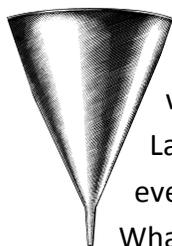


Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed



A watershed is like a funnel – collecting all water within the drainage area and channeling it into a stream, river or lake. Even if your home is not next to a lake, river or wetland, you still live in a watershed and the rain and snowmelt from your property flows to area lakes and rivers. In the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed, runoff water drains through many streams into the lakes. The water eventually flows from the Watershed into the Sunrise River, then flows north to the St. Croix River. What we do in the Chisago Lakes area has an effect on the Sunrise and St. Croix Rivers.

Runoff Pollution

In cities and farms, water flows over streets, sidewalks, and fields into streams, ditches, and storm drains. As the water flows, it picks up trash or pollutants and carries them, untreated, directly to the nearest lake or river. This is runoff pollution. Everyone who lives in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed can have a



Leaves, grass clippings, and debris from streets and lawns often go directly into storm sewers untreated.

positive or negative effect on water quality. It is our responsibility to ensure that runoff from our properties is as clean as possible.

Over time, many lakes and streams within the Watershed have become degraded. Degradation of our waters is harmful to fish habitat and negatively impacts recreational value by making swimming and boating less desirable.



Sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides can run directly off of agricultural land.

Impaired Waters

North & South Center, Linn, Little, Ogren, Pioneer, School, and Wallmark Lakes are impaired, meaning these lakes do not meet water quality standards established by the State of Minnesota for lakes in this area.

The LID Board of Directors is composed of 5 members representing specific areas of the LID (see map) and 2 at large Directors:

Area 1: Mike Mergens, Vice Chair

Area 2: Jill Behnke

Area 3: Orris Erlandson

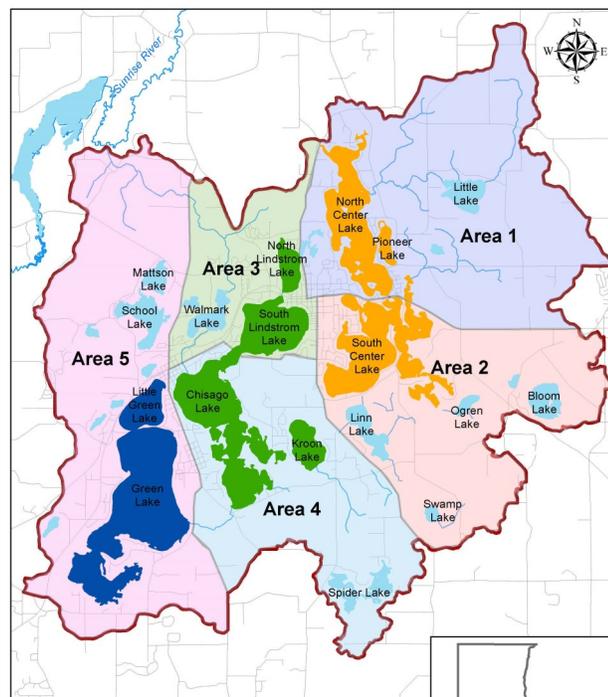
Area 4: Joyce Anastasi, Chair

Area 5: Monica Kinny

At Large Director: Steve Paquay

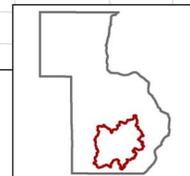
At Large Director: Gary Schumacher

The LID Board administers an annual budget and provides policy recommendations to the Chisago County Board of Commissioners.



Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed Board Member Areas
Chisago SWCD 2015

- Chisago Lindstrom Lake Association
- Green Lake Association
- Center Lakes Association



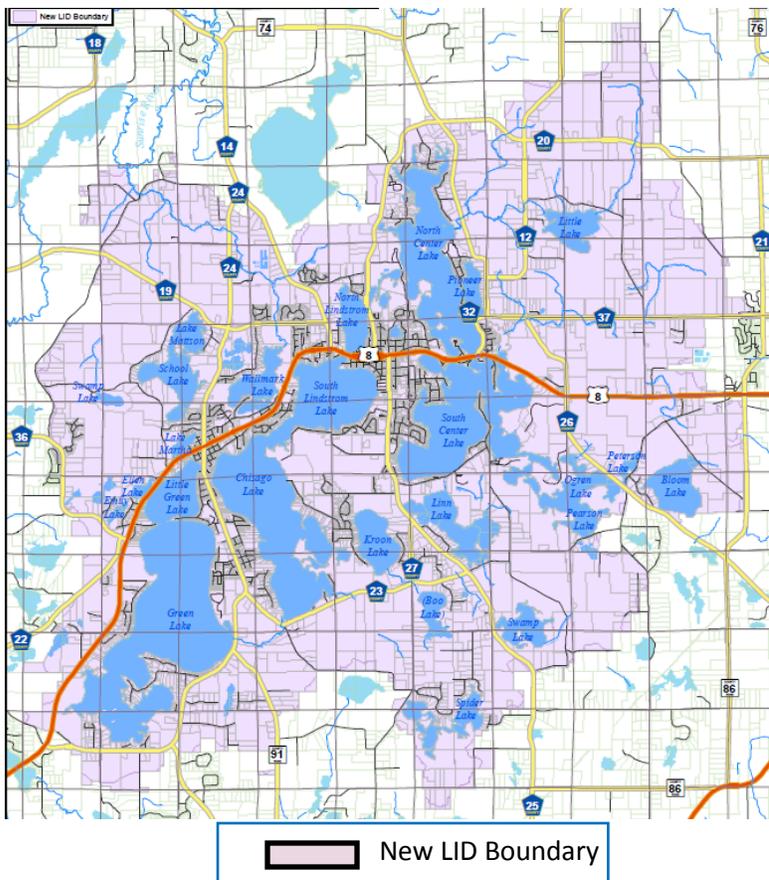
Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District

Protecting and restoring the surface water resources of the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed



The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) strives to protect and restore area lakes and streams. The LID achieves this mission by actively engaging in programs to:

- Maintain the ditch and weir system in order to control water levels during high water events.
- Encourage environmentally sound land use practices for urban and agricultural areas to protect water quality within the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed.
- Preserve, protect and enhance water quality within the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed.
- Promote environmental education, awareness and stewardship within the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed.
- Promote the reduction of non-native aquatic invasive species.
- Protect, encourage and restore native shoreline to improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Restore, improve and maintain navigation channels between the lakes.
- Support safe and balanced recreational use of surface water.



The Chisago Lakes LID was the first LID established in Minnesota and is the largest. The LID was formed in 1976 in response to high water in area lakes and the flooding of shoreland homes. As a result, the LID installed a system of channels and weirs designed to drain excess water during times of high water.

Since its inception, the LID's role has expanded to much more than lake water levels. In 2015, the Chisago County Board approved expansion and adjustment of the LID boundary to match the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed boundary.

Chisago Lakes LID Fast Facts:

- Contains the communities of Center City, Chisago City, Lindstrom, Shafer, and Chisago Lakes and Lent Townships.
- Approximately 14,000 people live in the LID.
- There are 19 lakes in the LID, combined there are over 7,000 acres of surface water.
- The LID is about 10 miles long and 9.3 miles wide.
- Chisago, or Ki Chi Saga to the Native Americans, means fair and lovely waters.

For more information about the Chisago Lakes LID visit: www.chisagocounty.us/300/Lake-Improvement-District