

Agenda - 2026 RLAA Annual Meeting

May 5, 2026

- RLAA Introductions and call to order
- Elm Creek Watershed
- Updates
- Initiatives
- Financials
- Open forum and adjournment

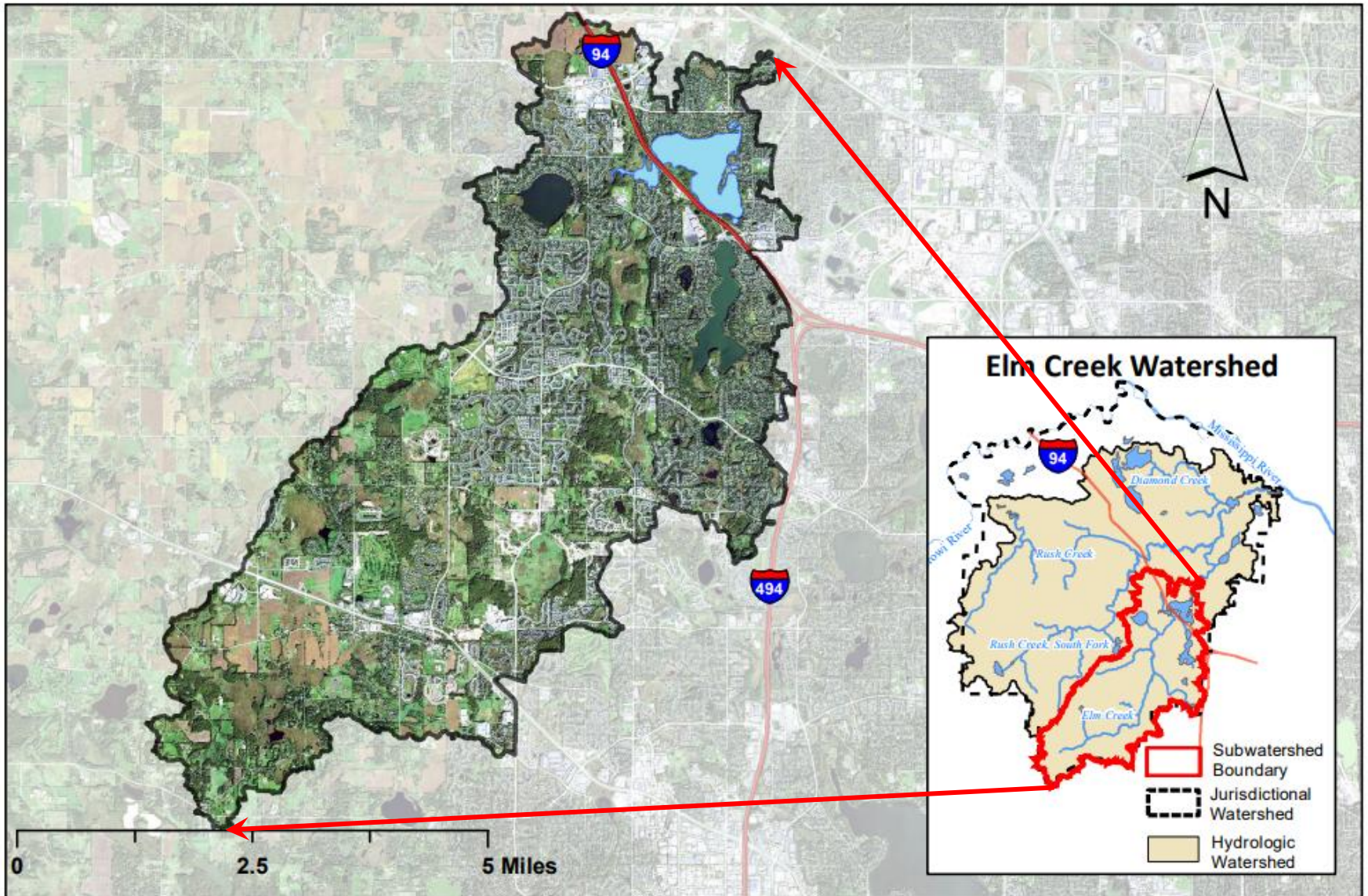
Rice Lake Area Association

email: ricelakeassoc@comcast.net

- RLAA is one of Minnesota's many volunteer, non-profit, lake associations
- Lake associations work with citizens, other lake associations, researchers, city, county, state, and federal agencies and programs
- RLAA encourages stewardship of water, soil, and vegetation for recreation and wildlife habitat
- RLAA *Volunteer* Board Members:
 - Hente Braam, President
 - Jeremy Coenen, Vice President
 - Zachary Frey, Director
 - Nick Mannel, Director
 - Curt Putland, Director
 - Scott Roeglin, Director
 - George Schneider, Secretary
 - Gary Shubinsky, Director
 - Rick Stulac, Director
 - Michael Thiede, Treasurer

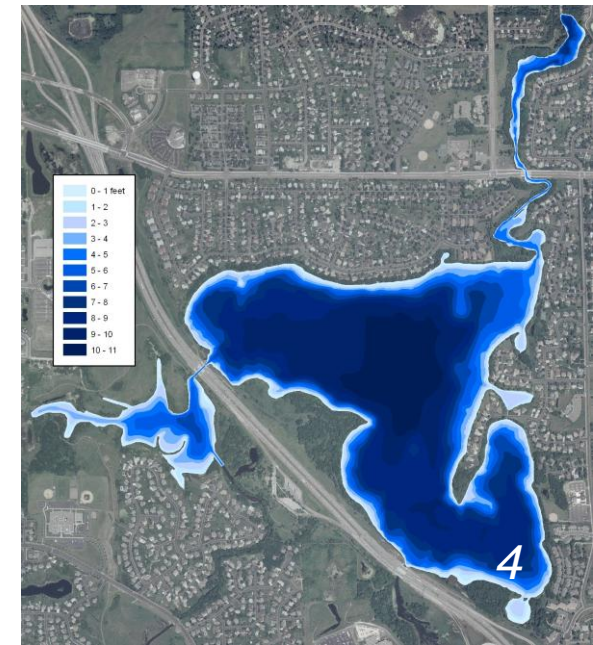


Elm Creek Watershed (and Rice Lake Subwatershed)



Rice Lake

- 307 acre, 7ft avg, 10ft max depth reservoir created by Elm Creek dam, 52:1 upstream watershed
- 16,092 acre Rice Lake sub-watershed within the 66,400 acre Elm Creek watershed
- Public carry-in boat launch (for kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards)
- No public access for trailered boats – only shoreline property owners
- Wildlife habitat (northern pike, bass, sunfish, perch, crappie, carp, bullhead, painted turtles, snapping turtles, frogs, toads, snakes, muskrat, squirrels, mink, beaver, fox, coyotes, racoons, deer, rabbits, bats, cormorants, hawks, eagles, loons, turkeys, ducks, geese, osprey, gulls, heron, swans, egrets, turkey vultures, pelicans, cranes, kingfishers, coots, . . .)
- Rice Lake is significantly impaired (eutrophic) with excess phosphorous and nitrogen from chemical fertilizers and decaying organic matter
 - 32.5% Maple Grove storm drains
 - 22.6% Plymouth, Medina, Corcoran storm drains
 - 2.0% County and State highway storm drains
 - 26.6% internal load (produced within the lake) and atmosphere
 - 16.3% shore and upstream drainage (not via storm drains)

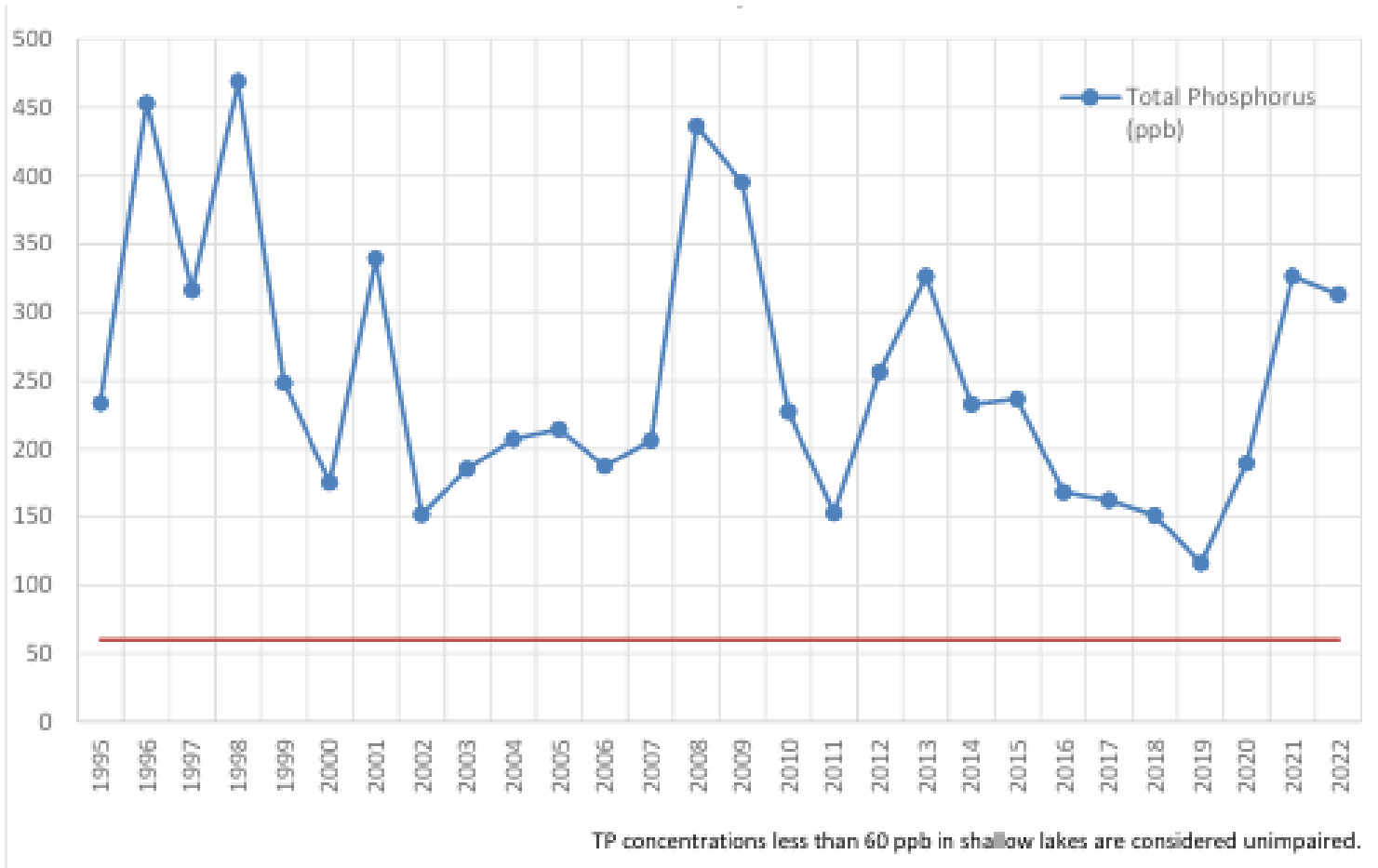


Dam and Spillway

- Elm Creek is an MPCA impaired waterway
- Drought and evaporation are the primary drivers of low lake levels
- Lake level is *not* very sensitive to spillway discharge:
 - With no water flowing in and 1 ft³/second draining out, the lake level would drop just 2.3 inches per month
- The spillway controls were vandalized in 2022, so the City is using sandbags to restrict spillway discharge to the minimum DNR required 1 ft³/second
- The City plans to make repairs in conjunction with a 2029/2030 drawdown
- More questions? publicworks@maplegrovern.gov



Rice Lake Phosphorous



RICE LAKE SUBWATERSHED ASSESSMENT
CITY OF MAPLE GROVE
WSB PROJECT NO. 020202-000

Best Management Practices (BMP's)

Table 3: Potential BMP Cost Benefit Analysis Table

BMP	Estimated Construction Costs	Estimated Annual Maintenance Costs	TP Removals (lb TP/yr)	25-Year Cost Benefit (\$/lb TP Removed)
RL Elementary North Filtration Basin	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	6.2	\$ 2,000.00
RL Bible Chapel Filtration Basin	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	9.2	\$ 1,445.65
Weaver Fields Filtration Basin	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	3.5	\$ 3,085.71
Trail Lot Underground Filtration Gallery	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	4.0	\$ 4,600.00
Maple Knoll Rain Garden	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.7	\$ 8,428.57
91st Avenue Underground Filtration Gallery	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	4.9	\$ 4,081.63
Dallas Lane Pond Retrofit	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	0.5	\$ 24,000.00
80th Circle Structure	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	6.1	\$ 1,268.12
88th Place Structure	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	2.4	\$ 2,308.98
89th Place Structure	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.3	\$ 16,782.54
90th Ave Structure	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.1	\$ 39,407.27
91st Ave & 91st Place Structure	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	5.3	\$ 1,442.76
91st Ave & Quantico Lane Structure	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	8.7	\$ 889.97
Archer Lane Structure	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.9	\$ 6,355.13
Blackoaks Lane Structure	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	4.3	\$ 1,770.90
Cheshire Lane Structure	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	5.3	\$ 1,446.01
Dallas Lane Structure	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	1.2	\$ 4,417.67
Jewel Lane Structure	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.2	\$ 24,859.25
Maple Grove Parkway Structure	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	3.4	\$ 1,743.89
Rice Lake Road Structure	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	2.6	\$ 2,236.12
Upland Lane Structure	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	1.5	\$ 2,876.16

Harsh Reality:

- Alum treatment cost for the whole lake would exceed \$800K
- 1,624 lbs annual phosphorous inflow. 788 lbs removed. 836 lbs left to remove.
- The 10 best Maple Grove BMP's would cost \$1.5M and mitigate just 54 lbs/yr (6.5% of the remaining problem)

Source: Rice Lake Subwatershed Assessment, City of Maple Grove, May 2023

Invasive Plant Surveys

Rice Lake Curlyleaf Pondweed survey results from 2020 through 2025

2025 (4 years post-drawdown)



2024 (3 years post-drawdown)



2023 (2 years post-drawdown)



2022 (1 year after drawdown)



2021 (Prior to 2021-22 drawdown)



2020 (1 year before 2021-22 drawdown)



Invasive Zebra Mussels

- Zebra mussels were found in Rice lake in 2024 and 2025. The MN DNR put us on the Invasive Species list. We will not be removed from the list until we have 5 zebra mussel free years.
- *Properly cleaning and drying boats, lifts, and docks from other waters remains important to prevent starry stonewort and other invasive species*
- Zebra mussels outcompete native species for microscopic food particles, resulting in clearer water and less food for native species
- Plants thrive in clearer water with more sunshine available
- Zebra mussels significantly change the ecological balance, but the long term effects in other lakes have not proven as dire as feared
- Zebra mussel shells are razor sharp, so be careful
- Zebra mussels don't eat cyanobacteria*

*Blue/green algae isn't algae – it is a cyanobacteria



2025-2026 Rice Lake Drawdown Summary

Background

- The drawdown conducted this past winter was intended to kill off the new growth of invasive aquatic weeds (Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)).
- As of this writing, there has not been any evidence of a winterkill of fish.

Chronology

- Members were asked to remove watercraft by 9/15/2025.
- The bypass at the dam was opened up 9/22/2025 to lower the water level
- Maximum water level drop of 5.99' was attained in late fall
- Tree Trimming was done by City of Maple Grove Public Works per RLAA request during the winter on the ice for the portion of Elm Creek from County Road 30 out to the lake.
- Bypass was closed on 4/1/2026 to allow the lake to fill up again naturally.
- It typically takes less than 2 weeks for the lake to return to its normal water level.
- As of April 18 the lake appears to be back to its normal level

2025-2026 Elm Creek Tree Trimming

Background

- There had been many trees falling into the creek on the outlet side of the lake up to County Road 30 during the past several years.
- RLAA Board reached out to the City asking if they could help clean up the shoreline to improve navigation and reduce shoreline erosion.
- City spent 1 full week (February 3-6) clearing out the trees, including Ash trees which may eventually succumb to Emerald Ash Borer disease.



2025 Winter Aeration System Extension

Rice Lake Winter Aeration Diffuser extension completed in 2025

Background: When Rice Lake conducts periodic drawdowns to eradicate non-native invasive aquatic plants like Curlyleaf Pondweed and Eurasian Watermilfoil, the original winter aeration system was not extending out far enough into the water to provide adequate oxygen levels. In the fall of 2025, the winter aeration system was extended out another 650' for a total of 1,000' from the shoreline. This puts the diffusers in 9' of water (at least 4' during a drawdown), which should be sufficient to provide oxygen to the water and maintain the fish population.

This project was completed by 10000 Lakes using the existing pump box with larger diameter hoses to reach the greater distance with 4 weighted diffuser heads. It was successfully tested with the 2025-2026 drawdown as no noticeable fish winterkill was observed.

WARNING: Boaters are asked to avoid anchoring in the immediate area of the diffuser locations shown below (see geographical coordinates).

Coordinates for the 2025 extended diffuser locations:

- #1 at 45.1177667, -93.4743167
- #2 at 45.1175500, -93.4745833
- #3 at 45.1173333, -93.4746333
- #4 at 45.1172500, -93.4749000

2026 Rice Lake Project Plans

- **Conduct Fish and AIS Plants Surveys**
 - Per MN DNR post-drawdown recommendation
 - Was drawdown successful in reducing invasive weeds?
 - Did the drawdown have any impact on the fish population?
- **Continue Carp Removal efforts with Fish Lake**
 - Track carp for optimum removal
 - Share RLAA volunteer resources with box netting efforts
- Each of these projects are being co-funded by the City of Maple Grove through the Lake Quality Commission LIP (Lake Improvement Project) program
- **Reforestation project (*tentative*)**
 - Communications have begun with the City to have trees planted in the gaps between the current wooded area and each of the I-94 bridges to help serve as both a sound barrier and aesthetic improvement



Water Quality - Carp Biomass Reduction History

Background

- Carp ecologically damaging when biomass exceeds 90 lbs/acre
- 2018 population assessments 287 lbs/acre and 140 lbs/acres (2021) on Fish, 225 lbs/acre Rice
- 2018 estimate ~14,000 carp per lake
- Feeding habits destructive – dig lake bottom releasing nutrients
- Potential to reduce longevity of alum treatment
- Project started in 2018 in partnership with City of Maple Grove, Elm Creek Watershed, Three Rivers, Rice Lake Area Association
- Population assessment, radio telemetry tracking, removal
- Also tracked northern pike spawning migrations
- Under-ice netting had limited success





Water Quality - Carp Biomass Reduction 2024 Work - Photos





Water Quality - Carp Biomass Reduction 2024 Box Netting Results

- Two baited box nets were installed summer 2024
- Kept baited with corn by FLARA volunteers
- Four seine events conducted by WSB and many volunteers from FLARA and RLAA
- Sides of net quickly hoisted while carp are feeding on bait
- Excellent results!!!
- 1940 carp removed (6081 lbs.)
- THANK YOU TO THE 25+ VOLUNTEERS!!

Lake	Date (2024)	# Carp Captured/Removed	Pounds Carp Removed	Pounds per Littoral Acre Removed
Fish Lake	June 14	Nets Installed	-	-
	June 19	485	1560	14.5
	June 27	677	2160	20.1
	July 16	487	1521	14.2
	July 29	291	840	7.8
Total		1,940	6,081	56.6

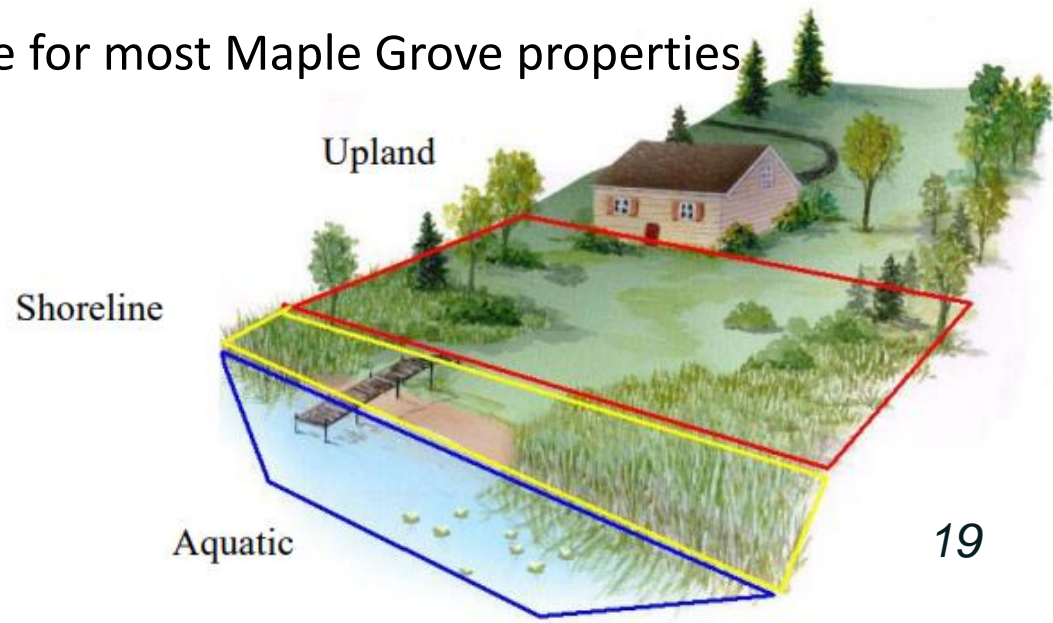
Fish & Rice Lake Carp Removal Efforts for 2026

- BWSR Grant received by city/watershed to fund work
 - Focus will be acting on a management plan to track and remove carp.
 - Revised population estimates in both lakes - electrofishing CPUE and mark/recapture
 - Completed in late 2025 on both lakes
 - Movement study of carp and northern pike - PIT tags and radio tags, PIT receivers placed at strategic points
 - Between Fish/Rice plus 2 more locations (TBD)
 - Aging study to understand year-class makeup of population
 - Temporary barrier/trap design in connecting channel between Fish/Rice
- Box Netting efforts will also be undertaken on both lakes this season to remove carp.
 - Both FLARA & RLAA Volunteers will be recruited for this project
 - Rice Lake is planning a single location in the Tristan Bay marina area.
 - Stay tuned for details



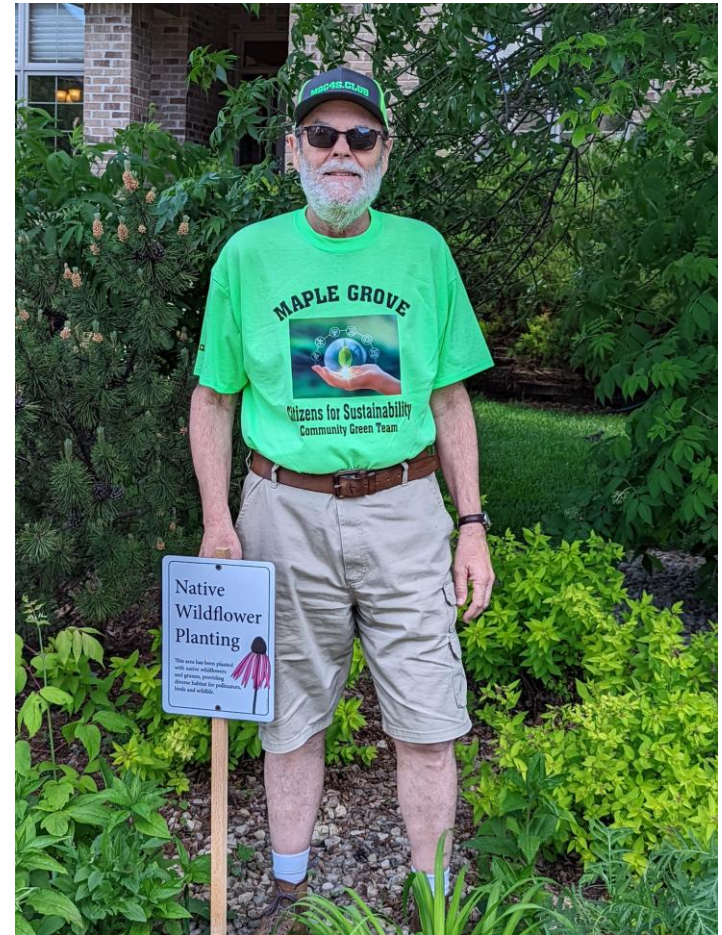
Lake Stewards Program

- Available to RLAA members via the statewide Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocacy mnlakesandrivers.org
- “Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship” booklet available from Amazon (\$10)
- Provides educational resources and statewide representation
- Storm sewers are expressways from yards and pavement to lakes
- The curb is essentially lakeshore for most Maple Grove properties



Maple Grove Citizens for Sustainability

- mgc4s.club
- Community green team
- U of M student project sponsor
- Community gardens
- Rain gardens
- Lawn reduction and aeration
- Storm drain medallions
- Keeping fertilizer and yard waste out of storm drains



