

Lake Ida Homeowner Survey

Summary Booklet



Thank you to everyone who completed and returned our survey. We were very pleased with the results and were happy to work with the amazing folks on Lake Ida. To those who did not get a chance to return the survey, your friends and neighbors represented you well. We hope to use the information obtained from this survey to further understand the way people use and share information about water quality and aquatic invasive species issues.

Living on a lake means you are all leaders in protecting its waters now and for years to come. We are proud to say that out of 727 mailed surveys, we received a response of almost 240. We believe this shows the dedication Ida residents share in protecting Ida's waters from invasive species and threats of decreasing water quality. It is important to share the knowledge you all possess with others who may not be as well informed. This may be folks from town who aren't around the lake much, or families visiting you for the weekend. In my opinion, the best way to learn something is to discuss it.

Background Information

Favorite Sources of Information:

1. Minneapolis Television (84%)
2. Minneapolis Newspapers (55%)
3. Alexandria Newspapers (53%)

Least Used Sources (Of those listed):

1. State Websites (5%)
2. Friends/Neighbors (15%)
3. National Websites (19%)

Respondents:

Most respondents were Seasonal Residents (61%), while only 39% were Year-Round. 51% of respondents have lived on Ida for more than 15 years. Residents mainly use Ida for recreational purposes: swimming, fishing, and

family gatherings. 42% of respondents belong to an outdoor advocacy/support organization.

Questions about Lake Ida

General quality of lakeshore:

- Excellent – 37%
- Moderate – 52%
- Receding – 11%

Ditches:

- 66% knew of drainage ditches around Ida
- 65% believe they are main source of pollution into Ida

Lakeshore Restoration Projects:

- 16% have installed a lakeshore improvement/restoration project
- Biggest limiting factor was lack of information (43%)

Dock/Lift Services:

- 88% annually remove their dock and boatlifts
- 49% hire a service to complete this work

Aquatic Invasive Species

Respondents clearly desire not only *more* info on AIS, but they want more effective forms of information as well.

Here are some numbers:

- 73% regularly use Ida's public landings
- 78% believe Ida needs more information posted at public landings
- 86% believe information posted at landings are worth investing in

Aquatic Invasive Species Communication:

- 88% have seen AIS information in Lake Ida Association newsletters
- 73% have seen television news stories
- 52% have heard radio stories
- 64% thought AIS information could be easier to access and understand
- 72% wished for more AIS information

“Don’t Move a Mussel” Campaign:

- 31% have seen posters/billboards
- 22% have seen leaflets/brochures
- 3% have seen videos or received postcards

Identification:

- 52% said they were unable to identify current invasive species that may affect Ida
- Only 17% were ‘Very’ confident in their ability to identify a Zebra mussel

- 40% listed themselves as 'Unsure' or 'Very Unsure' of their ability to identify a Zebra mussel
- Only 19% knew the size of a Zebra mussel (1/2 inch)
- 42% knew the most threatening stage of a Zebra mussel's life was the "Egg" or larval stage.

What Does This Survey Tell Us?

As active homeowners on Lake Ida, it is vital that you yourselves are well-informed on aquatic invasive species information. We would like to see more information shared between friends and neighbors, as well as a higher use of current invasive species information (such as the DNR website). The Lake Ida Association webpage contains some

very good links to sites with information about invasive species threatening Minnesota's water.

Most importantly, prevention is made easier when everyone is adequately educated about aquatic invasive species. Don't be afraid to seek information about these issues because the more *YOU* know the better preventative measures actually work.

Talk to your Lake Ida representatives, as well as friends, family and neighbors about the importance of aquatic invasive species education.

The Threats to Lake Ida

Lake Ida is currently affected by one type of aquatic invasive species: curly-leaf pondweed. Whether or not you travel into infested areas, the fact that Ida has curly-leaf pondweed means it can potentially be spread. If you see floating weeds on top of the water and you are unfamiliar with the species, take it home and identify it.



Curly-leaf pondweed

Animals that are classified as invasive are:

Zebra Mussels



Notice the extremely small size and the immense numbers in which these mussels live. In addition, their edges are very sharp to touch. Other mussels have a rubbery film around their edges.

Asian Carp



In this photo, it is obvious to see that these fish 'fly' out of the water. Also, their eyes are located lower

on their heads compared to the common carp found in Minnesota.

Other invasive plant species include:

Eurasian watermilfoil





Notice how thick milfoil grows once established.

Being able to personally identify local plants and animals is one of the best ways to learn about these invasive species.

- Take a plastic bag in your boat on every trip.
- When an unfamiliar species is seen, put it in the plastic bag.
- Be careful none of the plant gets lost in your boat.

- Identify the species using any aquatic plant identification book or the MN DNR website.
- Double check your boat is clean.

For a complete list of invasive species, please take a look at the Minnesota DNR website. Go to the box in the upper right-hand corner and search for “Aquatic Invasive Species”. At the bottom of the page, you’ll find a link called “Invasive Species Identification and Management”.

Extra sources of Aquatic Invasive Species info:

1. **Nearest DNR office –**

MnDNR Wildlife, Glenwood 23070

North Lakeshore Dr. Glenwood, MN 56334

phone: 320-634-0342 **fax:** 320-634-4576

email: Glenwood.Fisheries@state.mn.us

2. Minnesota Seagrant – U of M Extension
<http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/>

3. Minnesota Seasonal and Recreational
Property Owners Coalition Inc.
<http://www.msppo.org/>

4. Outdoor News – Sportsman’s Weekly
www.outdoornews.com

5. United States Department of Agriculture
– Invasive Species Information Center
www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov
email: invasive@ars.usda.gov

This booklet was created in pair with the research paper titled “Analysis of Lake Ida Homeowners’ Knowledge of Invasive Species and Water Quality

Issues". Results were taken from a survey sent out over the fall/winter of 2011.

Clayton Fischer,

Environmental Studies

Dr. Barbara Burke,

Communication, Media and Rhetoric

Jessica Beyer,

Center for Small Towns

University of Minnesota-Morris

Sources:

Front cover cartoon courtesy of:

Worcester, MA Telegram

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20090903/FLASH/909030508>

Invasive species pictures courtesy of:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Minnesota Waters – 501.c.3 organization (non-profit)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS