

CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NORTH & SOUTH CENTER LAKES DELISTED

In 2021, North and South Center Lakes were delisted from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Impaired Waters list for nutrients. Removal requires meeting water quality standards for five consecutive years. The water quality standards protect our water resources for fishing, swimming, plants and animals.

In the Chisago Lakes area, the accomplishment reflects hundreds of conservation practices implemented over 10-plus years, stretching from lakeshore lawns to farm fields. Phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels are generally decreasing throughout the chain. Phosphorus feeds the algae that can turn lakes green. Chlorophyll-a indicates the presence of algae. Secchi disk readings, a measure of water clarity, are generally improving.

A targeted watershed demonstration grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in 2015 brought five years of dedicated Clean Water Funds to the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes. Work accomplished through the grant reduced phosphorus by an estimated 690 pounds per year. One pound of phosphorus can create 500 pounds of algae.

Partners:

- Center City
- Center Lakes Association
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District
- City of Lindström
- Landowners
- Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
- MPCA
- Natural Resource Conservation Service



Above Left: Lakeshore restoration. Photo credit: Nancy Moe-Mergens

Above Right: Grassed waterway. Photo credit: Chisago SWCD

Bottom: Rain garden. Photo credit: Aaron Hanson



LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT