



GREEN LAKE

ASSOCIATION

CHISAGO CITY, MN

2025 GLA Spring Meeting



Introductions

- Jason Houle – President
- Open – Vice President
- Michelle Carlson – Secretary
- Troy Ashton – Treasurer
- Alec & Kelsey Finn – Board Members



GLA Spring Meeting Overview

- **Welcome and Introduction of board members**
- **President's comments**
 - **Recap of 2024**
 - **2024 Lake Treatments and Overview of Lake Treating**
- **2024 - Lake Treatment Overview /**
- **Little Green Fluridone Treatment –What Happened and what is the plan moving forward.**
- **LID – Ben Efeld**
- **Susanna from the County**
- **Finances- Troy Ashton**
- **Events / Clothing - Michelle Carlson / Janae Ashton**
- **Make sure to register and lake dues and donations, payment options**
- **Open positions, volunteer opportunities**
- **Sign up for the Website emails and auto renewal**
- **Public Comment – Questions, comments and/or discussion**
- **Adjourn- social hour**

Little Green Treatment – Updates and Overview

**LOW DOSE
FLURIDONE
PROJECTS:
targeting Eurasian
and hybrid
watermilfoil
in Minnesota**





Ben Elfelt

- *Ben Elfelt, Administrator for the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) since 2022. As an avid outdoorsman and local fishing guide, Ben's passion for protecting freshwater resources and sharing them with others runs deep. His B.A. in Environmental Planning from the University of Wisconsin River Falls and former role as the Parks Director for Polk County, WI, is complimented well by a diverse background in environmental resource and recreational management, community development, and planning – providing Ben with unique perspective on resource management and stewardship.*



CHISAGO LAKES
LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



Benjamin Elfelt
LID Administrator



Monica Kinny
Water Resource
Specialist

Mission:

**Restore, preserve, protect, and
enhance the water resources of the
Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes
Watershed**

Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes

Watershed Goals:



Preserve, protect, and enhance **water quality**.



Maintain the **channel and weir system** to control water levels during high water events. **Protect, encourage, and restore native shorelines** to improve fish and wildlife habitat.



Promote the reduction of non-native **aquatic invasive species**.

Encourage environmentally sound **land use practices** for urban and agricultural areas to protect water quality.

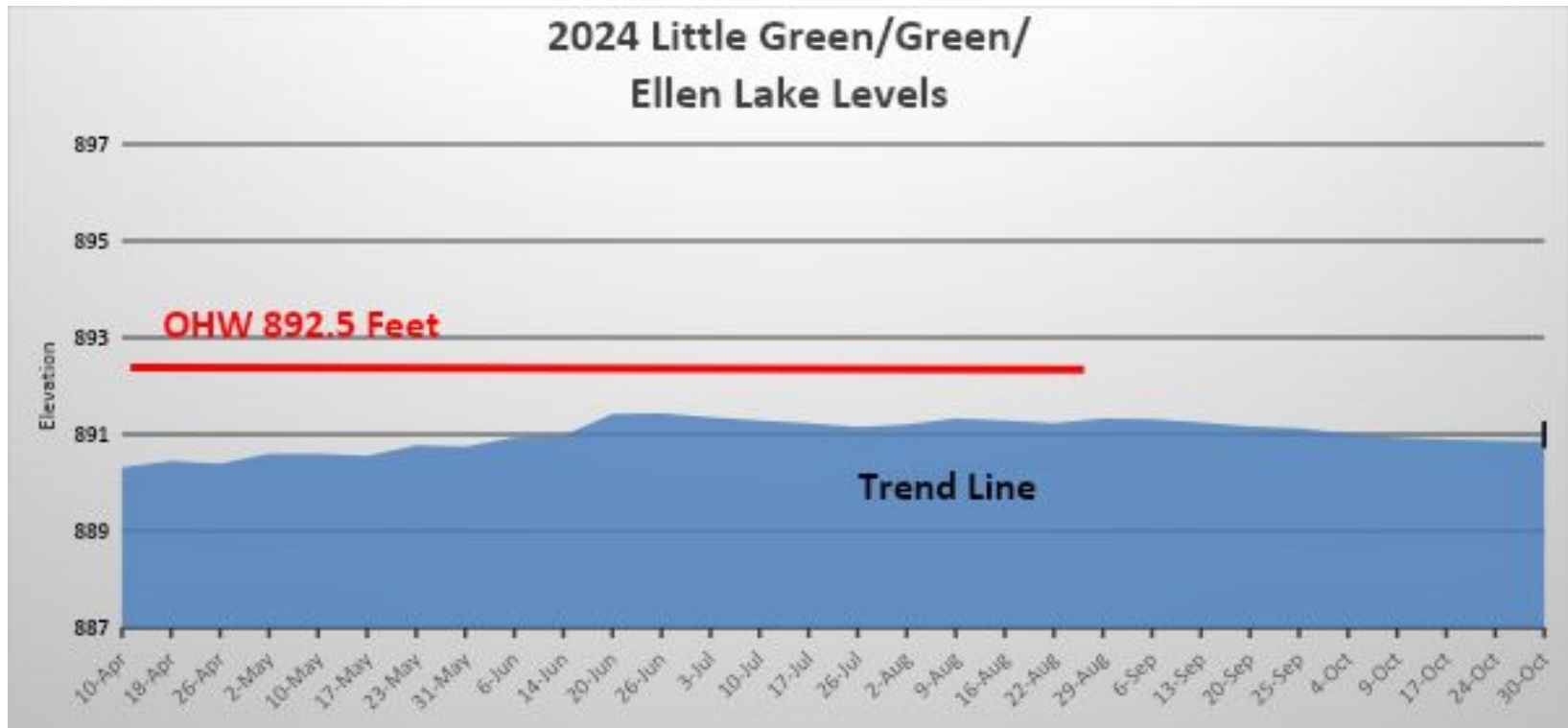


Promote environmental **education, awareness, and stewardship**.



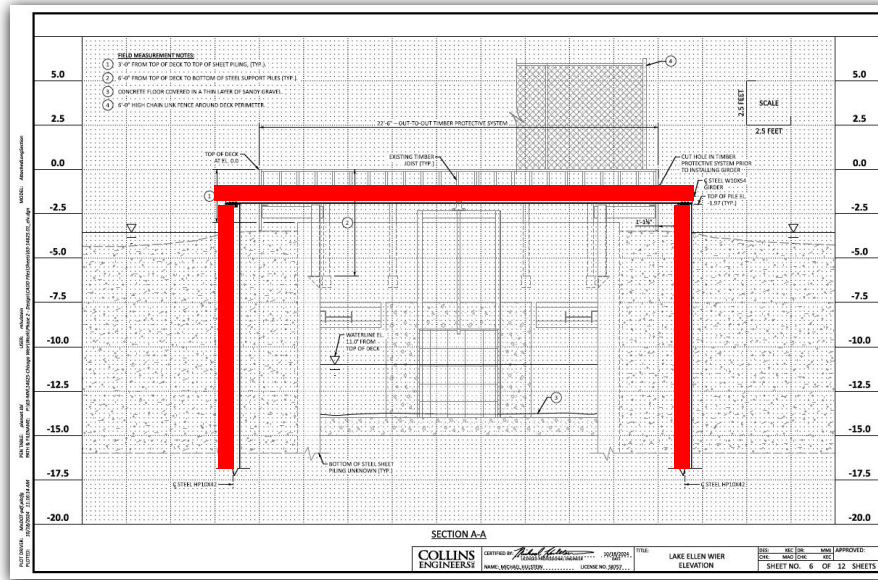
Restore, improve, and maintain **navigation channels** between the lakes.

