



2026 LAA Newsletter

LAA now has a Website

<https://lakeaugustaassociation.org>

In an effort to improve our communication to everyone on Lake Augusta, and surrounding areas, the LAA has developed a new website this past winter. This website will now make it easy to find information about Lake Augusta as well as now offers the ability to **Join/Renew your LAA Membership and pay by credit card.**

Information about Lake Augusta on our website includes:

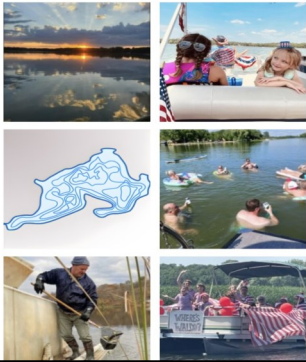
- Lake Data
- AIS Information
- Community Contacts
- Fishing Regulations for Lake Augusta and Clearwater
- Current & previous newsletters
- Board Member Contact Information
- Community Contacts
- Upcoming events in 2026
- Water Quality Report Card
- Ice Out Dates.
- Lake Safety
- Bog Info
- Water Level Information

We will keep our Facebook Group page going as well. If there is something you would like to see on our website, please send your suggestions to our email: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com.

Welcome to:

Lake Augusta Association

Join us in Preserving the Beauty, Ecology & Fisheries of Lake Augusta



2026 LAA Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 22, 2026 at 10:00 am

South Side Township Hall

Guest Speaker(s): TBD

More Specific Information will be found on our Facebook Group Page and Website soon.

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Message from our President

Lake Augusta Summer Update:

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer so far. We are off to a good start: water levels have stayed manageable, temperatures were a little warm during the first part of June, and overall conditions are looking good.

New Lake Augusta Website:

Mike Elms has our website up and running. Please visit: <https://lakeaugustaassociation.org/> to find helpful information about Lake Augusta, including:

- Association membership information
- Dues payment details
- Lake data and updates
- News and answers to common Lake Augusta questions
- You can also contact the association at lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com.

Thank you to Mike for all his work on the site. It is a great way to share news quickly with everyone.

Lake Health & Curly Leaf Treatment:

We were able to treat for curly leaf this year, which was especially beneficial given this season's conditions.

Fishing Feedback and Stocking Plans

I have received many comments about fishing this summer and would like to hear more. We have stocked the lake for the past two years, and your feedback will help determine whether we should stock again this year or wait until 2027.

Enjoy your time at the lake. I hope to see you out on the water soon.

Jack Gleason
Lake Augusta President
612-751-1050

LAA Board Members:

Jack Gleason - President: calljackgleason@aol.com
Mike Elms - Vice-President: mkelms6337@gmail.com
Joel Von Ende - Treasurer: joelvonende@gmail.com
Rhonda Small - Secretary: rhonda.small@rsparch.com
Wes Boll - wboll91678@gmail.com
Jeremy Jordet - jeremy@innovativecustomhomesinc.com

North Side Representative:

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

South Side Representative:

Liz & Gary Stigen (Wright County): gstigen@gmail.com

Advisor:

Roger Rauschendorfer: rtauschendorfer@gmail.com

All LAA Board Members are 100% Volunteers

Questions/Comments: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com

Looking to get active in our Lake Augusta Association?

Contact any LAA Board Member listed above.



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 350 members.



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: Adam Stennett

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

Call the [TIP Hotline](#) to report a violation: 888-646-6367

Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Delineation Map and Treatment Areas in 2026.

By: Mike Elms

This spring, we again had an explosion of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in Lake Augusta. CLP is an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that has been in Lake Augusta as well as most of the lakes in our are for many years.

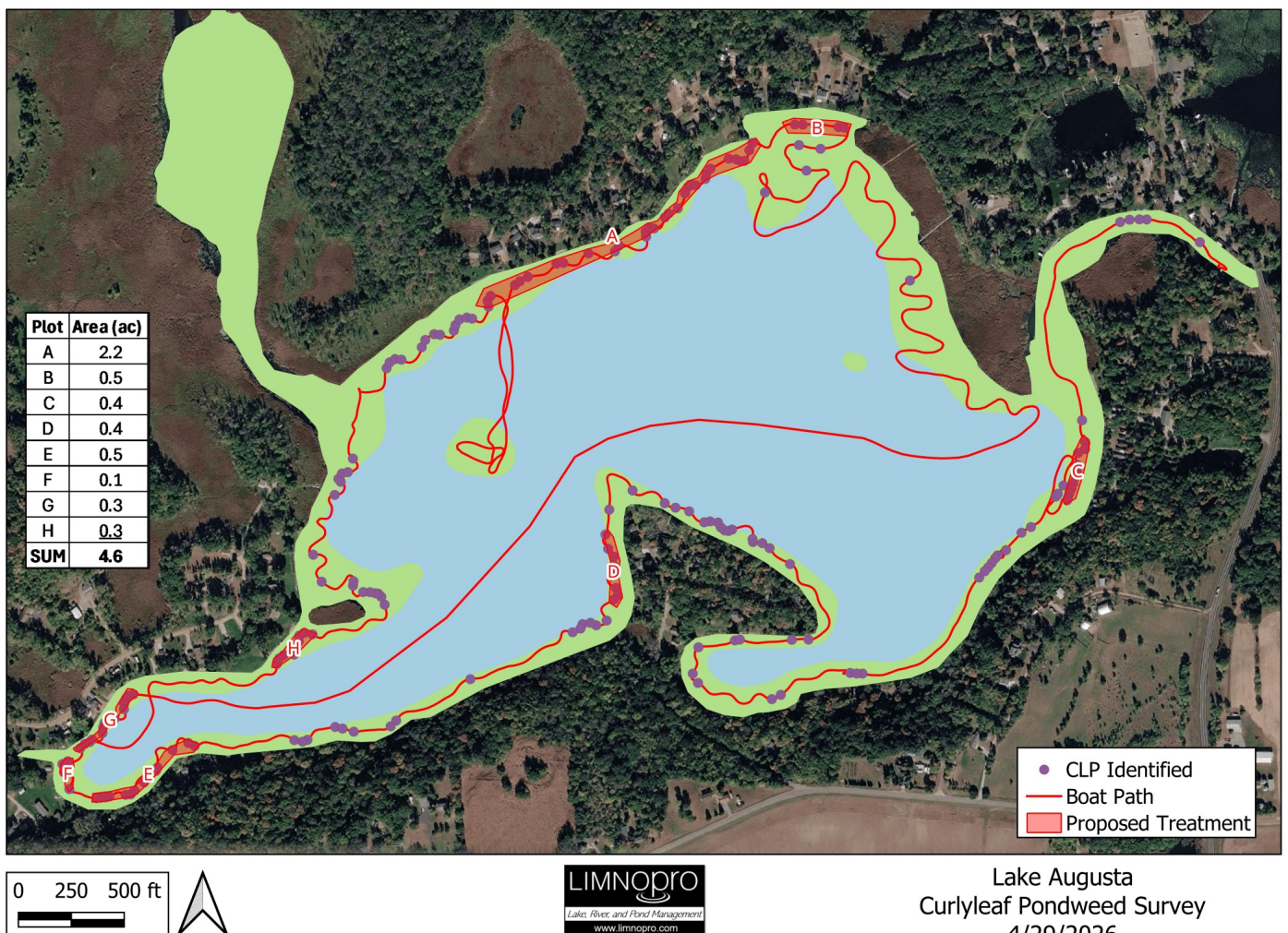
It grew extremely fast during that warm weather stretch that we had around mid-May. Seems like maybe it was just the perfect weather and conditions for CLP growth this year?

The LAA hired LimnoPro Aquatic Services to conduct a Meandering Delineation Survey looking specifically for CLP, which they found in abundance on 4-30-2025. A DNR Permit Application was submitted to the DNR and 4.6 acres was approved for Treatment.

Treatment was done on Wednesday, May 22, 2026 by LimnoPro. From many reports and observations, the treatment was deemed very successful. Please see the Delineation Map below which also shows the 8 Treatment Plots (4.6 Acres that were treated).

We plan to have LimnoPro conduct a delineation survey looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) sometime in early July. Depending on what is found and where, we will determine if applying for a DNR Permit to treat makes sense.

We will also have another Delineation survey done in Late August/Early September specifically looking for any Starry Stonewort (SSW).



Walleye Stocking in Lake Augusta in 2025

By: Steve Ladwig

Last October 2025, the LAA stocked 65 lbs of Walleye into Lake Augusta for the 2nd year in a row. Instead of stocking Walleye Fry or Fingerlings, we had the option to purchase Walleye over 1 year old. These fish were generally in the 12"+ range. While we got fewer fish per pound compared to fingerlings, the survival rate is likely to be greatly increased. We used the Jim Bosek Fishery, Garfield, MN.

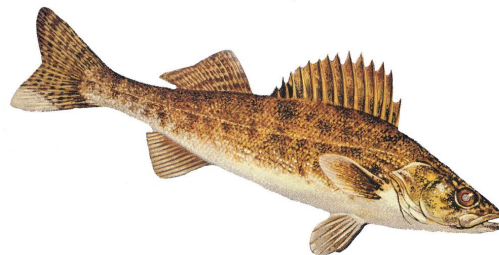


The LAA is allowed to stock 65 Lbs of Walleye per year by the DNR Fisheries Department. This equates to 1 pound/Littoral Acre. A Littoral Acre is the shallow area near the shore where sunlight can penetrate to the bottom and support the growth of aquatic plants. This is generally the area less than 15 feet deep.

The Minnesota DNR has given Lake August Association authorization to stock walleyes every year at a rate of 65 lbs. Generally, the DNR would like to see every other year to get an idea on mortality rate. At only 65 lbs. the decision is being left up to the Lake Augusta Association board whether they want to spend the money to stock walleyes every year or not.

Last year the cost was \$21 dollars per pound for walleyes at 65 pounds (\$1,365).

This money comes directly from the Annual Membership Dues to the Lake Augusta Association.



The LAA Board is interested in your opinion on Walleye Stocking.

- Should we continue?
- Every Year or Every Other Year?
- Fry, Fingerlings or Adult (Over 1 year Old)?
- Have you noticed any difference in your catch rates the past couple years?

Please let the LAA Board know your thoughts on this subject.

Email us at: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com or better yet, come to our Annual Meeting on August 22, 2026 where we will be making these decisions for this year and stocking walleye's into the future.

4th of July Boat Parade 2026



This Year's Annual 4th of July Boat Parade is CANCELLED for this year.

Unfortunately, we have decided to CANCEL our 4th of July Boat Parade this year, for the following reasons....

- The **Annandale Parade** is at 10:00 and **Music at the Sandbar** on Clearwater Lake starting at 1:00. We don't want to compete or make people decide one event over the other.
- We thought about doing it on Sunday afternoon but think that many people are starting to get ready to head back and getting ready for the upcoming week.
- Having the Boat Parade on the day after the holiday seemed a little anti-climactic. We hope you all understand.

We plan to bring back the 4th of July Boat Parade next year, either Saturday, July 3, or Sunday, July 4, depending on the Sandbar Music schedule. Stay tuned for details.

A few Photo's from Last Years, 2025 Boat Parade



Lake Augusta Water Quality



The CRWD monitors water quality in Lake Augusta by collecting samples on a monthly basis from May to September. The lake is monitored to track water quality trends in order to gauge the success of projects that have been implemented and identify potential future projects in the watershed if water quality improvements are needed. Samples are collected near the deepest portion of the lake and are sent to a lab to be analyzed for Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a. CRWD staff also takes Secchi disk readings (the depth from the surface at which a black and white disk can be seen), which is a measurement of water clarity in the lake. These three measurements are typically used to assess the health of a lake.

CRWD produces a lake report card that provides a summary of the data collected during each monitoring year as well as a comparison of annual averages of water quality data to historical data and MN standards for each parameter in order to track trends in the water quality of the lake. The 2025 lake report card for Lake Augusta is shown on the next page.

Total Phosphorus:

Total Phosphorus is a measurement of all forms of phosphorus in the lake, which provides an estimate of the amount of nutrients available in the lake for the growth of algae and aquatic plants. When large amounts of phosphorus enter a lake, algae can reproduce quickly and form algae blooms which can tint the water green. In Lake Augusta, total phosphorus concentrations are currently much lower than they were historically, with summer average concentrations below the MN standard for deep lakes. In 2025, total phosphorus concentrations increased throughout the summer and were slightly higher than in other recent years. This is likely due to wetter than normal conditions leading to high runoff into Lake Augusta from the large watershed upstream. A pulse of phosphorus into the lake may also occur when curly leaf pondweed, a non-native aquatic vegetation species found in the lake, dies off in mid-summer.

Chlorophyll-a:

Chlorophyll-a is the pigment found in algae and plants. The measurement of this pigment as the concentration of Chlorophyll-a provides a general estimate of algal levels in a lake. Similar to total phosphorus concentrations, the concentration of chlorophyll-a in 2025 was much lower than historic levels, but was higher than concentrations observed in most other recent years and was above the MN standard for deep lakes. The higher concentrations of chlorophyll-a were also likely due to higher phosphorus levels from increased runoff in 2025.

Secchi Disk:

Secchi disk readings indicated that water clarity in Lake Augusta was good early in the season and decreases throughout the summer as algae levels increase. Secchi disk readings in 2025 were similar to previous years and met the MN standard for deep lakes.

Conclusion:

Overall, while seasonal algae blooms may occur that result in temporarily poor water quality at times, water quality is good in Lake Augusta, and the lake was removed from the Impaired Waters List in 2022. Water quality monitoring conducted by CRWD will continue to be used to track water quality trends in Lake Augusta in future years.

LAKE AUGUSTA



QUICK FACTS

Littoral Area: 65 acres

Residence Time: 55 days

Surface Area: 187 acres

Subwatershed Area: 62,936 acres

Maximum Depth: 82 feet

Upstream Waters: Caroline, Louisa, Marie

Common Fish

Bluegill, Northern Pike, Crappie, Yellow Bullhead, Common Carp

Dominant Vegetation

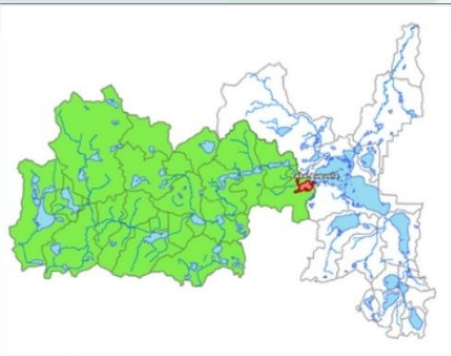
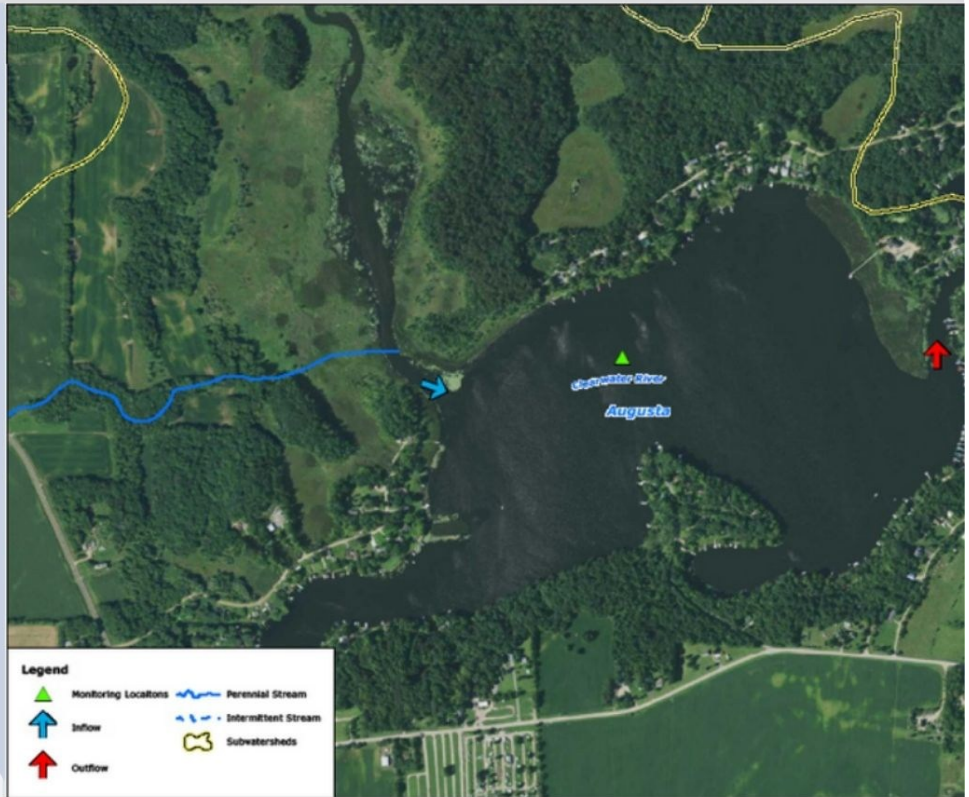
No species was dominant (>50% occurrence)

Invasive Species

Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, zebra mussels

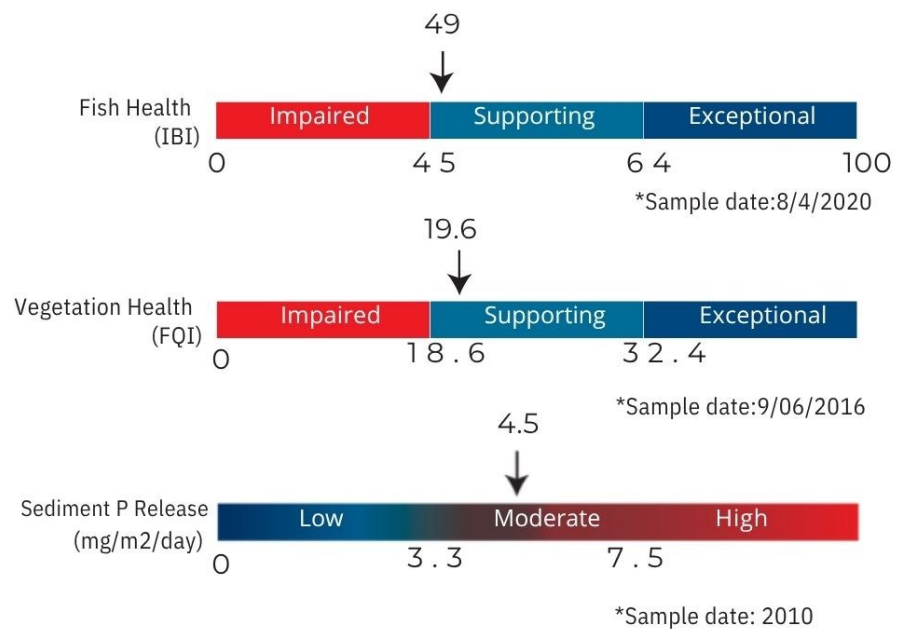
Status

Removed from Impaired Waters List in 2022; TMDL completed in 2010



TO DO LIST

- ▲ Manage upstream loads
- ▲ AIS management

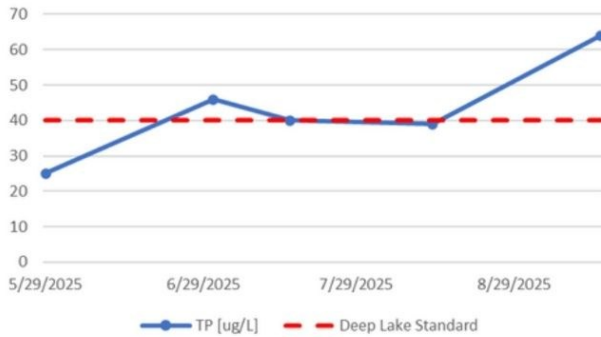


Lake Augusta

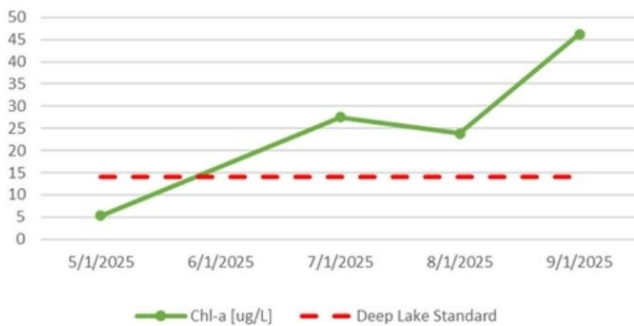
2025 Report Card

2025 WaterQuality

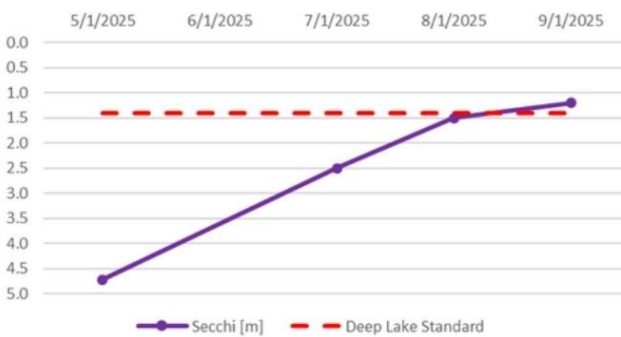
Augusta - 2025 Total Phosphorus [ug/L]



Augusta - 2025 Chlorophyll-a [ug/L]

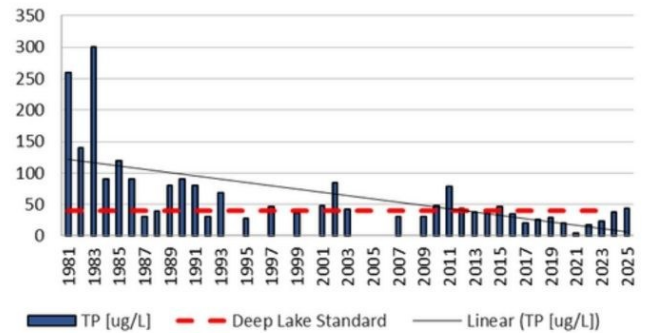


Augusta - 2025 Secchi Depth [m]

