

2024 Newsletter

Walleye Stocking Coming to Lake Augusta

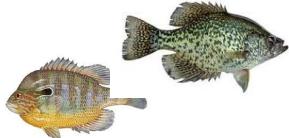


See Page 3 for details

New Fish Limits for Augusta & Clearwater:

CLEARWATER LAKE including connected Caroline, Augusta, Grass and Otter lakes and connecting portions of the Clearwater River (Stearns and Wright)

Crappie: daily limit 5.



Sunfish: daily limit 10.

Northern Pike: North-central zone, 10 (not more than 2 over 26", all from 22-26" must be immediately released).



Find us on:
facebook.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to join our Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050838251787106>.

Since this is a closed (private) group, so you will need to hit the "Request to Join" button.

We are currently over 280 members.

2024 LAA Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 10, 2024 (10:00 am)

Annandale City Hall— Meeting Room
30 Cedar St E
Annandale, MN 55302

Guest Speaker(s):

Paul Pattee, Clearwater Lake Board Member

- Update on Starry Stonewort in Clearwater.

Dan McEwen, LimnoPro Aquatic Services

- Update on Lake Augusta AIS

2023 Annual Meeting with Joe Stewig, DNR Area Fisheries Manager as Guest Speaker.



4th of July Boat Parade

Thursday, July 4 @ 2:00

See page 3 for details

Photo Contest is back for 2024



- Boat Parade
- Fishing
- Wildlife
- Sunrise/Sunset/Landscape

See Page 5 for details.

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Topics at Lake Augusta

Message from our President

By: Jack Gleason

I hope everyone is having a great start to the 2024

It has been again a very different start to our summer. A very late Ice-In, early Ice-Out, very little snow, cool spring and now lots of rain...what's next???

I was out fishing with the grandkids on 6-3-24 and had so much fun catching and releasing sunnies.

We do have a new limit for fish on the lakes, please look at the regulations for fish limits!

We are going to have the 4th boat Parade again so join in, it was fun last year! The parade is on the 4th of July at 2:00pm. weather permitting.

Also, photo contest again. Subjects for contest are sunsets, fishing, wildlife and 4th of July.

Deadline date to submit photos now through Labor Day. Put things on Facebook for all to see!

We are working on treating for EWM in July, but we could not treat for Curly-leaf this spring.

Board approved with stocking Walleye fingerlings up to the limit of \$3,000.00.

Have a safe summer and lots of fun with your family this summer on the lake.

Have a great summer and stay safe.

Jack Gleason, Lake Augusta Association President, 612-751-1050.

AIS Treatment for 2024

By: Mike Elms

This past winter??? resulted in a very late Ice-On, very little snow cover, and a very early Ice-Out.

We had a Point Intercept Survey conducted earlier than normal this year. Because of the early Ice-Out, the DNR was concerned that the lake temperatures would increase earlier than normal, causing the native aquatic plants to start growing earlier than normal. The DNR moved up the Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) treatment window by 2 weeks.

Part of the DNR Permit process is proving that there is sufficient CLP Growth to justify treatment. We had LimnoPro come out and conduct the Point Intercept Survey in Mid-April. Some early growth CLP was found in several areas of our lake, so we applied for a CLP Treatment Permit from the DNR. The DNR came out, did their own survey and determined that there was not much CLP to be found, and denied us our permit. Due to this, we did not Treat Lake Augusta for Curly-Leaf Pondweed this spring.

It should be noted that after the early ice-out, we had several weeks of colder than normal weather, which did not allow the lake water temperatures to increase as expected. While CLP starts growing early in cold water, we have learned that it does not start growing quickly until water temps hit 50F or higher. Native aquatic plants generally start growing at temps over 60F. We always need to treat CLP before the water temps get above 60F, to avoid any damage to the native aquatic plants in our lake.

We plan on doing another Point Intercept Study in early July to determine if we have much growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) this year. Depending on the results of the survey, we will apply for a DNR permit to treat any EWM found. Last year, we did treat several areas of EWM in early August near the Clearwater River inlet.

As has been the case for the past several years, we will also have a 3rd point intercept survey done in late August/early September to determine the effectiveness of the EWM treatment and also look for any signs of starry stonewort (SSW). See page 4 for more information on SSW.

LIMNOpro

Lake, River, and Pond Management

www.limnopro.com

4th of July Boat Parade 2024

This year's annual 4th of July Boat Parade is set for:

Thursday, July 4nd at 2 p.m.

By Rhonda Small



Everyone on Lake Augusta is invited to participate. Join us as part of the parade or cheer us on from shore.

Boaters should meet in the middle of the lake near the island at 1:45. We will then take a slow ride around Lake Augusta in the direction shown in the image. At the end we will take a lap past each other so even the boaters get to see the parade.

If weather is bad stay tuned on Facebook for updates.

So get dressed up, decorate your boat, watercraft or pontoon and wave your flags. Let's celebrate our country's birthday on Lake Augusta!

A few Photo's from 2023 Parade



Walleye Stocking coming to Lake Augusta in 2024

By: Steve Ladwig

The Lake Agusta Association has been looking into a walleye stocking program and working with the DNR Area Fisheries Manager Joe Stewig.

The board has been authorized by the DNR to Stock 65 pounds (1 lb/acre of Littoral Area) of fingerling walleyes into Lake Augusta. Fingerlings vary in size depending on what time of year they are stocked. In the summer they are a little smaller, in the fall a little larger but generally between 4" – 8" in length.

Fingerlings have a greater chance of survival which is why the DNR is suggesting fingerlings over fry. So we would get between 4-5 walleyes per pound roughly about 300 fish.

The cost of purchasing the walleyes from a fish vendor is between \$41.00/lbs. to \$54/lbs. looking at a price between \$2,600 to \$3,500.



The reason why the Lake Augusta Association Board is looking into a walleye stocking plan is because there is no natural walleye reproduction on Lake Augusta or other lakes in the Clearwater River Chain of Lakes. The walleyes have to swim up from Clearwater or be pushed down during high water from Caroline. What that means is once you catch and harvest a walleye from Lake Augusta, it's gone and cannot be replaced by walleye spawning.

The Lake Augusta Association Board is still working out some details with the DNR but currently we have a good working relationship, and any small details should be easily worked out.

Starry Stonewort (SSW) Found In Clearwater Lake

By: Mike Elms

Starry Stonewort (SSW) was first discovered in Minnesota in August, 2015 in Lake Koronis (near Paynesville, MN). It has also been found in several lakes in our area including: Lake Sylvia, Pleasant Lake and now in Clearwater Lake last August, 2023 during a routine Point Intercept Survey. Please go to the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) for the most up to date information: <https://clpo.org/images/uploads/files/2023%20CLPO%20Fall%20Newsletter.pdf>.

Brief Highlights:

- Found along South Shore in East Basin, covering 1.8 acres. Area is clearly marked by 14 Floating Signs. Please stay away from that area.
- Original Infestation was estimated to have occurred about 2 years ago. Source has not been identified.
- 3 Treatments were done last fall using Mizzen (Copper triethanolamine complex).
- No SSW has been found at any of the Public Landings on Clearwater to date.
- Survey's done this spring show the biomass has shrunk and no SSW spread has occurred.
- Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) is working with Blue Water Science, MN DNR, Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) and Lake Restoration.
- Additional Treatments are planned for this year per DNR permit approvals.
- Paul Pattee, AIS Manager for the CLPO will be giving a SSW update at our L.A.A. Annual Meeting on Aug. 10.

Appearance

Starry stonewort is a bushy, bright green macro-algae. It produces a characteristic star-shaped bulbil.

Leaves and stem

Thin, bright green branchlets (branch-like structures) can be variable in length and are arranged in whorls (radiating out from a single point) around the stem. Branchlets typically extend in acute angles away from the stem nodes.



Reproductive structures

White, star-shaped bulbils (asexual reproductive structures) the size of a grain of rice form on clear threads at the base of the plant and may be found at or below the sediment surface. Small, orange spheres called antheridia (male reproductive structures) may be visible near the tips of the branchlets.



Biology

Starry stonewort is a macro-algae, meaning it does not have a vascular system like true plants. Each branchlet or stem is a single cell. Native populations consist of both males and females, but all known introduced populations in North America are male. Bulbils are present throughout the growing season, but become most obvious and plentiful in late summer. Starry stonewort may form a dense carpet of material in shallow areas.

Origin and spread

Starry stonewort is native to Eurasia, from the west coast of Europe to Japan. The species was unintentionally introduced into the United States' Great Lakes through the discharge of contaminated cargo ship ballast water. The first occurrence in the United States was in 1978 along the St. Lawrence River. It was first confirmed in Minnesota in August 2015, in Lake Koronis and now has been confirmed in 25 MN lakes. Refer to the [infested waters list](#) for current distribution.

Don't be fooled by these look-alikes

It looks similar to many native, beneficial grass-like algae, such as other stoneworts and muskgrasses found in Minnesota lakes and rivers, but can be distinguished based on its production of star-shaped bulbils.

Look-Alikes:

[Muskgrasses](#) (native), [Stoneworts](#) (native), [Sago pondweed](#) opens in a new browser tab (native), [Narrow-leaf pondweeds](#) (native)

THREAT TO MINNESOTA WATERS

Starry stonewort impacts:

- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreationists.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.

CONTROL METHODS

Management of invasive aquatic plants involving either mechanical removal of plants or application of herbicides to public waters [requires a permit from the DNR](#). Talk to a DNR specialist for more information.

Mechanical control can be done by hand-pulling, suction dredging, DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) and using other aquatic vegetation harvesting equipment.

Herbicide control can be done using contact herbicides (endothall, copper and diquat). Contact herbicides damage or kill only parts of plants with which they come into contact, they are not taken up or moved within the plant.

MINNESOTA PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LAWS



You Must...

- Wear a USCG-approved life jacket. Comply with label.
- Travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of: nonmotorized boats; shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water); docks; swim rafts; swimmers; or any moored or anchored boat.
- Operate only from 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset.
- Use the cutoff lanyard properly.
- Obey operator age and permit laws for those younger than 18 years old.

You Must Not...

- Chase or harass wildlife.
- Jump the wake of another boat within 150 feet of the craft.
- Operate a personal watercraft in a manner that endangers life, limb or property. Protect Your Sport Respect your neighbors.
- Don't operate for long periods in the same area or near occupied boats or shore.



This is only a summary of the laws as of June 2018 and is required to be visible to the operator on all personal watercraft in Minnesota. For more information contact: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat and Water Safety 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4047 651-296-6157 | 888-646-6367 | mndnr.gov/boatingsafety. email: info.dnr@state.mn.us

If you see any violations or unsafe conduct, please take pictures and/or video and report them to the Wright and/or Stearns County Sheriff's Water Patrol Department. Please try to get the Boat or Jet-Ski Licence Number and Driver in Photo/Video (if possible).

Wright County Water Patrol Officer: Drew.Scherber@co.wright.mn.us (763) 684-4534

Aquatic Invasive Species Info:

Eurasian Watermilfoil Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html

Eurasian Watermilfoil FAQ: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/faq.html

Curly Leaf Pondweed Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/curlyleaf_pondweed.html

Zebra Mussels Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html

Starry Stonewort Info: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/starrystonewort/index.html>

MN DNR 1035 South Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-223-7878 • saukrapids.fisheries@state.mn.us

To find your conservation officer visit:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/officerpatrolareas>

Annandale Area Conservation Officer: Leah Kampa

Turn in Poachers (TIP): 800-652-9093

Call the [TIP Hotline](#) to report a violation.

Information Center: 888-646-6367

LAA Board Members:

Jack Gleason - President: calljackgleason@aol.com

Mike Elms - Vice-President: mkelms6337@gmail.com

Joel Von Ende - Treasurer: joelv@danetechnologies.com

Rhonda Small - Secretary: rhonda.small@rsparch.com

Steve Ladwig: sdladwig@comcast.net

North Side Representative:

Greg Alberg (Stearns County): gegalberg@gmail.com

Advisor:

Roger Rauschendorfer: rrauschendorfer@gmail.com

All LAA Board Members are 100% Volunteers

Questions/Comments: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com

Looking to get active in our Lake Augusta Association?

We have 1-2 Board Positions Open
Contact any LAA Board Member listed above.

Why Join and Support the Lake Augusta Association?

By Rhonda Small:

"One of the most valuable and productive things that lakeshore residents can do for protecting or preserving their lakes water quality is to form an effective lake association."

Your LAA Membership dues help support many things to make this a great lake to live and play on. One of those things is bog maintenance. Some of you have seen in the past the damage a loose bog can do to your personal property as well as the entire lake if it clogs the bridge. It can be devastating. We work with the DNR to obtain an emergency bog permit to manage any bogs that come loose.

Your membership dues also contribute to preventing and treating AIS (aquatic invasive species). Through yearly lake surveys and treatment efforts within the guidelines set by the DNR, we've successfully improved the condition of our lakes. In fact, our efforts led to Lake Augusta being removed from the MPCA's "Impaired Lake" list in 2022.

