

**Cullen Lakes Association
Lake Management Plan (LMP)
2016**

Goal 1: Maintain or improve the water quality of the Cullen Lakes

Strategy A: Monitor the water quality of each lake using the three most common parameters: Secchi disk for water clarity, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a*.

- Actions:**
1. Monthly, May through September, take lake water samples and have them analyzed by a certified lab for total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a*.
 2. At least twice monthly, May through September, take Secchi disk readings for water clarity.
 3. Plot the results to detect trends.

Strategy B: Increase the number of lakeshore properties that have a shoreline buffer of unmowed native vegetation or a completely natural shoreline.

- Actions:**
1. Present the annual Lake Friendly Shoreline Award and the Most Improved Shoreline Award to up to one property on each lake.
 2. Note award winning shorelines on the annual property owners map/guide.
 3. At least once each year, publish an educational article on natural shorelines in the Association's newsletter and post it on the CLA website.
 4. Educate property owners regarding what lakeshore property alterations, both on land and in the water, require permits from the local government unit and/or the DNR.

Strategy C: Encourage all developed Cullen Lakes lakeshore properties to have sewage treatment systems that effectively treat wastewater.

- Actions:**
1. Annually, educate property owners on the recommended usage and maintenance of septic systems.
 2. Provide each new lakeshore property owner with the University of Minnesota Extension's *Septic System Owner's Guide*.

Strategy D: Identify possible sources of pollutants in the lakes from sources other than inadequately treated wastewater.

- Actions:**
1. Periodically, analyze wetland and stream discharge into the lakes for total phosphorus. Plot the results to detect trends.
 2. Educate property owners on ways to help prevent shoreline erosion problems.

Goal 2: Maintain an aquatic plant community of sufficient abundance to support fish and wildlife, to protect shorelines and lake bottoms from wave action, and to improve water quality.

Strategy A: Maintain a healthy, well-balanced aquatic plant community while controlling vegetation which interferes with reasonable access to and use of the water.

- Actions:**
1. Annually, educate lakeshore owners on native aquatic plants, their value to the lake, the proper and/or allowed methods of their removal, and possible ramifications of altering the native plant community.

2. Monitor changes in the abundance of aquatic vegetation.

Goal 3: Control and prevent infestations of aquatic invasive species to protect native plant and animal populations and the lakes' ability to support recreational activities.

Strategy A: Control the growth and spread of purple loosestrife.

Actions: 1. Educate lakeshore property owners on their responsibility to identify and control purple loosestrife on their property.

Strategy B: Control the growth and spread of curlyleaf pondweed.

Actions: 1. Annually, map and document with GPS coordinates the locations of nuisance curlyleaf pondweed or assist a hired CLP treatment contractor in doing so.

2. Annually, work with the DNR or other resources to implement a curlyleaf pondweed treatment plan.

Strategy C: Monitor the lakes for new aquatic invasive species.

Actions: 1. Annually, educate lakeshore property owners on identifying aquatic invasive species.

2. Immediately upon confirmed identification of an aquatic invasive species in the Cullen lakes, take action to eliminate, control, or decrease its presence or growth.

Goal 4: Enhance the recreational use, safety, and enjoyment of the lakes' water surfaces while protecting them as natural resources.

Strategy A: Minimize the environmental impact of motorized watercraft on the lakes.

Actions: 1. Annually, provide lake property owners with a review of and update on watercraft regulations.

2. Annually, educate lake property owners on lake-friendly usage of motorized watercraft.

Goal 5: Maintain or improve the fish population of each lake.

Strategy A: Provide lake property owners with information that will enable them to set reasonable expectations for the current and future quality of fishing on the Cullen Lakes.

Actions: 1. When a report is available, publish a newsletter article reviewing the most recent DNR lake survey results on fish spawning conditions and test netting results for each lake.

2. Annually, educate property owners regarding catch-and-release and encourage them to practice it.

Strategy B: Work with the DNR to protect/improve/restore fish habitats and populations.

Actions: 1. Maintain a committee whose responsibility it is to work with DNR Fisheries personnel.

Goal 6: Promote responsible and sustainable land development to protect the lakes and their environs.

Strategy A: Take a proactive position on the development of shoreland.

- Actions:**
1. Maintain a committee whose responsibility it is to act as a liaison with the jurisdictions in which the Cullen Lakes are located on matters concerning shoreland ordinances, rezoning requests, development proposals, conditional use permits, and variance requests.
 2. Submit a position letter and attend public hearings, when possible, for all rezoning requests, development proposals, conditional use permits, variance requests, etc. involving Cullen Lakes lakeshore properties.
 3. Annually, via the newsletter, educate lakeshore property owners on lake-friendly shoreland development.

Strategy B: Monitor development and land use within the Cullen Lakes watershed.

- Actions:**
1. Stay informed of development and land use requests via legal announcement in area newspapers.
 2. When appropriate, attend local government unit meetings and public hearings that concern rezoning requests, development proposals, conditional use permits, variance requests, etc. for properties within the watershed to express the Association's position and/or concerns.

Goal 7: Educate and inform Cullen Lakes property owners, Association members, and the general public on topics related to the preservation of the quality of the lakes and their environs.

Strategy A: Educate lakeshore owners on their responsibility to preserve the quality of natural resources.

- Actions:**
1. Use a quarterly newsletter as the principle medium to educate property owners on Best Management Practices.
 2. Maintain an Association website.
 3. As needed, update and revise the Association's *Managing Your Shoreland: A Guide for Lakeshore Owners* for distribution to all new Cullen Lakes lakeshore property owners.

Strategy B: Inform lakeshore property owners of Board and committee actions taken to meet the Association's goals and objectives.

- Actions:**
1. Annually, provide lakeshore property owners with written reports of Board and committee actions.
 2. Annually, publish the water quality test results in the newsletter.

Strategy C: Provide information to lakeshore property owners on current issues that could affect the future of the Cullen Lakes.

- Actions:**
1. As needed, send special mailings and other communications to lakeshore property owners and Associate members to keep them informed on current critical issues.

Goal 8: Review and, when necessary, revise the Association's organizational structure to ensure attainment of its goals and objectives.

Strategy A: Work towards ensuring that the Association's committee structure supports the goals and objectives of this plan.

- Actions:**
1. Annually, analyze the current committee structure and make changes needed to accomplish the goals and objectives adopted by the Association.

2. Annually, review specific responsibilities assigned to each committee and update/revise them where appropriate.
3. Finish developing and then maintain a current manual of procedures defining officer and committee roles, responsibilities, duties, and the working relationships between entities in order to facilitate officer or committee chair and Board member turnover.

Strategy B: Obtain necessary financing for the Association's general operations and projects through dues, grants, fund drives, and gifts.

- Actions:**
1. Encourage adult family members of property owners to join the Association.
 2. Encourage all co-owners of lakeshore properties who are not currently members to join the Association.
 3. Annually, assess the need for an increase in dues.
 4. Encourage members to include a tax deductible donation with their payment of annual dues.
 5. Annually, assess the need for a fund drive to continue the control of aquatic invasive species.

Goal 9: Establish a proactive position in the planning for the future of the Cullen Lakes.

Strategy A: Evaluate and modify the Lake Management Plan (LMP) on a regular basis.

- Actions:**
1. Annually, evaluate the current database and the need for additional data to meet current goals.
 2. Annually, review the LMP to determine if any actions need to be modified.
 3. Annually, report the progress towards meeting the goals of the LMP to the membership.
 4. Every five years, conduct a survey of lakeshore property owners to profile their understanding of and need for shoreland management and to use as a basis for making changes to the LMP.
 5. Every five years, analyze trends that may affect the quality of the lakes to determine what modifications are needed to the LMP.