RLAA Initiatives

- Partner with FLARA in reducing carp population (carp stir settled phosphorous back into the water column)
- Deploy no-wake buoys to reduce erosion and encourage boating safety
- Coordinate fish, vegetation, and water quality surveys and remediations
- Coordinate drawdowns (when recommended) to disrupt invasive vegetation
- Maintain and operate winter aerator to reduce fish kill
- Coordinate grants and cost shares
- Coordinate boat ramp access
- Coordinate with other groups to implement best practices for a healthy lake



Rice Lake Access

- There is public access for carry-in watercraft (kayaks, canoes, SUP's, etc.) at the City Arboretum parking lot (Fernbrook and County Road 30)
- Only RLAA Dues Paying Members who are shoreline owners have access for trailered watercraft to this private ramp
- A generous resident continues to grant RLAA shoreline owners gated access to their boat ramp at 14212 87th Ave N (intended for spring launch and fall retrieval)
- RLAA boaters are issued stickers and unique gate access codes each year (please lock the cable again when you finish!)



2026 Rice Lake Boat Ramp Rules

Rice Lake Private Boat Ramp Rules

This document serves as a guideline for how the private Rice Lake boat ramp should be used by all boaters. As of April 2026, RLAA is now responsible for all activities regarding the ramp. **The property owners (Dick & Joyce Drangeid) will no longer have any involvement whatsoever regarding the boat ramp.**

Background on this private boat ramp

The boat ramp is on the private property of Dick and Joyce Drangeid (14212 87th Ave N) and we (RLAA) are fortunate to be able to use it for access to the lake. Please treat this property as though it was your own.

Who can use this private boat ramp?

This boat ramp can only be used by these individuals/entities:

- RLAA dues-paying members who own shoreline property
- Contractors hired by RLAA dues-paying members to launch/remove boats
 - The boat owner is responsible for meeting/coordinates access via their own assigned code
- City of Maple Grove Fire, Police and Parks Departments with their own access codes
 - These groups have 3 potential access methods, based on the urgency for their situations:
 - Use their own access code
 - Use the lock box to use a manual key (**emergency only and not to be used for general boating activities**)
 - Cut the chain/cable assembly on the post (**emergency only and not to be used for general boating activities**)
- Hennepin County Water Patrol with their own access code
- RLAA consultants (commercial fishermen; plant and fish surveyors; water quality agencies; etc.)
 - Their access will be coordinated by a RLAA Board Member

How does an RLAA member obtain an access code?

Once the RLAA member pays their annual RLAA membership dues, the RLAA Board of Directors will have them sign a waiver before they receive a unique access code for them to use at the boat ramp. Paid dues will be good for one (1) year; the following year a new code will be distributed to each member after they pay that year's dues. The waiver is a one-time document which will be held by the RLAA secretary.

In addition to receiving an access code, each paid member will receive a 3" sticker. This sticker is to be placed port stern (*left side near the back*), or in a similar location on your boat trailer. **We ask that all boat owners display the colored sticker so that homeowners around the ramp are able to easily identify ramp users as RLAA members.** If you have multiple boats that use the ramp, the board is able to provide additional stickers upon request.

How does this system work?

There is a locking device connected to the cable which is strung between the 2 posts. An electronic keypad is connected to that locking device. When the user enters their access code into the keypad, the lock will open. That user can then set the cable to the side and launch (or remove) their boat from the ramp as in the past. Once the user is done at the ramp, we ask that they re-insert the cable back into the lock. **During certain times of the year there may be fencing to keep geese and other animals off the ramp and yard. Please replace that fencing prior to leaving the ramp.**

What if the lock is broken?

The lock can be opened with a physical key if there are problems with the electronic portion. If you experience problems, please contact a board member (*a list of names with contact info will be located on the rear of one of the posts*). The gate will remain unlocked until the keypad problem is corrected.

Additional Information regarding this system

- Each access code can be tracked by date/time for usage. If the RLAA Board determines a user is accessing their code more than normal (up to 3 times per season), they will be contacted for additional information.
- Access is only intended for those individuals/entities listed above.

Best Practices

- Please notify a board member if you see or experience any kind of ramp damage. Whether you incurred the damage yourself or just notice something that needs repair, please let us know. This includes any lawn damage surrounding the ramp.
- Stop by the ramp and try your code **before launching your boat**. Ramp users often find out that there is a problem with their code at the time they bring their boat to the ramp. Being stuck at the ramp with your watercraft and not able to get the cable open is frustrating and stressful. Stopping by a day or so ahead of time to try your code helps provides a stress-free experience.
- The above also applies to owners who use a third party to launch their boat in the Spring and remove it in the Fall. Ensure ahead of time that your code is working properly.
- Cutting the cable or breaking the lock box to launch your watercraft is never acceptable (unless an emergency) and could lead to loss of ramp privilege.
- Be a good neighbor and pick up any debris or trash that you notice at the ramp.

Rice Lake Area Association Board of Directors
ricelakeassoc@comcast.net
April 2026

During widening the summer of 2020:



Close-up of Keypad



Control Posts were installed in the fall of 2020



Boating Reminders

- Be considerate (speed, noise, wildlife, etc.)
- Open water speed limit: 40mph day, 15mph night
- No wake speed limit: 5mph
 - All channels and within 100ft of shore, anchored or non-motorized watercraft, or swimmers
- Life jackets available for everyone. Kids <10 must wear them.



Extra Rules for Jet Skis



- Life jackets must be worn
- 9:30 am until one hour before sunset
- 5 mph no wake speed in channels and within *150 ft* of shore, anchored watercraft, non-motorized watercraft, or swimmers
- Wake jumping, weaving through traffic, chasing wildlife, and destroying vegetation are prohibited
- 14-17 year olds must have a permit or someone at least 21 on board
- 13 year olds must have a permit and be continually watched by someone at least 21 or have someone at least 21 on board
- Children under 13 are prohibited from operating personal watercraft

Income Statement

1/1/2025 to 1/1/2026			
Revenue			
Membership Dues		\$ 7,407.88	
Fish Survey Reimbursement		\$ 1,710.00	
Plant Survey Reimbursement		\$ 1,897.00	
Aerartor Reimbursment		\$ 6,914.14	
Total Income			\$17,929.02
Expenses			
Draw down expenses		\$ 1,308.00	
Plant Survey		\$ 1,390.00	
Xcel		\$ 333.69	
MN Lakes & Rivers membership		\$ 125.00	
Aerator Expenses		\$ 14,018.49	
Insurance		\$ 1,576.00	
Administration expenses		\$ 304.42	
Annual meeting		\$ 385.00	
Total Expenses			\$19,440.60
Total Income/Loss			-\$1,511.58

Balance Sheet

Assets		
RLAA Bank Accounts		
Checking	\$ 18,204.36	\$ 16,252.41
Savings	\$ 3,063.40	\$ 3,503.69
Total current assets	\$ 21,267.76	\$ 19,756.10
	*Note: calculated on a cash basis	
Liabilities		
Fish Survey	\$ 1,180.00	
AIS Plant Survey	\$ 441.00	
Box Netting	\$ 4,882.00	
PIT Stations	\$ 1,333.60	
Insurance	\$ 818.00	
Memberships	\$ 125.00	
Xcel	\$ 350.00	
Annual meeting	\$ 400.00	
Total Liabilities	\$ 9,529.60	
Overall Total Assets	\$ 11,738.16	

Treasurer's Report

❖ Membership trends

- ❖ *The RLAA had 69 dues paying members in 2025, down from 72 in 2024*
- ❖ *As of mid April 2026, there have been 35 members who have paid dues. This is up from 25 at the same point of 2025*

❖ Contact Database

- ❖ *Our database has about 250 street addresses of potential member, almost all of them with email addresses*

❖ Expenses Explained

- ❖ *The D&O Insurance expense was twice what it is annually as the 2024 & 2025 policy was paid in calendar year 2025*
- ❖ *Draw down expenses included \$1200 for a DNR permit, the rest was for required notices published in a newspaper*
- ❖ *The large aerator expense was a result of extending the tubes to the diffuser, greatly enhancing the performance of the aerator*
- ❖ *\$440 was transferred from the checking account to the savings account to avoid bank fees*

Open Forum

- Ideas?
- Concerns?
- Comments?
- Want to get more actively involved?

ricelakeassoc@comcast.net



Adjournment

Thanks!

For your ideas, involvement, and dues!

1 ft³/second discharge from a 307 acre lake for 30 days drops lake level 2.3 inches:

1 ft ³	3,600 sec	24 hr	30 days	acre	12 in		2.3 in
sec	hr	day	month	43560 ft ²	ft	307 acres	