Lake Level Monitoring



Lofton & Lake Ellen Weir Repair

- Engineered structural design completed for the Lofton and Lake Ellen weirs
- Peterson Companies Inc. to complete repairs by November 2025



Project Costs

Lofton Ave: \$282,499
 Lake Ellen: \$129,492
 Engineering: \$33,000
Total: \$444,991

Project Revenue

ARPA County:
 \$138,000
 County Loan:
 \$300,000
 LID Budget: \$46,000
Total: \$484,000

Aquatic Plant Point-Intercept Surveys

Green and Little Green Lakes Surveyed in 2024



- Methodology
 - Frequency of occurrence
 - Track trends over time
 - Compare areas within lakes
- Floristic Quality Index (higher is better)

Summary

1,228 acres in littoral zone (1,810 acres total)
350 sampling points

Results – Green

- 15 feet max depth of plant growth
- 90th percentile of 11.5 feet
- 27 total native species
- 3.2 species per sample site
- FQI of 31.0 (highest in LID)

Results – Little Green

- 10.5 feet max depth of plant growth
- 90th percentile of 10 feet
- 15 total native species
- 2.3 species per sample site
- FQI of 21.4

Aquatic Plant Point-Intercept Surveys

Green & Little Green Lakes - Milfoil Results

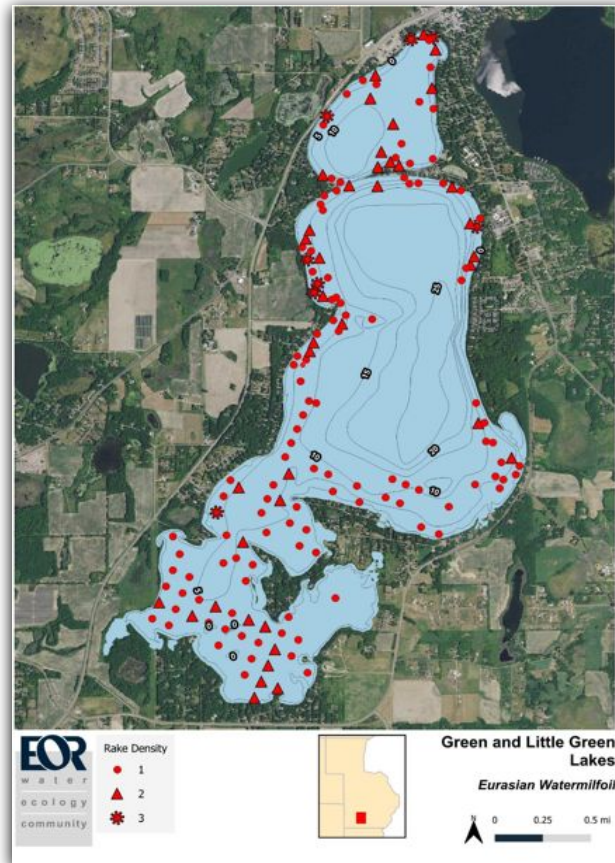
Northern watermilfoil (native)

- 2015: 1.9%
- 2024: Not observed

Eurasian/hybrid watermilfoil

- 2015: 21.8%
- 2024: 44.5% (Green), 49.1% (Little Green)

Less pronounced, but similar trend to 2023 South Center survey





MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

Lab to Lake

Carp Movement & Pop

Partners:

- Chisago Lakes LID
- MAISRC
- MNDNR
- WSB, Inc.

Targeted Water:

Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes

Program Goal:

*Reduce and Sustainably Maintain Carp Populations
Below 100kg/ha (89lbs/acre) within Four Years*



Budget 2024 & 2025	2024	2025	Total
LID Staff Costs	\$12,246.10	\$32,673.82	\$44,919.92
WSB Costs	\$44,465.00	\$299,973.55	\$344,438.55
Total 2024 & 2025 Project Costs			\$389,358.47



Save Our Shorelines

**Managing Shorelines
for Wildlife & Water
Quality**



CHISAGO LAKES

LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SOS: Save Our Shorelines - A program to incentivize lakeshore Best Management Practices (BMPs) and promote the LID's cost share program for shoreline restoration projects for **Lakeshore residents within the LID.**

Improve Water Quality

- Decrease Runoff & Erosion
- Decrease Fertilizer & Algae Causing Nutrients

Sustainable & Resilient Shorelines

- Native Plants
- Less Work & Less Maintenance Cost
- Protected from Wind & Wave Damage
- Increase Habitat

No Obligation Site Visit and Evaluation

- LID staff will meet with you to identify goals and provide tips for managing your shoreline
- Cost Share Opportunities!

Scan for Program Info





CHISAGO LAKES
LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Thank you!

Benjamin Elfelt

LID Administrator

Benjamin.elfelt@chisagocountymn.gov

651-213-8383

[Lake Improvement District | Chisago County, MN -
Official Website](#)



GREEN LAKE ASSOCIATION

CHISAGO CITY, MN

Water Resource Manager



- *Susanna Wilson Witkowski (county Water Resource Manager, who manages the countywide AIS program and water planning programs) and Madelyn Kinny (the county's new AIS Specialist and Lead Watercraft Inspector) will be talking about the county AIS program that includes watercraft inspections and decontamination work, early AIS detection programs, and ways volunteers can help search for AIS or volunteer at the Children's Water Festival.



2024 Chisago County Water Resources Annual Reports

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
Chisago County Water Resources
We Are Water MN Exhibit

**Chisago County
Aquatic Invasive Species
Prevention (AIS)**

AIS Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response

- Inspection and prevention most important
- Water Monitoring Video for Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAyrGsPx3GA>



Chisago County AIS Prevention

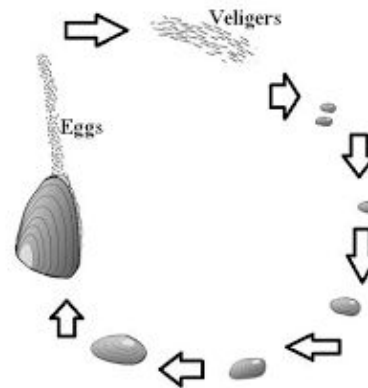
- AIS Program Accomplishments 2024



People Doing AIS Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors • 2 Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors • 2 Year-Round AIS Manager & Specialist • 91 Volunteers • 455 Volunteer Hours Served
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 AIS Events • 1,347 Residents Reached • 24 Social Media Posts & 243 Followers
Watercraft Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14,525 Inspections Performed* • 4,486.25 Hours of Inspections Performed* • 24 Accesses Covered by Inspectors* • 98% of Watercraft Arriving at Launches with Drain Plugs Out • 1 Decontamination Unit • 106 Decontaminations Performed* <p>*Chisago County and CLFLWD combined</p>
Law Enforcement Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Chisago County Sheriff Deputies Conducting AIS Work
Monitoring Conducted *Zero new infestations of zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas in 2024!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Lakes and Rivers Surveyed for AIS • 70 Zebra Mussel Plates Deployed at 19 Water Bodies • 16 Public Water Accesses Searched • 13 Water Bodies with Veliger and Spiny Waterflea Tows • 21 Starry Trek Volunteers

Zebra Mussel Veliger & Spiny Water Flea Monitoring

- Zebra Mussels
 - Microscopic, free-living larvae
 - Form shells
- Spiny Waterfleas
 - Eat native fish food
 - Form clumps on fishing line
- Lakes & rivers monitored
 - Comfort, Fish, Horseshoe, Kroon, Little, Little Green, North Center, North Goose, Rush, South Lindstrom, Spider, Sunrise River at Kost Dam, St. Croix Interstate Park



Zebra Mussel Watch Program

- **70** volunteers installed monitoring plates on their docks
- Lakes monitored:
 - Chisago, Fish, Green, Horseshoe, Kroon, Little, Little Green, Little Horseshoe, Mandall, North & South Center, North & South Goose, North & South Lindstrom, Rabour, Spider, and East & West Rush Lakes.
- Volunteers observed **NO** zebra mussels



Fall Zebra Mussel Check

- **Fall Dock and Lift Zebra Mussel**
 - In 2023, staff developed a new program for lakeshore owners to check their docks and lifts
 - No reports of zebra mussels
- **Public Access Dock Check**
 - Accesses monitored: Chisago/South Lindstrom, Comfort, East/West Rush, Fish, Goose, Green, Horseshoe, Kroon, Little, Little Green, North/South Center
 - No new zebra mussel sightings in Chisago County (Comfort Lake infested 2017)

Pulling Your Dock or Lift in Chisago County?

Make Sure to Check for Zebra Mussels



1. **INSPECT** your dock, lift, boat, or raft for zebra mussels. Check posts, wheels, and support bars. Juvenile zebra mussels feel like sand paper.
2. **REPORT** to waterresources@chisagocountymn.gov with detailed pictures and location if you find zebra mussels or any unknown aquatic invasive species.



Zebra mussels have small, yellow and brown striped, D-shaped shells. They are typically 0.25 to 1.5 inches long.

21 Day Dry Time State Law

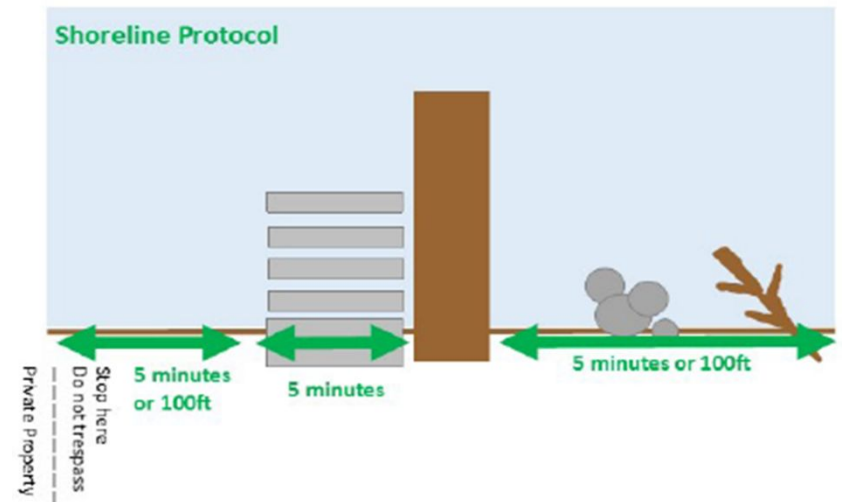
Any dock, lift, or equipment removed from a lake or river needs to dry for **21 days** before being put in a different lake or river.

After drying for **21 days**, decontamination is still required (to remove all plants and animals) before putting it in another lake or river.



Water Access Monitoring Program

- Monitored for new AIS infestations at public water accesses
- AIS Specialist and Watercraft Inspectors
- Followed shoreline protocol
- Monitored **16** lakes:
 - Chisago/North & South Lindstrom, Comfort, Fish, Goose, Green, Horseshoe, Kroon, Little, Little Green, Little Horseshoe, North & South Center, Rabour, Spider, East & West Rush Lakes
- **NO** new observations of AIS



Communication and Education

- AIS Outreach:
 - 16 AIS events
 - 1,362 residents reached
 - 200 children educated
- Handouts at boat launches, community festivals, and 5 bait shops
- Display at 7 festivals
- Presentation to 8 community groups
- Boat Invaders sessions at Children's Water Festival and Isanti Conservation Day



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Workshop

- April 23rd, 2024:
 - Chisago County, Wild Rivers Conservancy, and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
- 15 participants learned about zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, and purple loosestrife.
- Biology, life cycle, and impacts
- Current distribution and means of spread
- Research, prevention, and treatment



