

Maple Lake Improvement District

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



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Maple Lake Improvement District – Things to Know

The Maple Lake Improvement District (MLID) started out as a Lake Association where dues were collected annually from the property owners. In 1987 the "Maple Lake Improvement District" was established with an initial Board of Directors. The MLID is financed by assessments on each improved lot in the Maple Lake District.

These assessments are used to pay for things that benefit the district like monthly utility bills for the street lights around the lake, water quality testing, aeration equipment, electricity to run the aerators and mosquito spraying in the summer, among other things.

The MLID Board consists of 7 lake property owners that are elected for a 4-year term at the annual meeting. This meeting is held the 2nd Saturday of July each year at the Mentor Community Center. If you would like to be on the board, please let a current board member know by the June meeting and your name will be placed on the ballot.

Regular board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Mentor Community Center. These meetings are open to the public and if you want to be on the agenda,

please contact a board member, or email info@maplelakedistrict.com.

The MLID has a representative that attends Polk County Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and the board acts in an advisory capacity to the commission. The Polk County Commissioners have the final authority to regulate planning & zoning issues.

The MLID also has a representative on the Aquatic Invasive Species Taskforce (AIS). They help in the fight against AIS in lakes within Polk County.

Each winter, the board members test the oxygen level of the lake and when it is deemed necessary, they install aerators to keep the oxygen at a safe level for the fish population.

Along with that, the board takes water samples 4 times each summer in 4 different locations and sends them to RMB Laboratories for analysis. The results can be found on the RMB website at www.rmbel.info.

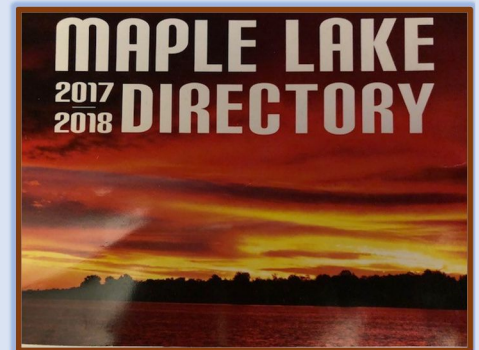
The board works to support the long-term preservation of Maple Lake and hopes to help make it an appealing place for residents and visitors.

Notifications From MLID

The MLID Board would like to have the ability to send out notices to the property owners and to send future newsletters electronically. If you would like to receive notices and electronic newsletters, please give us your email address by emailing it to: info@maplelakedistrict.com

2019-2020 Directory

A new directory will be coming out in the spring of 2019. If you know of any changes that need to be made since the 2017-2018 Directory was printed please contact the board by emailing info@maplelakedistrict.com, or call Bonnie Abel at 218-574-2010.



Lake Aeration

In the winter, the board monitors the oxygen level of the lake and installs aerators when the oxygen seems to be decreasing. This usually happens sometime in January after the ice has been on the lake for a while. There are three locations that are available for the aerators to be placed:

- Maple Bay
- Polk County Park
- East end of lake



For the past few years, one aerator has been installed at the Maple Bay location. After that installation, the board continues to test the oxygen levels in all areas of the lake. If another aerator is necessary, it would be installed at that time, but the Maple Bay aerator seems to be sufficient to keep the oxygen at a safe level at all locations.

Algae on Maple Lake

During the summer of 2018 we experienced new algae on our lake that caused concern to the board and property owners.

When algae experiences an overgrowth, this is called an algae bloom. These blooms happen in slow moving water, in high-sunlight areas, and in waters with excess nutrients that algae like to feed off of (nitrogen and phosphorus). Some large algae blooms contain toxins, like blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria.

Corey Hanson with the Red Lake Watershed District (RLWSD) took a sample of the algae and had it tested at RMB Laboratories on June 24th and found that it did include some blue/green algae. An algae toxin test showed a concentration rate of 5 ppb (parts per billion). The EPA categorizes this level as a low risk and a level that could be an

Algae Continued

irritant to people with allergies. 5 ppb can be explained as if you had 1 billion golf balls and 5 were damaged.

The MLID board recognizes that 5 ppb is a concern and wanted people using the lake to take notice and make judgments themselves on their use of the lake.

Another test was done on July 27th with the same results. The RLWSD did a final test on August 24th and found that the concentration had dropped to a safe level between 0 – 1.

A DNR representative reported that one of the reasons the algae appeared might have been because of the late thaw and quick warming of the water last spring. Hopefully next spring will have normal thaw conditions and the algae will not appear, but the MLID in cooperation with RLWSD will closely monitor the water quality.

A guide on Aquatic Invasive Species was put together with information from the U of MN Extension, MN DNR and MN Sea Grant resources called “Aquatic Invasive Species: A Minnesota Handbook”. You can find a link to this book on our website: www.maplelakedistrict.com.

Shoreline Restoration

There are other things that contribute to algae and weeds in the lake, such as runoff of pesticides, household hazardous wastes and many other types of chemicals that property owners use in daily life.

Traditional lawns and sandy beach shorelines don’t have the benefits of a more natural shoreline to prevent runoff. Lawns are shallow rooted, provide little wildlife habitat, need frequent maintenance and are often over-fertilized. These factors can lead to problems on your lake such as:

- Shoreline erosion and lake sedimentation
- Algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth
- Loss of wildlife habitat, but an increase in nuisance animals

Creation of a buffer zone is a good shoreline lake scaping concept. Lake

Shoreline Continued

scaping and shoreline restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline:

- Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife
- Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
- Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
- Enjoy abundant nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds



2018-2019 Board Members

President: Brian Floan (2020)
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Vice President: Michael Moore (2021)
34643 E. Trinity Point Rd, Mentor, MN
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Loren Abel (2019)
12039 Maple Lake Dr SE, Mentor, MN
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Jim Baune (2022)
12227 Maple Lake Dr SE, Mentor, MN
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Roger Behm (2020)
13012 Elmer Hanson Dr SE, Mentor, MN
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Dwight Kouba (2021)
1504 Walnut St, Grand Forks, ND
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Brian Wavra (2019)
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Watch for our new and improved Website and Facebook page coming soon!!
www.maplelakedistrict.com