And new this year, your membership dues will help us stock Lake Augusta with walleye. We heard from the residents, and they want to ensure quality fishing on our lake and because Lake Augusta does not have a public landing, the DNR does not stock our lake with any fish. Your membership dues will help us provide a quality recreational fishing for our residents.



LAA Budget, January – December 2023

Expenses:

LIMNOPRO Aquatic Science AIS Trtmt	\$6,841.15
LAA Liability Insurance:	\$1,071.50
Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)	\$85.00
LAA Mailing & Printing Newsletter	\$82.03
Annual LAA Meeting Food & Drink	\$74.26
LAA Photo Contest/Prizes	\$150.00
LAA Member Sympathy Flowers	\$112.96
Minnesota Lake & Rivers Advocates	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$8,566.90

Income:

Wright Soil & Water Conserv. District, AIS	\$2,832.76
58 LAA Membership Paid Dues 2023	<u>\$3,135.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5,967.76

Notes:

- Received \$6,841.15 from CWRD Jan. 2024 for 2023 AIS reimbursement.
- April 2024, Wright SWCD has allocated \$2,500.00 for survey and treatment of AIS. Funds distributed in November.
- LAA Board has authorized \$3,000 for Walleye Stocking in fall of 2024.

Begin or Renew Your Lake Augusta Association Membership today.

We thank you in advance for your support. A membership form is attached to this Newsletter.

The LAA Photo Contest is BACK for 2024



This year we are bringing back our photo competition! We have 4 categories that we will be awarding \$25 gift cards to the winners.

The Categories are: • Boat Parade • Fishing • Wildlife • Sunrise/Sunset/Landscape

All you have to do is submit your 2024 photo on our LAA Facebook page now through Labor Day weekend to be entered into the contest. The LAA board will review all photos and select a winner in each category and contact you via facebook to collect your prize. So have some fun this summer and post your photos to the Lake Augusta Facebook Group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050838251787106>.

Note: You MUST be a Current Member of the LAA to Win. LAA Board Members are not eligible.

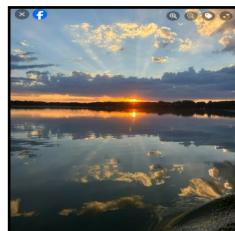
2023 Winners



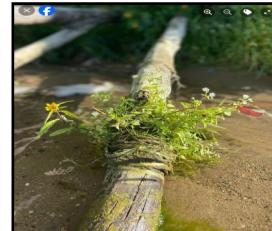
Family Fun
Tammie Lynn



Fishing
Rachel Morris



Sunset
Kari Bigot



Wildlife
Dawn Schaefer Stumpf



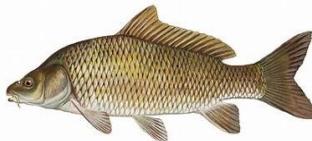
4th of July
Julie Dye

Carp Management for the Clearwater River Chain of Lakes

By Wes Boll.

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) contracted with Carp Solutions in 2023 to quantify the population, age and breeding areas of carp in the Clearwater Chain of Lakes upstream of Lake Augusta. The goal is to see if more aggressive carp management is a cost-effective way to improve water quality in the whole lake chain, including Augusta.

Nationally recognized carp expert, Dr. Przemek Bajer, and his team measured carp populations in Clear, Betsy, Caroline, Louisa, Marie, Scott, and Union Lakes. Weight per unit area or "biomass" in each lake can show us if carp populations in a given lake are contributing to poor water quality; and the results of the study can show us how best to manage carp populations and if we can do so cost effectively.



Why didn't they measure carp in Lake Augusta? Carp populations in larger lakes like Augusta are less likely to cause poor water quality in the lake. However, carp problems in smaller lakes upstream of Augusta can contribute to poor water quality in Augusta. Better control of carp in Betsy, Louisa, Marie and Caroline may mean better water quality in Lake Augusta. Because of the riverine nature of the Clearwater Chain of Lakes, improvements in lake water quality upstream improves the water quality downstream.

What does this mean for Lake Augusta? While carp tracking and management did not occur in Lake Augusta, several of the lakes where carp populations were found to be high and where management is proposed are directly upstream of Lake Augusta. Management of the carp populations in upstream lakes, especially in Lake Caroline, which has a direct connection to Lake Augusta, could potentially contribute to improving water quality in Lake Augusta. The 2024 tracking program implemented a PIT tracking antenna on the river between Caroline and Augusta and will determine potential movement of carp between the two lakes.

