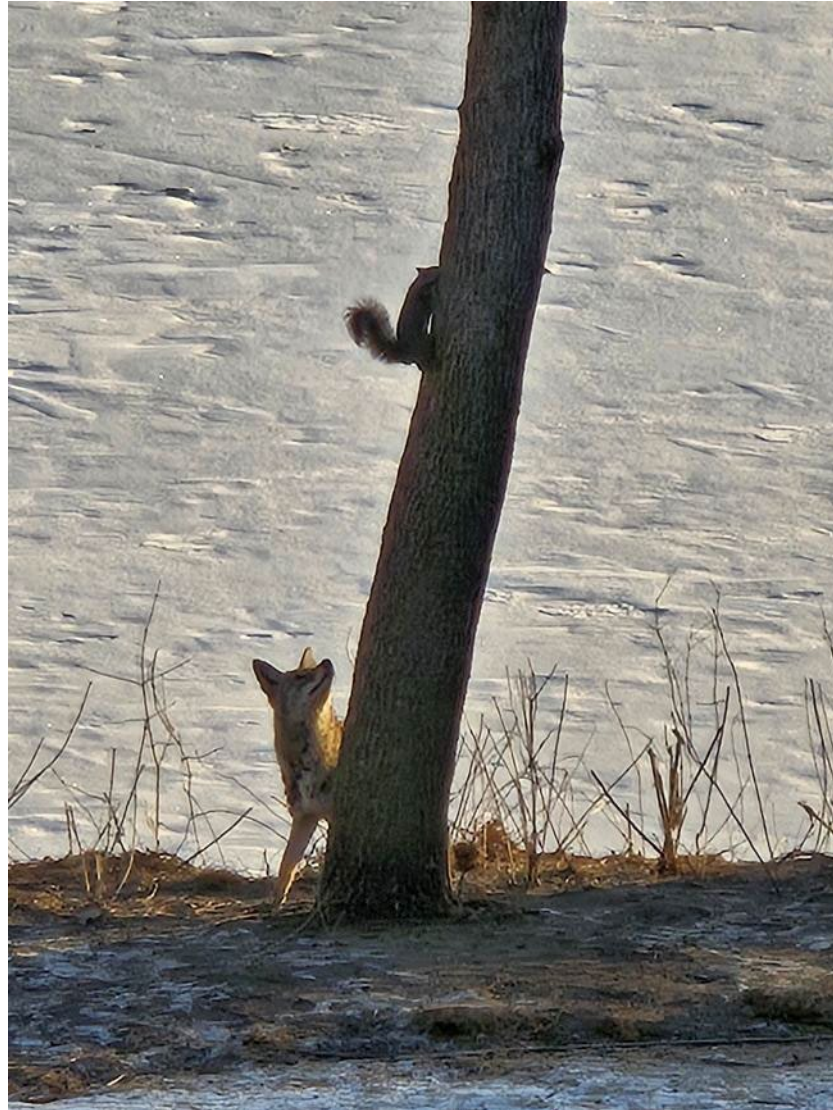


Deb Lind

And the Winners are...

2nd Place

John Tyler



And the Winners are...

1st Place

Elizabeth Maniphanh





Thank You!!!

Our MLA Board

Our Partners

Our Members

Ways to Get Involved!

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