**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
WORKSHOP**

April 23, 2024 | Virtual & In Person | Free

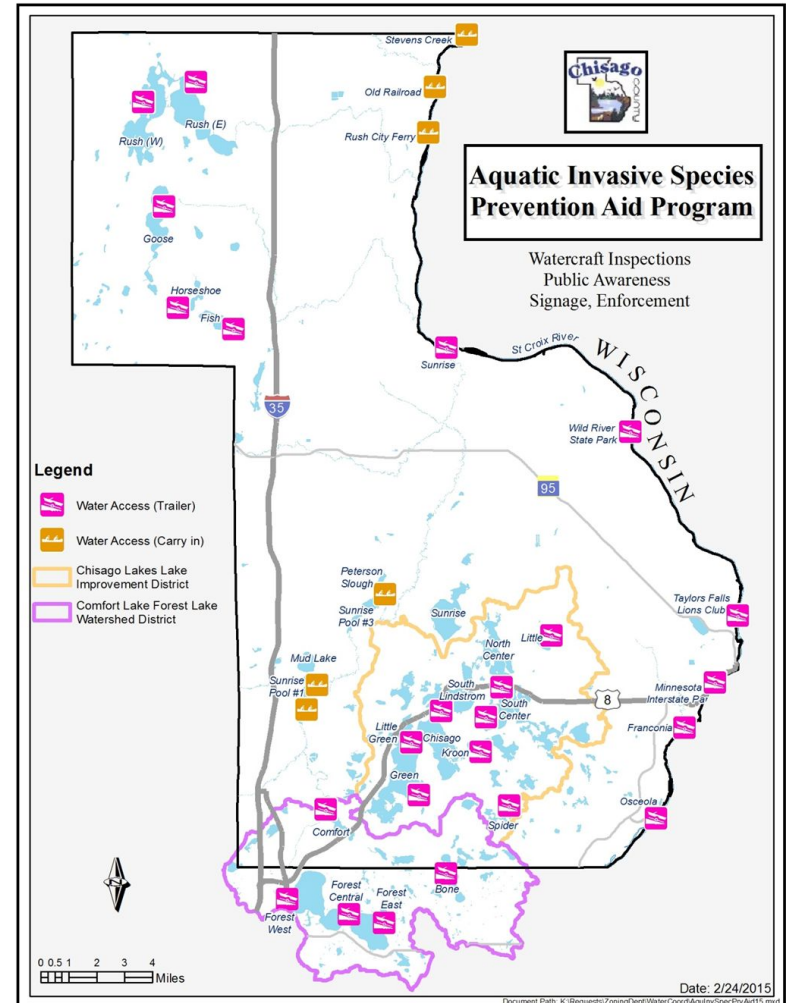
Starry Trek

- August 10, 2024:
 - Wild Rivers Conservancy, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, UMN Extension
 - Invasive algae found in MN in 2015
 - 21 volunteers searched 17 lakes for starry stonewort and other invasive species
 - Volunteers did not find starry stonewort



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

- Watercraft Inspections
 - Chisago & Northern Washington Counties
 - 24 Accesses



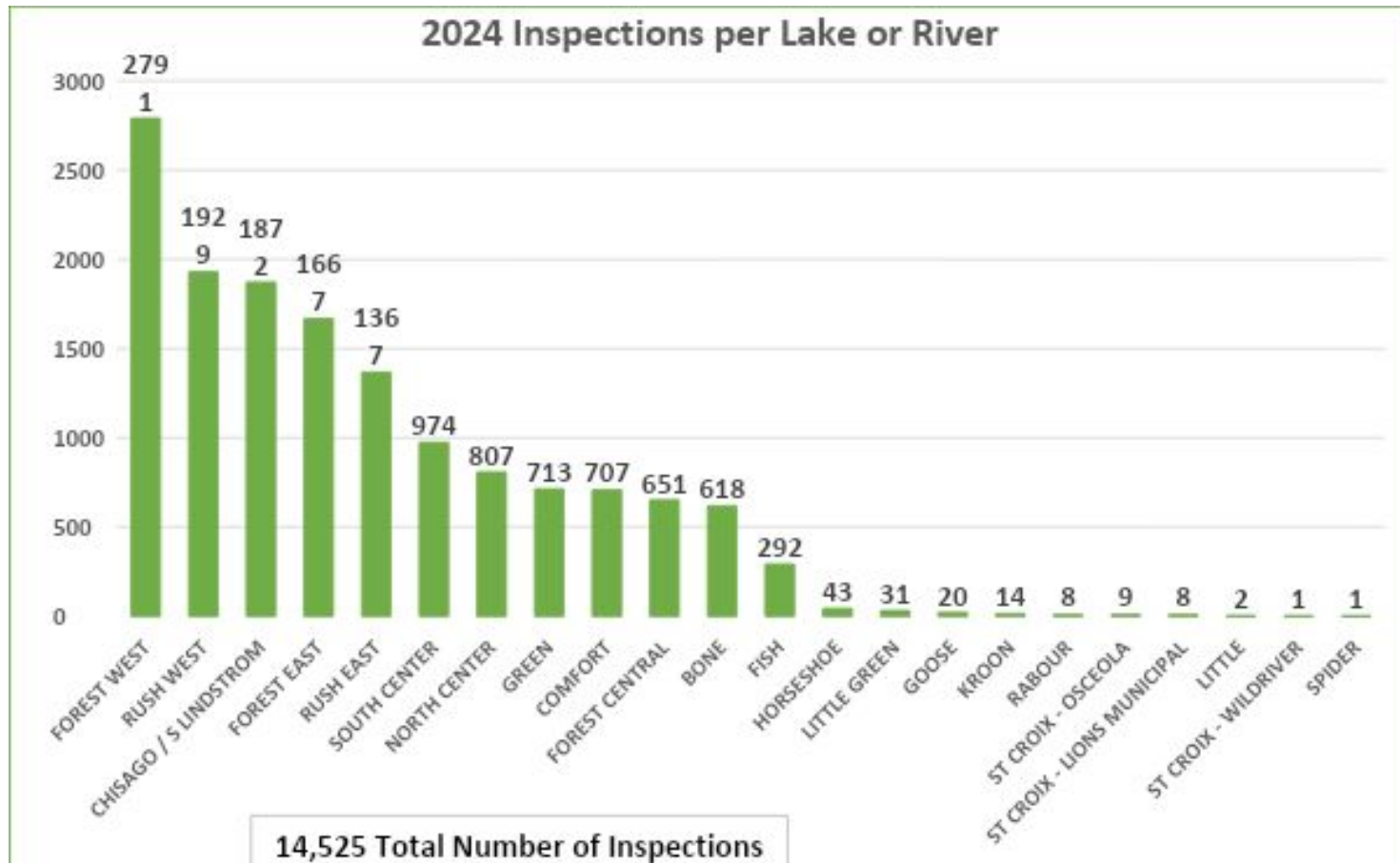
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

- 14,525 Watercraft Inspections



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

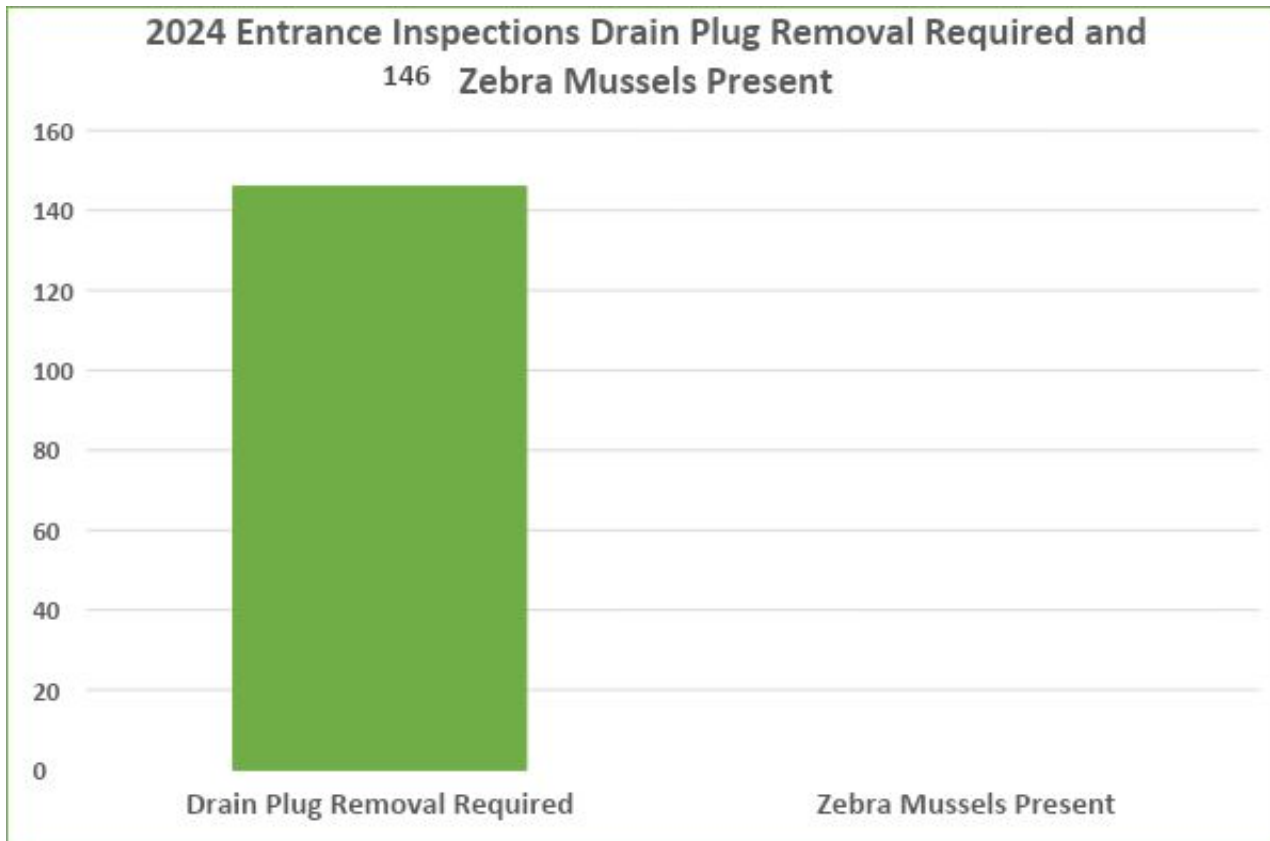
- Watercraft Inspections per Lake or River



