



## **Lake Association Topics of Interest**

### **New funding available for septic system upgrades**

- Grants available to those who meet low-income guidelines & own and live on property.
- Can be issued for repair, replacement, or upgrade of an existing non-compliant septic system.
- Money assists in financing design, permit costs, and installation of the septic system.
- Low interest loans are also available with no income eligibility.
- Non-refundable loan application fee of \$100.
- Design, permit fee & project estimate due at time of loan application.
- 3% interest for the term of the loan, loan terms are for 7 years.
- All funds are limited and will be distributed on a first come first served basis.
- Information & application for both grants and loans are on the County website, [stearnscountymn.gov](http://stearnscountymn.gov) or call (320) 656-3613.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

- Watercraft inspections will begin in May on lakes awarded inspection dollars. These will occur through September. 10 Lakes: Big Fish Lake, Middle Spunk Lake, Pleasant Lake, Two Rivers Lake, Lake Marie (Lake Louisa), Big Watab Lake, Grand Lake, Clearwater Lake, Koronis Lake, Rice Lake
- Tool station signs are being installed in 2024 at 11 different public accesses throughout the County and look to increase that to 25 total tool station signs by the end of the 2024 inspection season.
  - The tool station signs include a reminder to clean and drain equipment and include at least two tools that will make cleaning easier and more convenient.
- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) project is beginning in May and running through September, which will include 10 videos and targeted marketing (e.g. boating enthusiasts in Stearns County).
- The Five Star Lake Service Provider Initiative continues:
  - FiveStar is a strategy to create positive, trust-based relationships between shoreline property owners and Lake Service Providers (LSPs) while showing aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention safeguards are practiced by those LSPs.
  - FiveStar is voluntary, there is no fee and it is open to all lake service providers and lake associations within Stearns County.
  - Participants list: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/1512/FiveStar-Lake-Service-Provider-Initiativ>.
- To find current infested waters: [dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html)

### **Shoreline Ordinance**

To protect water resources, shoreland property size and use is regulated. Contact the Environmental Services Department for lot size standards & setbacks from the water.

#### **Structures & Construction in Shoreland**

Permits are required for the following:

- Building or moving a structure, including decks and portable structures.
- Additions to existing structures.

- structural alterations including excavation for footings, foundations, slabs, posts, basements, walls or other parts of a structure including roof line and pitch.
- Improvements to structures located in mapped floodplain areas.

#### Shoreland Alteration Permits

The Shoreland Overlay district includes areas within 1,000 feet of lakes, 300 feet of rivers & streams, and mapped floodplain areas. Activities that are regulated, requiring shoreland alteration permits:

- Topographic Alterations (Grading, excavation, and fill)
- Retaining walls
- Rock riprap
- Topographic Alterations (Grading, excavation, and fill)
- Sand blankets
- Water access

#### Vegetation, Stormwater, & Erosion Control

- Vegetation removal is regulated on all shoreline properties. A Vegetation Alteration Permit is required when proposing to remove any vegetation on shoreline properties.
- Contact Environmental Services Department to arrange for a site visit and complete an application for a vegetative alteration.

#### Vacation/Private Home Rentals

Rentals for fewer than 30 days at a time require an Interim Use Permit. The vacation/private home rental shall also be licensed by the County for lodging. Other standards apply as well.

Contact Environmental Services for complete information, with questions, or if looking to make shoreline improvements at 320-656-3613 or email [EnvironmentalServices3@stearnscountymn.gov](mailto:EnvironmentalServices3@stearnscountymn.gov).

#### Household Hazardous Waste Summer Collections

- Summer collections get underway in late April and continue into September.
- \*\* Also medication sites. New this year, the Sheriff's Office will also be at 4 of the scheduled HHW mobile events to collect unwanted medicines. These sites are marked with \*\* in the schedule.

**Saturday	April 27	Paynesville	Civic Arena	8:00 a.m. – 11 a.m.
**Wednesday	May 8	Sauk Centre	Hockey Arena	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
**Wednesday	May 22	Melrose	Parking lot North of fire hall	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	June 26	Holdingsford	Holdingsford School SW Lot	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	June 26	Albany	Our Savior Lutheran Church	1:00 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Monday	July 15	Clear Lake	Lot under the water tower	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	August 7	Richmond	River Lakes Arena	10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday	August 14	St Martin	St Martin church parking lot	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday	August 14	St Nicholas	St. Nicholas Church	1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
**Saturday	September 21	Kimball	A.M. Maus and Sons	8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.