

CARP MANAGEMENT



Many lakes in the Chisago Lakes area have abundant carp populations. Carp feeding stirs up bottom sediment, causing phosphorus to release into the water column, which in turn increases algae growth. Carp also can disrupt growth of native aquatic vegetation.

Carp prefer to spawn in seasonally flooded areas, and in particular waterbodies that do not support a fishery population throughout the year. This condition minimizes predation of their eggs and fry.

Linn Lake has been identified as a primary breeding area for carp in South Center Lake. Under conditions of higher water, carp migrate from South Center Lake through a culvert to Linn Lake. In 2015, the LID coordinated with a commercial fisherman to harvest carp attempting to migrate into Linn Lake to spawn. The LID is evaluating options to conduct another carp harvest in 2016.

Research continues in the LID on the carp population. In 2015, Saint Mary's University conducted a carp survey on Green and Little Green Lakes. Data collected during the survey



was used to determine population and age structure. This information is being used to isolate conditions that lead to successful recruitment years within each lake system that supports a carp population and consequently enables targeting of management activities. Additional research is planned for 2016.

The CLLID continues to support and coordinate with the annual Chisago Lakes Lions Club Carp Festival. In 2016, data such as age and length of captured carp will be collected in addition to information already being collected such as number and weight of carp harvested from each lake. The more we learn about the carp populations in each lake, the better management activities may be targeted.

Partners:

- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Saint Mary's University
- Carp Festival



LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT