

Working in partnership to support healthy lakes

In the “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” there are many people working to protect and restore our lakes, rivers, and streams. Here is a snapshot of partners and their roles.



WHO'S WHO IN MINNESOTA LAKE MANAGEMENT?

MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Manages public waters. Responsible for ordinary high water levels; groundwater appropriations; shoreland and floodplain management; aquatic invasive species (AIS); fisheries.

MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Implements Federal Clean Water Act; oversees stormwater permits; establishes water quality standards for lakes, rivers, streams & wetlands; maintains list of impaired waters.

Lake Associations

Local non-profits that can work with the DNR, counties, and watersheds to improve habitat, stock fish, manage AIS and aquatic plants, and maintain lake access. Lake associations often assist in water quality monitoring and shoreline restoration as well.

Cities & Towns

Establish local policies, ordinances, and zoning.

Counties & Conservation Districts

Implement AIS prevention programs; Create surface and groundwater management plans; Provide site visits for landowners & technical assistance for conservation projects; Conduct water monitoring for lakes and streams.

Watershed Districts & Watershed Management Orgs.

Implement permits for development; Create watershed management plans; Complete projects to reduce flooding risk and improve surface water quality; Conduct AIS research and control; Monitor lakes and streams; Provide grants for lake-improvement projects like shoreline plantings and raingardens.



YOU CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL LAKE-FRIENDLY YARD!

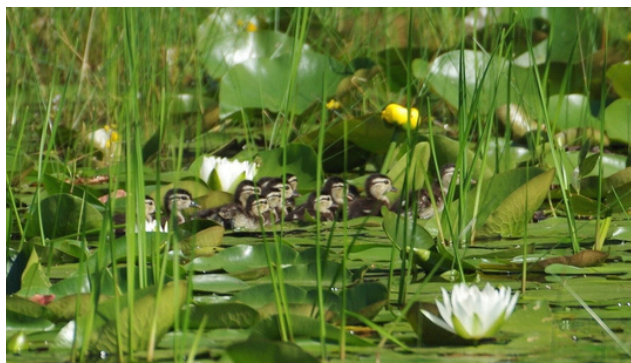
Minnesota has lost 40-50% of its natural shorelines over the past 100 years, and continues to lose shoreline habitat at a rate of 1-2% per decade. As a result, we are seeing less diversity in wildlife, less aquatic invertebrates, and fewer, smaller fish, even in lakes and rivers with relatively good water quality.

As a lakeshore owner, you play a big role in helping to protect the long-term health of your lake. Please consider integrating raingardens, native shorelines, and native trees and shrubs into your property.

Visit the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership www.lsc1w1p.org/shorelines - to find resources, including:

- Minnesota Lake Finder
- Impaired waters map
- Score your Shore and Restore your Shore
- Guidance for working with contractors
- Dealing with ice ridges
- Native shoreline maintenance; and more!

You can also sign-up to receive a semi-monthly e-newsletter from the East Metro Water Education Program and learn about our annual Natural Shoreline Award Program.



BENEFITS OF NATURAL SHORELINES

The natural areas along your shoreline provide many benefits for your lake:

- Reducing erosion from runoff and waves
- Preserving water clarity
- Providing critical habitat for fish, pollinators, and birds
- Supporting some of our favorite wildlife — including loons, egrets, and herons.

Plus, healthy shoreline buffers can be beautiful and help you cut down on annual maintenance!

A well-established natural shoreline buffer:

- Requires less long-term maintenance
- Blends naturally into the lake landscape
- Helps to ensure that future generations also get to experience clean water and abundant wildlife.