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

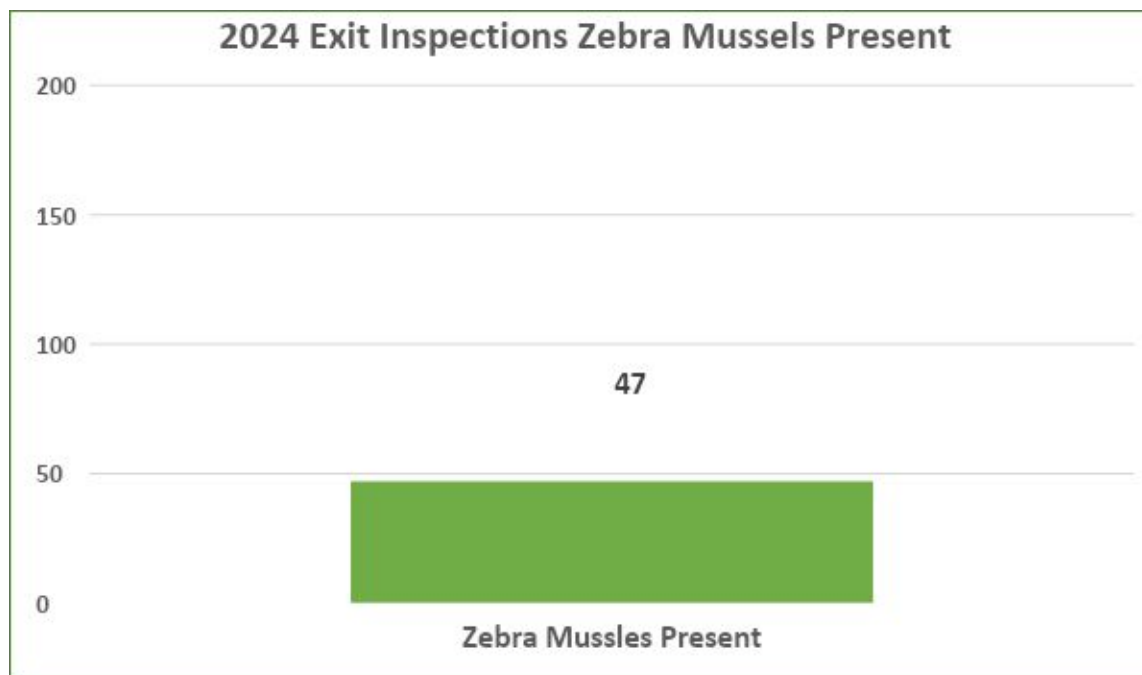
● Entrance Inspections

- Zebra Mussels and Drain Plug Removal



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

- Exit Inspections
 - Zebra Mussels Present



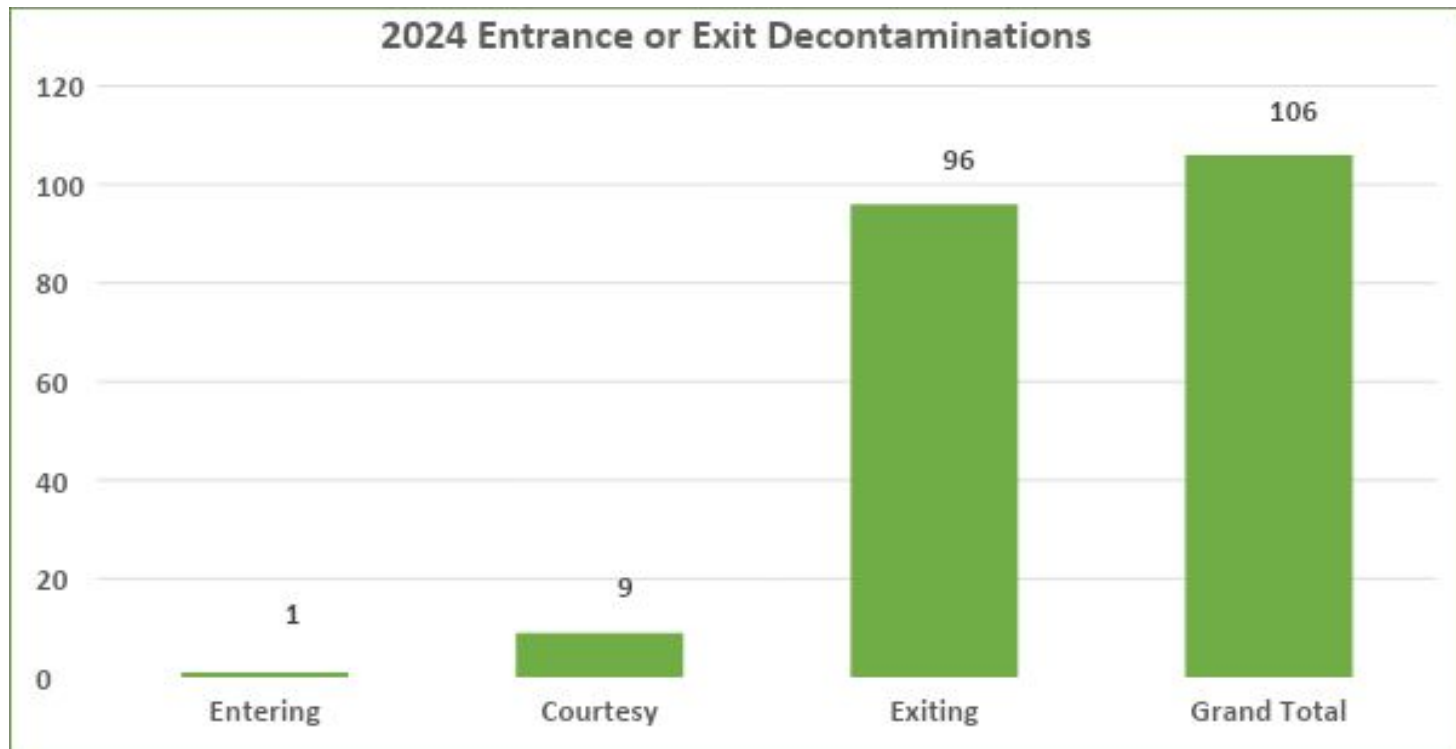
Decontamination Blitz

- August 16–18th, 2024
- Partners
 - Chisago County
 - Wild Rivers Conservancy
 - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Stationed at public water accesses along the St. Croix River



