

Mission...

WE PUMP WATER!

"Like" our Facebook page for all the latest updates!

This has been an unusual year at the lake and we thank you all for your patience in dealing with high water and no wake zones! Let's take a look at many of the events that have affected McCook Lake.

1982: The state declares the "Ordinary High Water Mark" as 1090.7. This dictates how close buildings and structures can be to the lake.

Late 1990's -2011: The MLA board target elevation for the lake is 1089.0. The water permit allowing the MLA to pump water from the Missouri only allows us to do so when the lake is at 1090.3 or lower.

July 2010: At an elevation of 1090, a "No wake zone" was declared for the lake due to high rain events.

2011: Massive Missouri River flooding raised groundwater elevations and the entire lake was under the "no wake zone".

2012: Due to massive pump repair expenditures from the 2011 flood and change in funding sources, the MLA changed the target lake elevation to 1088.00 to save on pumping expenses.

2012-2018: The lake elevation was kept at 1088. Improvements included a variable speed drive to allow for more consistent pumping operations and lower electric bills, erosion control efforts at storm drain inlets, and the addition of a disperser at the inlet to make the incoming water more environmentally friendly in terms of fish habitat and erosion.

August 2018: The pump bringing water from Missouri River to McCook Lake was turned off due to maintaining or exceeding the target lake elevation of 1088.00 with only rainfall and groundwater.

Winter 2019: The river levels, which are dictated by the Army Corp of Engineers, stayed high, keeping ground water elevations high and McCook Lake high.

April 29, 2019: Lake elevation is at 1088.5, 6" above target elevation, with no pumping from the river.

May 29, 2019: Lake elevation is at 1089.4. At the request of the MLA, South Dakota Game Fish & Parks declare a "NO WAKE" zone for all of McCook Lake. According to Emmet Keyser, Regional Supervisor for Region 3 of the SD GFP, this is something the Governor can issue on a temporary basis to deal with emergency type events.

June 29, 2019: Volunteers with the McCook Lake Association hook up a back-up pump at the inlet to pump water back to the Missouri River to "de-water" the lake. The lake elevation was roughly 1090.3.

August 23, 2019: Lake elevation is roughly at 1089.0. The SD GFP removes the "NoWake" designation back to the typical no wake boundaries, while requesting that lake users stay adequate distances from shore and be respectful of other's property, as large wakes can and do cause damage.

Discussions will continue regarding concerns many people have over the size of wakes that some activities put out on this size of lake and explore potential regulations governing the water level of the lake. Stay tuned!

McCook Lake in the news!



Dakota Dunes/North Sioux City Times reporter, photographer Beth Fennel took this picture of 16 turtles sitting on a log off of the McCook Lake – Izaak Walton League boat dock in May 2019. She was awarded first place in a national newspaper photo contest Monday, July 8.

Winter Lake Forecast

Because the Army Corp of Engineers has forecasted the Gavins Point Dam releases to be high through December, plan on McCook Lake staying high throughout the winter. This means docks and hoists will likely suffer damage from ice if not removed. Please plan accordingly.

2019 Fireworks Drive

Thank you to everyone who helped fund the 4th of July Fireworks!!! Don Lantis with Lantis Fireworks put on a great show for us to see! Special thanks to MLA board member Jody Reich for all the work he does fundraising for this fun event.

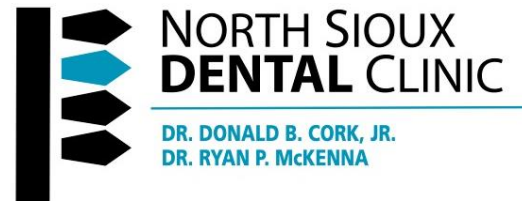


Kids Fishing Day

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at or attended the Kids' Fishing Day in June! Lots of fish were caught and there were lots of smiling faces!

Thanks to our 2019 Corporate Sponsors

Don Cork/North Sioux Dental Clinic
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Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendars!

- **MLA Meetings, 7 PM at the Ike's Clubhouse:**
September 17, October 15, November 19
- **MLA Admiral's Stag! November 8**

2019 Membership Drive

Our 2019 Membership Drive raised \$20,728. All Membership dues go directly to pumping water in (or out!) of McCook Lake. Special thanks to our members for supporting the lake, especially when conditions are not ideal! We appreciate you!