

Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District

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PRESERVING AND PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES.

Please visit us at our website:
www.plslwd.org

How YOU can make a difference on Prior Lake

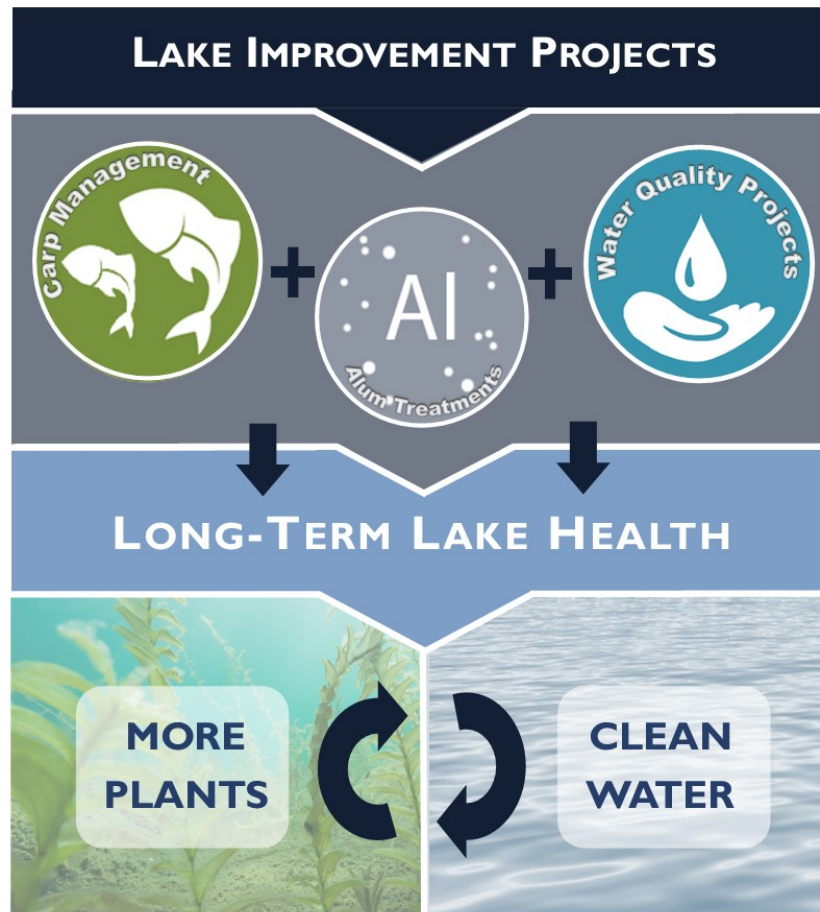


Help maintain a healthy & beautiful lake!

How you can help:

- Let the water plants on your shoreline grow!
- Plant native plants near the edge of the lake.
- Only remove the lake plants needed to maintain access to your lake.
- Contact the DNR if you have invasive plants like curly-leaf pondweed at your shore:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives.

More plants in the lake are a sign of good water quality and help keep the lake clear of algae!



Water Plants at Work!

LET IT GROW!

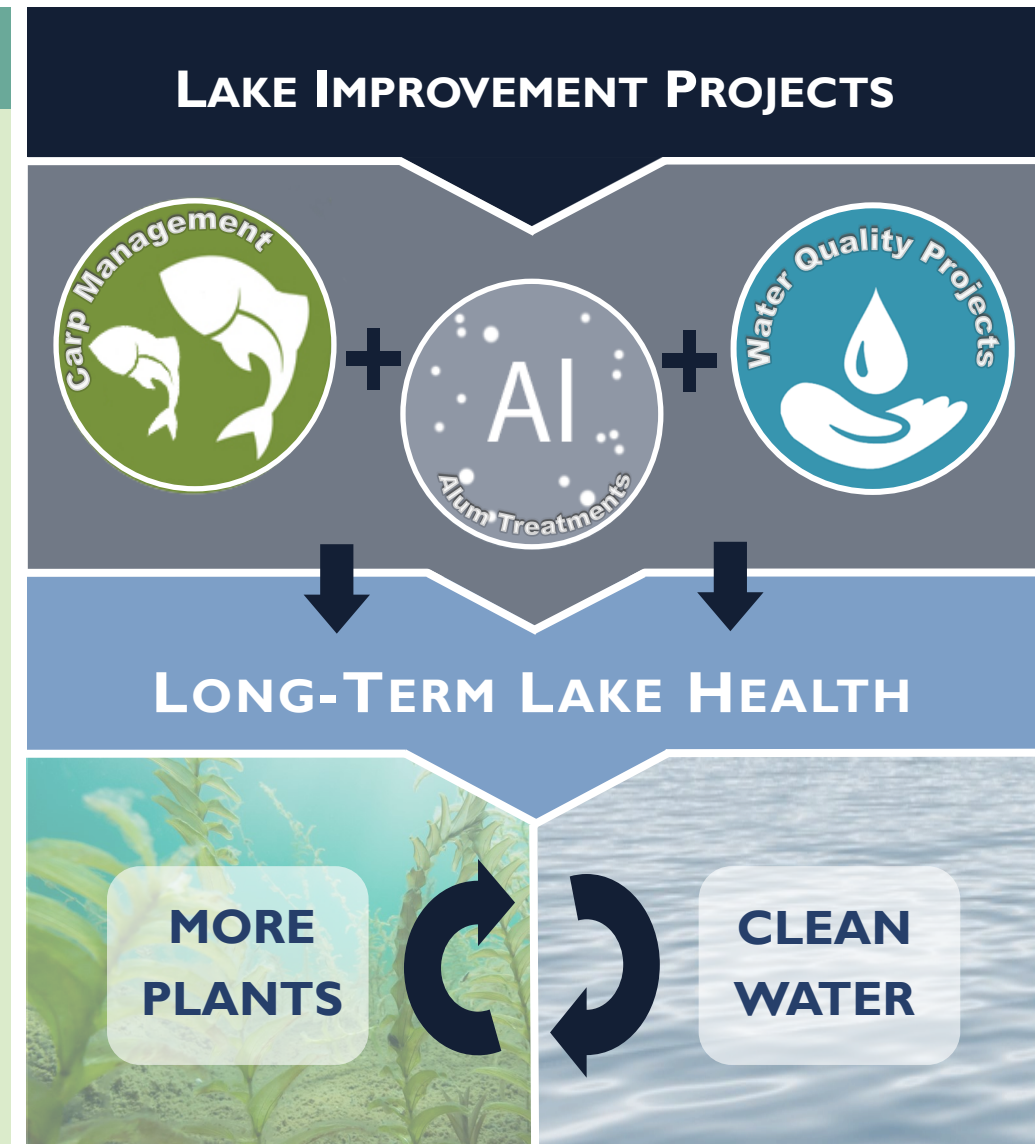


The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District has been working hard to remove the invasive carp in Prior Lake in order to improve water quality. As carp populations go down, the lake plants will begin to thrive once again.



Lake plants play a critical role in helping to maintain good water quality in Prior Lake. Without plants to absorb the nutrients in the water that enter the lake from stormwater runoff, the nutrients will instead feed undesirable algae growth.

With warm weather just around the corner, it is tempting to start pulling lake plants. **Be a strong steward for your lake this year and only remove the plants needed to provide lake access along your shore. Let it grow!**



Many of the innovative approaches to carp management were funded in part by a federal 319 Grant administered by MPCA and a state Metro Watershed-based Implementation Grant through BWSR.



CLEAN WATER!

In the graph on the right, notice how water quality projects (such as carp management and alum treatments), work together to create long-term lake health by encouraging plant growth and increasing water clarity.

Help maintain a healthy and beautiful lake!

How you can help:
Let the water plants on your shoreline grow!

More plants in the lake are a sign of success for our water quality initiatives. Keep up the good work!

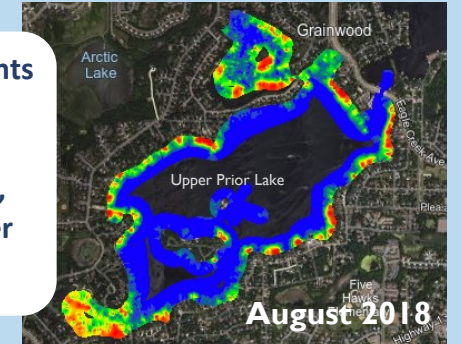
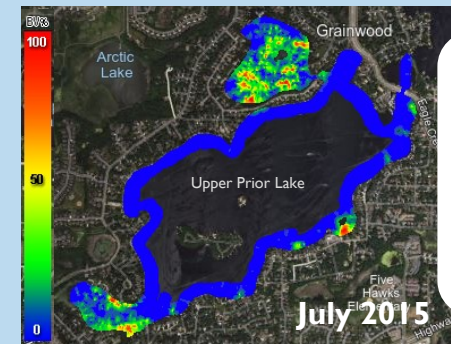
Upper Prior Lake Annual Water Quality Averages



MORE PLANTS!

The District uses an underwater sonar to determine the density of plants at the lake bottom.

As seen in the images on the right, there has been an **increase** in water plant density between 2015 and 2018.



More plants
=
cleaner,
healthier
lakes!

Maintaining Lake Access: What is allowed?

Lake plants are valuable to the lake ecosystem, so the DNR requires a permit to remove them.

However, maintaining your lakeshore for swimming or boat-docking areas is OK! As long as you...

1. Do not remove more than 2,500 square feet of underwater plants
2. Do not modify more than 50 feet along the shoreline or 1/2 the length of your shoreline (whichever is less)

Invasive Plants



Curlyleaf Pondweed (left) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (right) are two common invasive species that may be removed with a DNR permit. Visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives for more info.

A few benefits of shoreline and water plants include...

Deep roots help stabilize the shoreline and prevent erosion. They also help filter pollution before it reaches the lake water.

Low-mow grass rarely needs to be mowed or fertilized, saving you money and time!

Shoreline lake plants provide food and shelter for wildlife like fish, birds, turtles and butterflies.

Water plants filter the water and improve water clarity.