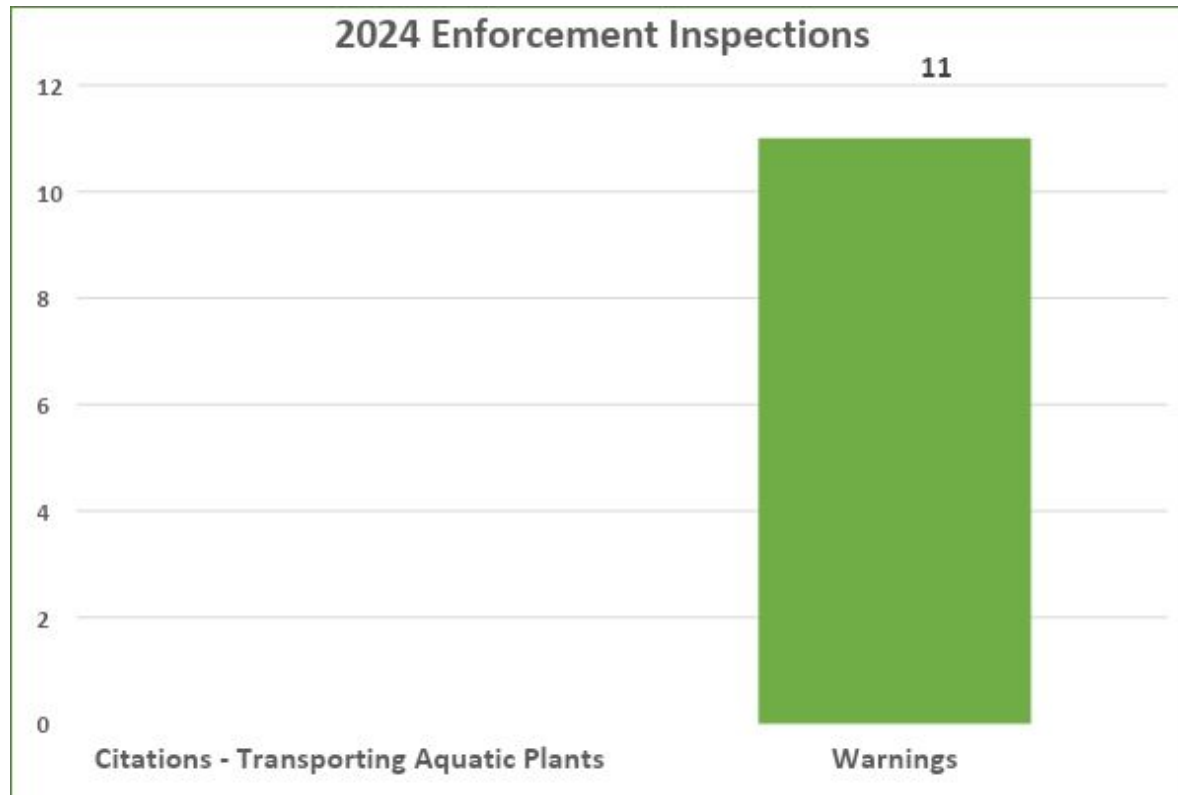
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

- 106 Total Watercraft Decontaminations
 - 26 Exiting Decontaminations completed by DNR Watercraft Inspectors



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

- Enforcement Inspections



Chisago County Water Resources

Slow-No-Wake Ordinance

- Approved in 2015
- Temporarily restricts boat speeds within 300 feet of shore during high water for lakes that exceed OHW
- Permanently restricts boat speeds in many channels
- Comfort, Fish, Goose, Horseshoe, Kroon, Little, Rush, School, and Wallmark Lakes under restrictions in 2024
- Restrictions are posted on the Chisago County website at www.chisagocountymn.gov/347/Lake-Levels

Slow-No-Wake Ordinance Restrictions (temporarily restricts boat speeds within 300 feet of shore during high water conditions)

LAKE		NOTES
Fish	November 22	Slow-No-Wake restrictions in effect.
Horseshoe	November 22	Slow-No-Wake restrictions in effect.
Little	November 22	Slow-No-Wake restrictions in effect.
School	November 22	Slow-No-Wake restrictions in effect.
Wallmark	November 22	Slow-No-Wake restrictions in effect.



22nd Annual Children's Water Festival

22 Years Strong ~ Thank You for Your Efforts!

● To learn more about the festival, visit

<https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/325/Water-Resource-Environmental-Education>



We Are Water MN Exhibit

June 20 – August 12, 2024

- Chisago County hosted
- Indoor exhibit locations
 - North Branch Area Library
 - Chisago County History Center
- Outdoor exhibit location
 - Lindström Memorial Park
- School Groups, Water Bar, Poetry, Songs, Connections, and Water Stories
- Summary of Events & Exhibits
- <https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22864/Presentation---We-Are-Water-MN---Chisago-County-2024-PDF?bidId=>

WE ARE WATER EXHIBIT

Upcoming Events

JUNE 20 to AUGUST 12, 2024

The exhibit will be on display at the following locations:

- North Branch Area Library (Main Exhibit)
- Chisago County History Center
- Lindström Memorial Park (Outdoor Exhibit)

OPENING CEREMONIES:





- North Branch Area Library | June 20, 4:30 – 6:30 PM
- Chisago County History Center | June 21, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Nitrate Testing Clinic | June 14, 1 – 6 PM | Nessel Town Hall
- 4-H Water Watchers | June 21, 9 - noon | Community Garden, North Branch
- Lakes Appreciation Night | July 10, 5 - 9 PM | Lions Park, Lindström
- Karl Oskar Days Fair | July 12 – 13 | Memorial Park, Lindström
- Water Storytelling | July 16, 1 – 2 PM | North Branch Library
- Kids Water Poetry Contest | Submit Entries by July 16
- Art + Water Bar | July 17, 4:30 – 7:30 PM | Uncommon Loon, Chisago City
- Chisago County Fair | July 18 – 21, 11 – 9 PM | Rush City Fairgrounds
- Storytelling, Songs & Art | July 26, 6 – 8 PM | Hallberg Center, Wyoming
- St. Croix River Paddle | July 30, 3 – 7 PM | Taylors Falls Lions Club Park
- Rush City History Center | August 3, 10 – 2 PM | Rush City
- Book Reading | August 8, 6 – 8 PM | North Branch Area Library

These events are part of *We Are Water MN*, a traveling exhibit and community engagement initiative that explores the science, history, story, culture, and relationships of water in Minnesota, and, in this case, Chisago County. Learn more at www.chisagocountymn.gov/1349/We-Are-Water-MN-Exhibit

We are Water MN is led by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and multiple statewide agencies and is funded in part with money from the State of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Fund.



<https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/1349/We-Are-Water-MN-Exhibit>

We Are Water MN Exhibit

June 20 – August 12, 2024



Overall Results

- 36 Planning Meetings and Retreats
- 21 Events – Over 1,000 Attended
- 2 Indoor Exhibits – 9,742 Library Attended
North Branch Area Library
Chisago County History Center
- 1 Outdoor Exhibit
Lindström Memorial Park
- 1 Open House Kick-Off – 28 Attended
- 2 Opening Ceremonies - 50 Attended
- 1 Docent Training - 16 Attended
- 9 Marketing Events - 731 Attended
- 5 We Are Water MN Theme Events - 74 Attended
- 4 North Branch Area Library Events - 101 Attended
- 240 New and Existing Email Connections Established
- 10 Storytellers



<https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/1349/We-Are-Water-MN-Exhibit>



Grant Awards and Activities

- Water Resources received ARPA funding for projects, including:
 - Implement Northern Lakes Volunteer Water Quality monitoring
 - Provide AIS Treatment and Education grants for lake associations
 - Identify, map, and purchase new AIS signs for county public water accesses.
 - Select and prioritize lakes for lake management comprehensive strategic planning

**You Can
Protect
Minnesota
Waters**



**Please make sure your
watercraft is cleaned
and drained.**

Chisago County Water Resources Facebook Page

- @ChisagoCountyWaterResources

- Upcoming water related activities, recent projects and programs in the Chisago County
- How to protect water quality in Chisago County
- 74 Total Posts:
 - 24 AIS
 - 50 Water Resources
 - 5 Videos





Thank you

Copies of the report are
available at:

<https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/364/Water-Resources-Annual-Reports>

We look forward to
working with you
in 2025!



GREEN LAKE

ASSOCIATION

CHISAGO CITY, MN



Financials - Troy Ashton

Green Lake Association P&L	2021	2022	2023	2024
Checkbook Balance as of 12/31	\$53,694.00	\$46,835.00	\$50,909.00	\$56,926.00
Revenue				
Interest income	\$101.59	\$156.00	\$124.00	\$59.00
Misc revenue Treatment boat rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Individual donations	\$7,493.00	\$9,610.00	\$11,275.00	\$13,675.00
Business Donations	\$2,425.00	\$3,025.00	\$5,830.00	\$6,000.00
Dock Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
Lake Improvement District (LID)	\$11,670.00	\$10,817.00	\$10,145.00	\$729.00
Misc Grants	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$19,450.00	\$0.00
Recycling	\$1,783.00	\$2,209.00	\$1,163.00	\$1,411.00
Misc	\$1,286.00	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$29,758.59	\$25,857.00	\$48,047.00	\$24,549.00
Expenses				
Bank Fees	\$73.00	\$183.00	\$179.00	\$254.00
Music on the Water	\$2,250.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,849.00	\$3,712.00
Printing and copying	\$912.00	\$1,455.00	\$976.00	\$1,971.00
Advertising	\$429.00	\$0.00	\$1,558.00	\$325.00
Boat Parade	\$150.00	\$120.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
Boat and Trailer expense	\$2,269.00	\$13,076.00	\$723.00	\$1,383.00
Delineation	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,600.00	\$0.00
Treatment Chemicals	\$22,196.00	\$12,749.00	\$32,198.00	\$7,955.00
Insurance	\$518.00	\$517.00	\$1,383.00	\$1,477.00
Website	\$0.00	\$1,538.00	\$312.00	\$474.00
City Dock	\$1,992.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
other costs	\$0.00	\$278.00	\$746.00	\$529.00
Total expenses	\$31,789.00	\$32,716.00	\$43,974.00	\$18,080.00
Profit or loss	-\$2,030.41	-\$6,859.00	\$4,073.00	\$6,469.00

Financials

Troy Ashton



- Individual donations in 2024 are up 20 % compared to 2023 and 83% compared to 2021.
- The number of donors remains approximately the same, but the average donation amount has increased from \$55.00 in 2021 to \$98.00 in 2024.
- In 2021, we had 148 donors, while in 2024, the number decreased to 143 out of roughly 500 possible donors.
- Business donations increased slightly from 2023 and by 150% compared to 2021.
- In 2022 we started sending letters to local businesses requesting sponsorships and we have seen a lot of popularity for Music on the water sponsorships.
- City dock donations. Only \$175.00 donated. Four total people donated. Venmo QR code sign at dock.
- We rented out our treatment boat to the Chisago Lake Association last year. We may be renting out to two lake associations this year. \$2,500.00 per lake.
- We will be getting a grant this year for an additional \$38,446.35 total for AIS control. This is in addition to the \$12,700.00 we received last year or a total of \$51,146.35.

Financials - Troy Ashton

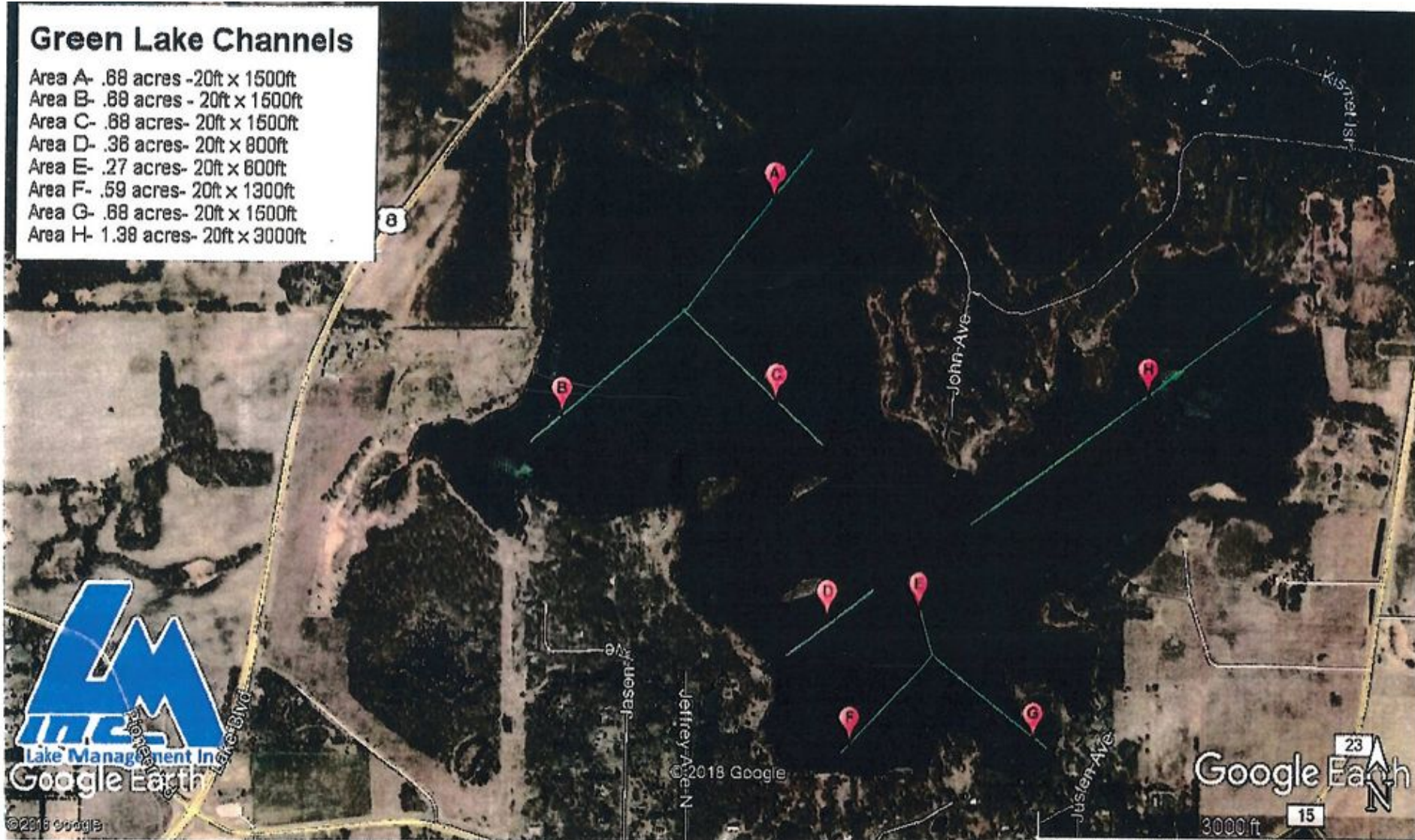


- Should go into 2026 with a nice cushion in checking account for future years.
- Lid money \$10,000.00- \$11,000 annually. \$729 in 2024 and \$0.00 in 2025, 2026 and most likely 2027.
- No grant money on the horizon after 2025.
- We did not spend as much on AIS treatment as we did not treat any of little green last year anticipating a whole lake treatment.
- With the lack of snow, we anticipate weed growth may be similar to last year.
- Winter Mug Distribution: Extra mugs are available for donors of \$100 or more who haven't received one for your 2024 donation or you have donated already in 2025, you can come and get one.
- Provide e-mails to myself or Michelle for e-mail notifications of events. Our e-mails are on the website.
- Join FB Page for notifications as well.
- South bay channels \$3K

South Bay treatment channels

Green Lake Channels

- Area A- .68 acres - 20ft x 1500ft
- Area B- .68 acres - 20ft x 1500ft
- Area C- .68 acres- 20ft x 1500ft
- Area D- .38 acres- 20ft x 800ft
- Area E- .27 acres- 20ft x 800ft
- Area F- .59 acres- 20ft x 1300ft
- Area G- .68 acres- 20ft x 1500ft
- Area H- 1.38 acres- 20ft x 3000ft





- **July 4th Celebration - Undecided**
- **JULY 27th – Music on the Water**

2024 Events Overview



2025 Event Sponsors

• July 27th – Music on the Water 2-5pm

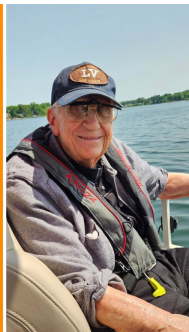


A Continuum of Care Campus

- Short Term Rehabilitation
- Long Term Care
- Assisted Living
 - Memory Care
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies

CONTACT US!

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 📍 28210 Old Towne Road Chicago City, MN 55013
 🌐 monarchmn.com/parmlly-on-the-lake



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 Fax 651-257-6602
tkieffer@farmersagent.com

Registered Representative, Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC
 31051 Agoura Rd, Westlake Village, CA 91361
 Tel 818-584-0200 Member FINRA & SIPC



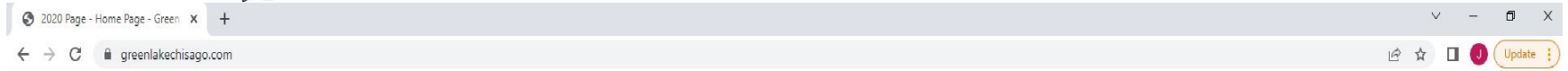
KENDALL HOWARD  [®]
 The Answer is Yes! What's the Question? [®]

Music on the Water





Always Check the Website



[DONATE](#) [JOIN or RENEW](#)

[Home](#) [About Our Lake](#) [Community Partners](#) [Meet the Team](#) [Events](#) [Get Social](#) [Real Estate](#)



[Mission Statement](#)



[Our AIS Objective](#)

- **Open Positions & Support Needed**

- The GLA has the VP position open
- 2 open board positions currently
- President and Secretary open this year
- We need support from the lake to continue.

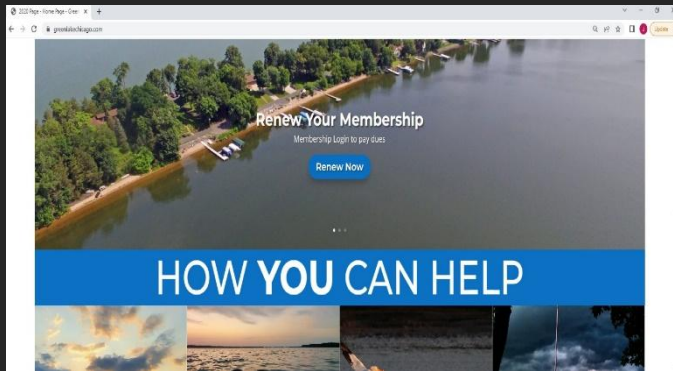
- **Events**
 - Support / sponsor the events to keep them going

- **Volunteers**
 - Excellent support from great families to date

THE GLA NEEDS SUPPORT



Website



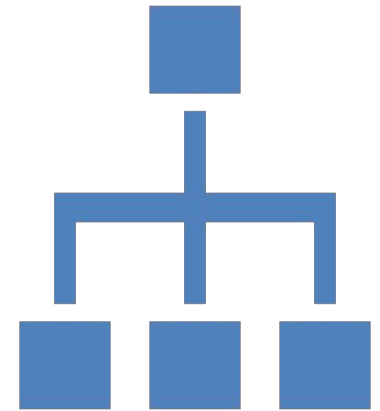
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- Create an account
 - Auto payments on dues
 - Donate buttons
 - All Contact information
 - Sponsors
 - Board Member Overview
 - AIS Overview



Thank you for taking the time to come to the event tonight and invest in the lake you love, its greatly appreciated.



See you on the lake.



The GLA Board.