



"Green Lake is a jewel in nature's crown. Like all valuables, our lake needs to be protected. Who could care more for our lakes than the people who love them and live on them? That someone is you!"

### REDUCING NUTRIENT FLOW INTO LAKE REDUCES RATE OF WEED & ALGAE GROWTH

Our Green Lake's 833 acres provides incredible enjoyment for many! Our lake owners share the waters with many guests, wildlife, many types of fish, and birds, including pairs of Loons. With each beautiful sunrise and sunset, Green Lake is a perfect part of our lake life!



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Green Lake's water comes from rainfall and watershed creeks/streams that flow into our basin. Hence, some portion of the nutrients and pollutants that are on our shores and the surrounding watershed land find their way into our lake as runoff.

With reduced water quality, in 2008, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) put Green Lake on the Impaired Lakes list.

Green Lake Sub-Watershed Retrofit Analysis reported 95 lakeshore sites needed restoration reducing Phosphorus flow 44%. Each shore may cause 80 pounds of algae growth!

GLID and lake homeowners with help of our Advisory Partners are always looking for ways to reduce the amount of phosphorus nutrients that add to pollution, weed growth, and blue-algae (if in doubt stay out) outbreaks.

### ISANTI SWCD GETS GREEN LAKE MPCA GRANT!

Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) secured funds from MPCA to implement Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Nine-Element Plan with a goal of delisting Green Lake from the impaired waters list.

THIS IS A BIG DEAL WITH POTENTIAL IMPACT.

The actions included in the plan focus on phosphorus lake loading reductions and reducing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, as part of GLID Lake Improvement Plan.

The first phase of implementation will focus on:

- 1) Development and implementation of a sustainable outreach program.
- 2) Building a financial assistance for installation of agricultural and residential best practices.
- 3) Identification of willing landowners for future project installation.

View more info on GLID website: [greenlakemnid.com](http://greenlakemnid.com)

### SHORELAND BUFFER GUIDELINES

Minnesota's Shoreland Management Program guides land development along Minnesota's lakes and rivers to protect their ecological, recreational, and economic values. The state shoreland rules (MR 6120.2500 - 6120.3900) establish minimum standards to protect habitat, water quality, and preserve property values. Healthy shoreland buffers are important for the waterway and property values. Buffers are necessary to prevent erosion, protect water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, and natural scenic beauty.

Per the DNR, a Shoreland Buffer is the area of protected vegetation along the shoreline. The removal of vegetation is restricted within 35 feet of the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) as stated in county and state shoreland regulations.

A great reference resource is DNR's lake scaping and shoreland restoration principles at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakescaping>

Please contact your Isanti Zoning office, (763) 689-5165, for more information if you are planning on clearing vegetation within the shoreland buffer or have concerns.

### LAKESHORE RESTORATIONS

View our lakeshore video: <https://youtu.be/dwjAoRwLrmM>

Sign up now! Is your lakeshore washing away or would you like help restoring it? GLID has restoration assistance funds.

**Contact:**

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### INFORM, INTEREST, INVITE, INVOLVE

The Green Lake Improvement District (GLID) with lake owners are dedicated to lake shoreline restoration and continued preservation of safe water quality for current and future generations. Please attend our upcoming meetings:

**GLID Board Weed Prevention & Prep Meeting**

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 10 at 9am

**WHERE:** Wyanette Town Hall or via Zoom (link will be on our GLID website)

**2021 Annual Green Lake GLID Meeting**

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 26 from 9am-10:30am

**WHERE:** Wyanette Town Hall

## GLID'S GREEN LAKE STEWARDSHIP & SCORE YOUR SHORE OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION

In order to protect the water quality of our lakes, GLID invites all property owners be part of DNR's Lake Steward Program. Protecting water quality means appropriately managing the land use around the lake and within the watershed to reduce the amount of pollution that enters the lake.



The first step is to "score your shore". The DNR's "Score Your Shore" is designed for use by lakeshore property owners to self-assess habitat and stewardship on their land and adjacent aquatic areas. Found at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore)

### Are you a Green Lake steward?

Example of questions used by Gull Lake Association:

1. Do you use fertilizer and/or lawn chemicals such as weed killers? We highly recommend no broadcast spraying of insecticides and pesticides. Please be kind to pollinators.
2. Shoreline Buffer Zone (water's edge to 25-50 ft. landward) What percentage of the buffer is un-mowed and/or includes native grasses, plants, trees, or shrubs? Best answer: Un-mowed plants cover at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of shoreline; minimal lawn and/or impervious surface.
3. Upland Zone (shoreland buffer to access road) What percentage of the upland zone includes trees, shrubs, and natural ground cover? Best answer: Trees and/or shrubs present along at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of shoreline.
4. Shoreline eroding? The shoreline has been described as the "glue" for the waterfront because it provides a natural barricade against erosion. If shoreline zone becomes "unglued" and resulting erosion allows silt and sediment into the lake.

## SIMPLE STEPS TOWARD BETTER LAKE STEWARDSHIP

There are DNR simple steps lake property owners can take to become better shoreland stewards.

1. Protect existing native trees, shrubs, and plants.
2. Stop fertilizing and using lawn chemicals. If you water your lawn with water pumped from the lake, use of chemical fertilizer is unnecessary because the lake water already contains nitrogen and phosphorus. If you feel you must fertilize, do so once a year, in the fall.
3. We highly recommend no broadcast spraying of insecticides and pesticides. Please be kind to pollinators.
4. "No mow, let it grow!" This is the simplest and least expensive way to restore shoreline and add a natural buffer to the lakeshore. First, stop mowing a 10 - 15ft wide strip of grass near the water's edge. If you have a beach, the buffer can be directly behind the beach. A buffer of native vegetation will help prevent erosion and will intercept some of the nutrients and pollutants that would otherwise enter the lake.
5. If you don't like the look of an un-mowed buffer, you can plant a buffer of native wildflowers and sedges. Bushes or trees can also be added. Checkout your GLID Shoreline Restoration Program with grants for approved projects. A buffer of native plants will add color and beauty to your shoreline and provide food and habitat for birds, butterflies, and other pollinators.
6. If you riprap or place boulders on the shoreline, do not spray with herbicides as toxins go into lake. If you let nature take its course, native plants such as jewel weed, milk weed, and blue flag iris may naturally germinate, or you can plant them within the riprap.
7. Have your septic system tested and keep it working properly. Faulty septic's account for lake pollution.  
Great webinar can be found at: [https://septic.umn.edu/sites/septic.umn.edu/files/drinking\\_water\\_final.mp4](https://septic.umn.edu/sites/septic.umn.edu/files/drinking_water_final.mp4)

*"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not." Dr. Seuss*