

2019 Year-End Update with Actions For Green Lake Homeowners

Green Lake 2019 Winter Update - Looking Ahead to 2020 Water Quality Plans

Ice is rapidly forming on our Green Lake. It was amazing to spot at least 20 eagles on the ice the other day!

The Green Lake Improvement District (GLID) Board continues to work for the good of the lake even during the cold months. With the recent GLID Oct 23rd planning meeting, many activities were discussed, agreed on, and then voted on to implement for 2020.

Below is a summary. Details can be found on our GLID website, <https://www.greenlakemnid.com/>

Green Lake's Partnership with Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District, Isanti Zoning, Wyanette Township, and Minnesota DNR

Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) commissioned a Green Lake Phosphorus Diagnostic Study that compiled data as far back as 1988 to the present. The results included a phosphorus trend line, nutrient budget charts, water clarity trends, and recommendations. The net net of the Wenck report was that Green Lake will continue to be a "nutrient rich" lake. Actions need to be taken to ensure the lake doesn't get worse. We must work on reducing nutrients generated by the lake itself along with reducing added nutrients coming from lakeshores, septic, and surrounding watershed inlets. The 2019 Wenck Report "Green Lake Phosphorus Diagnostics Study" can be found on the GLID website.

Green Lake's water comes from rainfall and watershed creeks/streams that flow into our basin. There are no springs feeding Green Lake. Hence, some portion of the nutrients that are in the surrounding watershed land find their way into our lake as runoff.

The past and present Green Lake Improvement Plans have all addressed ways to reduce the amount of nutrients in the runoff. Many Green Lake owners have engaged in this nutrient reduction process with best practices in shoreline management. Many have been part of shoreline restoration activities. Isanti County SWCD will continue to address surrounding land areas that need improvements like ditch maintenance to catch and filter water-filled debris.

Green Lake Shoreline Restoration Projects Continue in 2020

Green Lake Shoreline Restorations continue to be a nutrient reduction focus area. Isanti County SWCD is once again providing a \$10,000 grant matched by GLID's \$5,000 to help Green Lake landowners restore eroding or non-buffered shoreline. 2020 nominations are now being accepted by Dan Howard.

As rain flows over the land and into our lake, it brings with it nutrients from things like fertilizers and animal waste. In one landscape, runoff contained 0.3 pounds of phosphorus per acre per year, which is enough to produce 150 pounds of wet disgusting algae!

Did you know the Green Lake Sub-Watershed Retrofit Analysis reported 95 sites that were candidates? **Per the report, if all 95 were completed, the Total Phosphorus flow into Green Lake from those areas would be reduced by a whopping 44%!**

For help with your shoreline restoration, please contact
Dan Howard:
763-286-1146
danhowardnow@gmail.com

Rum River One Watershed, One Plan

Our Green Lake will continue to remain 'nutrient rich' and impaired for a long time until our county and the state of Minnesota has a plan, then initiatives, to reduce the surrounding watershed's huge flow of nutrients into the lake.

Minnesota has undertaken the "Rum River One Watershed, One Plan" to work together with all the surrounding counties to tackle the problem. This is extremely important for our Green Lake water quality. More than 3000 pounds of nutrient filled runoff comes into the lake every year! The "2019 Rum River One Watershed, One Plan Kickoff Attendees Follow-up Report" can be found on our GLID website.

Green Lake Invasive Weed Treatments: FOR OVERALL LAKE and HOMEOWNERS too!

We need to continue focusing on killing invasive weeds as soon as possible in the spring to reduce the growth and hence, reduce the amount decomposing. We have received permission to use Diquat in 2020. This treatment will control both our CLP and EWM at the same time (2 for 1), saving thousands of dollars and reducing the amount of chemicals going into the lake. We will also focus on more weed harvesting.

DETAILS:

The GLID Board voted to do the right thing for the lake by working with the DNR to use the safer Diquat herbicide to help control both Curley Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), at the same time reducing chemical usage and saving a lot of money. The DNR will visit Green Lake after the ice is out (late April to early May) to determine if 50 acres can be treated using our DNR permits 2018-1015 and 2019-2498. Gordon has spent many hours with the DNR and SWCD to understand the many parameters and restrictions of AIS weed management. We are trying hard to balance the need for reduced weed infested lake waters with water quality, safety, less chemical usage, and fish habitat, knowing that doing nothing will result in a weed-clogged lake as part of nature's normal lake secession. More ideas will be gratefully accepted!

GLID chose Lake Restoration as our AIS weed management company based on their 3 year price lock, free post survey, and flexibility in treatment options. A Letter of Intent is to be sent.

Lake Restoration will also be available to lake homeowners. For \$196 plus the \$40 DNR permit fee, you can tackle your lakeshore weeds out to 100 feet! You should sign up before the end of March. Call Lake Restoration at 763-428-9777.

Green Lake Public Access Boat Inspections to continue in 2020 to Help PREVENT more Invasive Weeds.

GLID recommended we continue boat inspections this summer, for a minimum of \$3800 at the rate of \$19/hour. We have heard that Isanti Zoning will assist with funding like they did in 2019, providing inspections 5 days a week.

Yes, it is worth the money spent to stop more and different invasive species from coming into our lake. A chilling example is our young inspector caught a Twin Cities visiting boat carrying the dreaded Zebra Mussel! So far, Green Lake has not found any evidence of Zebra Mussels...and we are hoping and praying that we don't! Recent bad news is our neighboring Spec Lake now has them!