Details:

The CRWD contracted with Carp Solutions to conduct population assessments by conducting either electrofishing surveys or mark-recapture surveys using box nets placed in the study lakes in summer and fall of 2023. Most carp captured during the initial surveys were inserted with a PIT tag and released back into the water to allow tracking of the captured fish. The number of tagged carp that were recaptured during surveys conducted later in the season was used to estimate the total population estimate.

Additional electrofishing surveys were also conducted in lakes with higher carp populations in order to determine the age of carp in these lakes. After being captured, inner ear bones (otoliths) were extracted and examined under a microscope to count the annuli in the otolith and determine their age (similar to counting the rings to age a tree).

2023-2024 CARP MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR THE CEDAR AND CLEARWATER LAKE CHAINS:																																																																	
The Clearwater River Watershed District hired Carp Solutions (Dr. Przemek Bajer) in 2023 for a 2-year study. Study goals are to:					April 17, 2024; 6pm																																																												
1. Determine the current carp population in each lake and the biomass of carp in each lake and determine if carp are negatively impacting water clarity of the lake.																																																																	
2. Identify spawning locations for carp																																																																	
3. Determine if there is a cost effective way to improve water quality by managing carp in each study lake.																																																																	
Preliminary results are in; and it's time to decide on the next steps:																																																																	
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Lake</th><th>Biomass (kg/ha)</th><th>Water Quality Impact</th><th>Cost</th><th>Considerations</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Clear</td><td>0</td><td>NO</td><td>\$17-\$130 per pound of phosphorus removed.</td><td>Increased plant growth (which keeps lake algae down, is good for fisheries + lake health but some folks find it a nuisance).</td></tr><tr><td>Betsy*</td><td>140</td><td>YES</td><td>10-year cost of \$435,000 total (\$113,000 in 2024).</td><td>Reduced total phosphorus concentrations</td></tr><tr><td>Caroline*</td><td>199</td><td>YES</td><td></td><td>Improved fisheries</td></tr><tr><td>Louisa*</td><td>162</td><td>YES</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Marie*</td><td>293</td><td>YES</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Scott</td><td>138</td><td>YES</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Union</td><td>125</td><td>YES</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Cedar</td><td>0</td><td>NO</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Swartout</td><td>122</td><td>YES</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Alton</td><td>0</td><td>NO*</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Hominy</td><td>0</td><td>NO**</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>						Lake	Biomass (kg/ha)	Water Quality Impact	Cost	Considerations	Clear	0	NO	\$17-\$130 per pound of phosphorus removed.	Increased plant growth (which keeps lake algae down, is good for fisheries + lake health but some folks find it a nuisance).	Betsy*	140	YES	10-year cost of \$435,000 total (\$113,000 in 2024).	Reduced total phosphorus concentrations	Caroline*	199	YES		Improved fisheries	Louisa*	162	YES			Marie*	293	YES			Scott	138	YES			Union	125	YES			Cedar	0	NO			Swartout	122	YES			Alton	0	NO*			Hominy	0	NO**		
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The study found that the average age of carp was 28 years, with the oldest carp found to be 58 years old (in Lake Caroline). Only one carp under 4 years old was observed. This assessment of age suggests that carp breeding and recruitment rates 30-50 years ago were much higher than they have been recently.

The assessment of carp populations (measured in biomass as kilograms/hectare) was conducted to determine where carp could possibly be having impacts on water quality. Generally, carp biomass densities over 200 kg/ha can have negative effects on habitat and water quality, while biomass densities of 100 kg/ha may have lesser effects on lake habitats. The study suggested that carp biomass in lakes Betsy, Louisa, Marie, Caroline, Union, and Scott exceed this biomass threshold and carp management is recommended in those lakes.

As a follow-up to the 2023 study, in the spring of 2024, Carp Solutions installed antenna systems along potential carp migration routes to track carp spawning migrations. These systems detect and record carp implanted with PIT tags when they pass by the antenna. The information will be used to find locations where barriers could be constructed to prevent carp from reaching their preferred spawning grounds or to reveal locations of large schools of carp that could be trapped and removed from the system. Preventing carp from reaching their spawning grounds is an important tool in controlling carp populations and preventing large year classes of carp from being produced during years with optimal spawning conditions.

