

Our Future's Up to Us

PROTECTING A GEM
SQUARE LAKE

October, 2020

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The Premise: Protect and Preserve

Square Lake,
located in May Township, Minnesota,
near the St. Croix River Valley,
is a unique 200-acre natural resource.

A jewel to be treasured and protected.

Background

The Square Lake Association (SLA) is a four-decade old, non-profit, community-based, board-led home-owners organization, committed to natural resource preservation, conservation, stewardship, and community collaboration. Our mission is to protect and preserve Square Lake and the surrounding watershed for future generations by working together with homeowners, lake users, community and government leaders, and association sponsors. We exist to educate and increase awareness of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and other water clarity threats; support, conduct, and share water science information, including research and data; ensure compliance with government rules and regulations impacting the lake and surrounding environs; and advocate and implement conservation best practices. We approach our mission proactively but with ongoing care, commitment, respect, and kindness.

As beneficial lake users, we owe it to future generations to *protect and preserve* Square Lake's pristine natural beauty, clarity, and balance.

The Goal

Engage, and seek commitment from relevant community members and stakeholders to ensure the preservation and value of the jewel that is Square Lake.

“Community” comprises Square Lake Association (SLA) membership, Washington County government leaders, other influencers, and the general public that visits our neighborhood.

Why You?

As a resident or stakeholder familiar with the great benefits of Square Lake and its environment, you likely have a very personal (and financial) connection to this extraordinary natural asset.

Your support of efforts to protect and preserve can help ensure that Square Lake will remain a special place into the future.



The Challenge

While Square Lake is neither square, rectangular, nor oval, it is a secret gem. An exception to the over-used, overrun majority of Minnesota lakes that have been invaded by dangerous, unwanted pollutants, and species that inevitably follow in the wake of careless, unprotected over-users.

Without proactive, focused attention, and action, these highly aggressive alien trespassers can rapidly transform pristine lakes into unattractive, inhospitable swamp-like environments.



The 3-Part Solution

Expand

Aggressively expand Square Lake Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Inspection and Water Quality Monitoring



Strengthen

Strengthen Square Lake representation and participation with the Washington County Public Works Master Plan Initiative



Develop and Deploy

Develop and deploy a dynamic unique **Private** SLA Website to disseminate information, raise awareness, educate, and call for appropriate actions.

Why an Educational Website?

After extensive research and study of other progressive lake homeowner associations, obtaining competitive website designer bids, conferring with AIS educators, and community and government leaders, your Board voted unanimously to create a private SLA educational website in 2020 to:

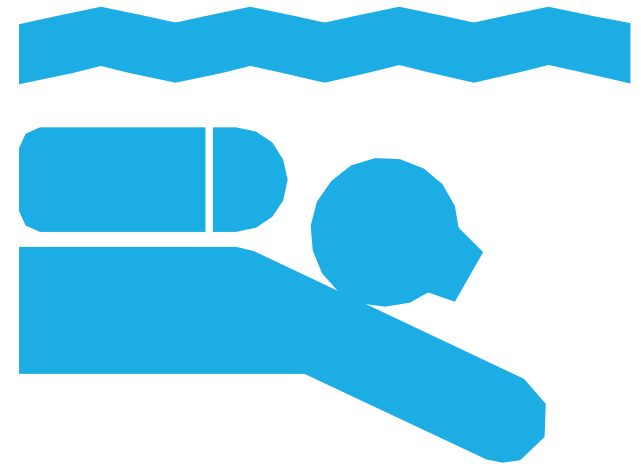
- a) Proactively increase Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness and education – for SLA Members, Sponsors, community leaders, and other lake users.
- b) Provide a centralized “go-to” online information resource for SLA Members and Lake Users, highlighting lake and watershed related information; research initiatives; best practices; and shoreland management news and information.

Why an Educational Website?

- c) Inform Lake Users of watercraft, fishing, scuba-diving, and County Park rules and regulations.
- d) Grow Association membership, and increase dues-paying revenue, from its current base of 45 households.
- e) Further strengthen SLA strategic partnering bridges with Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR)
<http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>;
Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)
<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/>;
Washington County; Minnesota DNR; Washington Conservation District (MNOWCD) at www.mnowcd.org;
Carnelian Marine on St Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD)
www.cmscwd.org.
- f) Inspire SLA member volunteerism.

Our promise

If you share our passion to preserve and protect, we will send you a deeper dive into this endeavor, specifically adding detail to the 3-part solution. We would very much like to know that you're on board with the description of our challenge and goal. Then we'll provide additional information, a more detailed plan, and a description of the actions we can all take – working together, starting now!



Here's what you can do now



1. Please reply to this message and declare your interest in helping to achieve our goal



2. Talk to friends and neighbors about our shared desire to preserve and protect.



3. Let us know of any observations you have this summer, identifying opportunities to improve our shared “home”



4. We welcome any and all suggestions you may have to advance this program!

Square Lake Association

2020-21 Budget Planning

- As of September 1, 2020 SLA treasury reserves equal \$5,500.
- Board approved 2020-21 authorizations include:
 - Ongoing support of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Inspections at Square Lake Park \$3,000 (matched by Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed District with an additional \$3,000). This is in addition to a base level of inspection hours from the Washington Conservation District.
 - Annual Curly Leaf Pondweed delineation and treatment \$2,000
 - Square Lake Association private educational website – hosting, maintenance and updating \$750 annually.
 - Web site design fee of \$3,000. (\$2,000 of which has been generously donated by four Lake-supporting sponsors, to be announced shortly!)

Our Board's fundraising strategy for the 2020-21 budget will be presented to Association Members in late September.

In any case...



It's an honor to serve you



We very much hope to hear from you



Thanks for considering our thoughts and objectives



Let's Ensure the Future of Square Lake

Scott Alexander, President

(scalex53@gmail.com)

Carol Gilligan, Secretary

(carol@kidsabilities.com)

Lynn Mecum, Treasurer

(lmecum4@msn.com)

Jim Seidl, Vice President

(jim.seidl@legalresearch.com)

**Square Lake Association Board
of Directors**