In Spring 2024, the CRWD Board approved additional carp population management measures, including netting and harvest of carp in Betsy, Marie/Louisa, and Lake Caroline. While this is an on-going program that will likely require more than a one-time cost, the CRWD hopes that the carp management will result in improved water clarity, reduced phosphorus concentrations, and reduced algae blooms in the lakes where removal takes place and downstream of those lakes.

More information on the CRWD Carp Project can be found at this link on their website: [Carp Management 2023-2024 - Clearwater River Watershed District \(crwd.org\)](https://crwd.org/carp-management-2023-2024-clearwater-river-watershed-district-crwd.org)



By Wes Boll.

The Clearwater River Watershed covers a 158 square mile area in Stearns, Wright, and Meeker Counties. The watershed includes 19 lakes, 98 miles of the Clearwater River and tributary streams and over 7,700 acres of wetlands.

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) was established in 1975 after residents noticed a decrease in water clarity in area lakes and streams, an increase in rough fish populations, and increased algae blooms. The CRWD is governed by a Board of Managers comprised of five members that are residents of the District and are appointed by Wright, Stearns, and Meeker County Board of Commissioners. The Managers serve three year terms and oversee the district business. The CRWD Administrator supports the district with engineering and technical assistance.

Since its inception, the CRWD has implemented projects and programs through coordination with project partners with the primary goal of improving water quality in lakes and streams.

The initial water quality improvement projects implemented in the 1980s and early 1990s lead to significant improvements in water quality. Water quality monitoring and other data gathering supported the additional studies in the early 2000s, and implementation of a number of improvement projects identified in a 2009 plan lead to further improvements in water quality, resulting in the delisting of some lakes from the impaired waters list for nutrients (including Lake Augusta).

The creation and maintenance of water quality projects has been one of the primary functions of the CRWD since the beginning. The projects are of various size and scope, but all serve to protect and preserve water and natural resources within the District.

These projects have included:

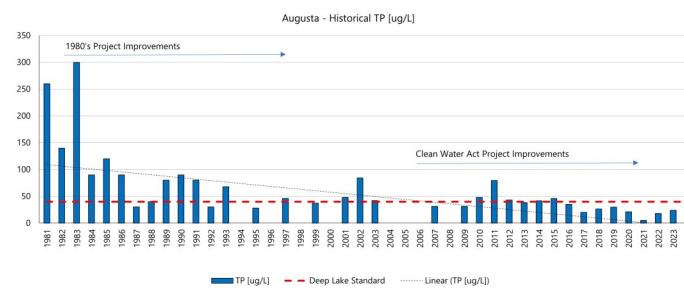
- Wetland treatment systems to treat the stormwater and wastewater discharges from Cities such as Annandale, Watkins, and Kimball
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control
- Targeted fertilizer application reduction
- Sedimentation basins to reduce runoff in agricultural Settings
- Wetland Stream channel restorations
- Carp barriers and carp harvesting
- Bog control
- Construction of lake outlet control structures for flood control.

A complete list of project examples can be found on the CRWD website at the following link: [Projects - Clearwater River Watershed District \(crwd.org\)](https://www.crwrd.org/)

CRWD Mission Statement: To promote, preserve and protect water and natural resources within the boundaries of the District in order to maintain property values, recreational opportunities, and quality of life.

The CRWD also has maintained a water quality monitoring program to track water quality trends in order to gauge the success of projects that have been implemented and identify potential future projects. A water quality monitoring summary report is produced each year to provide a summary of water quality and includes report cards rating the water quality in each monitored lake in the District.

<https://www.crwrd.org/water-quality-monitoring-reports.html>



Lake Augusta is located near the downstream end of the watershed, and approximately 62,935 acres (98 square miles) of watershed contributes to the lake. Since much of the watershed runs through Lake Augusta, projects conducted in the watershed upstream of Lake Augusta to improve water quality have also contributed to the improvement of water quality in the lake. Projects conducted directly adjacent to the lake by CRWD over the years have included the operation of a lake aeration system, construction of sedimentation basins to reduce sedimentation in the southwest corner of the lake, and AIS control.

The projects constructed in the upstream watershed contributed to the reduction of nutrients that lead to Lake Augusta being removed from the MN List of Impaired Waters in 2023.

In the future, the CRWD will continue to monitor water quality and gather information to protect and improve water quality in District lakes.

Lake Augusta Assoc. Supports: Minnesota Lakes and Rivers

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/>