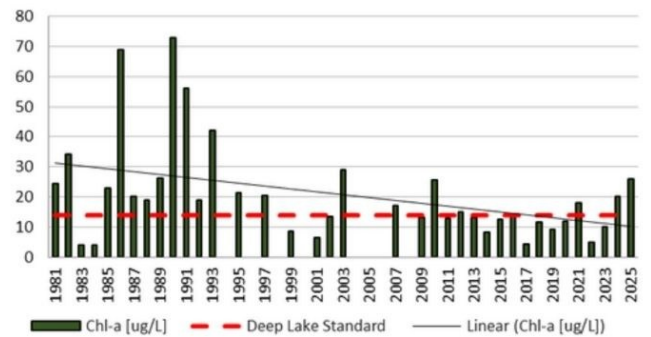


HistoricWater Quality

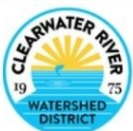
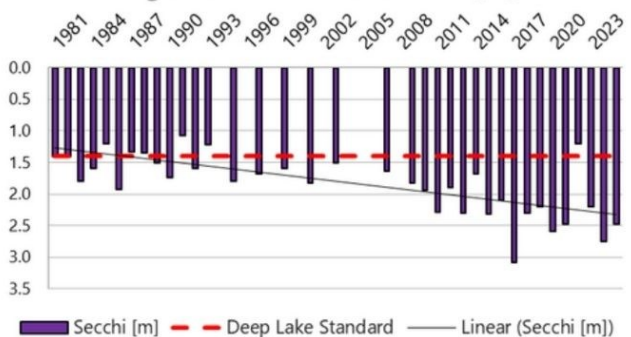
Augusta - Historical TP [ug/L]



Augusta - Historical Chl-a [ug/L]



Augusta - Historical Secchi [m]



Promote • Protect • Preserve



Monitoring Water Levels on Lake Augusta, CW & Grass Lake Dam.

Water levels in the Clearwater Lake chain are monitored by the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) at the Grass Lake dam on the downstream end of the lake where it flows into the Clearwater River. Water levels are monitored at this location using a meter that records the water level hourly. This data is processed by CRWD to create a chart showing the water level that is updated frequently during high water periods and placed on their website for residents to view.

The data from this meter is also used to determine when no-wake rules are put into place on the lakes in the chain, including Lake Augusta. When the water level reaches 992.1 ft at the Grass Lake dam, no-wake rules requiring that motorboats operate with no-wake within 300 ft of the shoreline are put into place. The no-wake is to remain in place until the water levels drop below 992.1 ft for three consecutive days. The figure below shows the 300-ft zone from the shoreline where the no-wake ordinance is applicable on Lake Augusta.



Water levels are also monitored at a lake gauge by a resident on Clearwater Lake, with daily data readings available on the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) website at [Lake Data | Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association](#).

In 2025, Lake Augusta began monitoring water levels with a similar meter that records water levels at hourly increments at a location in the west bay near the Clearwater River inlet. In 2026, a lake gauge was also installed at this same location to allow residents to determine the water elevation when needed. Based on review of data collected so far, water levels in Lake Augusta are approximately **4 inches** higher than water levels in Clearwater and Grass Lake under most conditions. Water levels can rise quickly in Lake Augusta following significant precipitation events and can take longer to subside as flow is restricted during high water by the Clearwater River channel and bridge between Augusta and Clearwater.

Beginning in 2026, water levels will be reported frequently on the new LAA website at this link: This will allow lake residents to understand if water levels are rising or falling in order to implement property protection measures (raising docks/lifts) if needed.

“High Water/No Wake” restrictions kick-in when:

Grass Lake Dam reaches 992.1 Ft or above (Comparable to 992.4 ft elevation in Lake Augusta,

See the LAA Website: Lake Info/Water Level Readings for up-to-date readings.

When “High Water/No Wake” Takes Effect



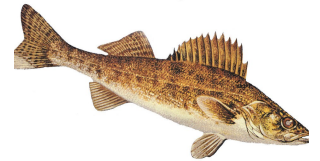
Fishing Regulations for L.A. & C.W.

As summer fishing heats up on beautiful Lake Augusta, we'd like to offer a friendly reminder about the current fishing regulations for sunfish, crappie, northern pike, bass, perch, channel catfish and walleye. These rules help maintain a healthy fish population and ensure that everyone can enjoy great fishing for years to come.

Walleye: Daily Limit 6

Only 1 walleye over 20 inches may be kept. Walleye are a prized catch in Minnesota waters. Following the slot limit helps maintain a strong breeding population and supports long-term sustainability.

Season: May 9, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027.



Northern Pike: Daily Limit 10 (w/size restrictions)

Only 2 pike over 26 inches may be kept. **All pike between 22 and 26 inches must be released.** This regulation is designed to reduce the number of smaller pike while protecting the midsize range to improve the overall size structure of the population.

Season: May 9, 2026 – February 28, 2027.



Largemouth Bass: Daily Limit 6...

May 9-23, 2026, Catch and Release Only.

New....Continuous Year Round with Catch & Release Only during May 9 – May 23, 2026.



Sunfish: Daily Limit 10

Sunfish numbers and size can decline quickly if overharvested. Please take only what you need and practice catch-and-release when possible. Season is continuous all year.



Crappie: Daily Limit 5

Crappies are fun to catch and delicious to eat. Be mindful of the limit and help protect future crappie generations. Season is continuous all year.



Perch: Daily Limit 20

40 in Possession. Season is continuous all year.



Channel Catfish: Daily Limit 5

Only 1 over 24 Inches. Season is continuous all year.



We encourage everyone to review the full Minnesota DNR fishing regulations before heading out. Whether you're casting from the dock or cruising in the boat, thank you for doing your part to preserve the balance of Lake Augusta's ecosystem.

MN DNR Fishing Link: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/index.html>

NEW BOATER EDUCATION LAW

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2025

Starting on July 1, 2025, a new Minnesota law will require some adults and youth who operate motorboats—including personal watercraft—to have a valid watercraft operator's permit. People who already have a watercraft operator's permit are not affected by the law, which is designed to make boating safer by ensuring everyone operating a motorized watercraft knows the rules and is properly trained. Here's a breakdown of the key points:

Adult operators:

- **Permit requirement:** Some adults (defined below) will need a valid operator's permit to drive any motorboat or personal watercraft starting July 1, 2025.
- **Exemptions:** Some adults are exempt from this requirement. Check the law for specific exemptions.
- **Supervised operation:** People without a permit still can operate a boat, but only if there's an accompanying operator (defined below) onboard.

Young operators:

- **Restrictions on high-powered watercraft:** Young operators (people less than 12 years old), can't operate a personal watercraft or any motorboat with a motor over 75 horsepower.
- **Low-powered motorboats:** Young operators can operate a motorboat that's not a personal watercraft and has a motor under 75 horsepower as long as there is an accompanying operator in the motorboat.

Who is considered an adult operator?

Is 12 years old or older, and was born after these dates: June 30, 2004 (starts July 1, 2025), June 30, 2000 (starts July 1, 2026), June 30, 1996 (starts July 1, 2027, June 30, 1987 (starts July 1, 2028).

This means people born after June 30, 2004, will need a permit to operate a boat starting in 2025. The permit

SIGN UP NOW to take the watercraft operator's permit course:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>.

requirement will gradually apply to older age groups over the next few years.



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: Adam Stennett

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

Call the [TIP Hotline](#) to report a violation: 888-646-6367



What to do if you witness any...

Unsafe Behavior on our Lake?

If you see any violations or unsafe conduct:

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 License Number and Driver in Photo/Video (if possible).



Contact:

Wright County Water Patrol Officer Drew Scherber.

Email: Drew.Scherber@co.wright.mn.us

Cell Phone: (763) 684-4534

Wright County Sheriff: 911

(Non-Emergency): [763-682-1162](tel:763-682-1162)

Stearns County Contacts (Safety Issues)

Stearns County Sheriff: 911

(Non-Emergency) [320-251-4240](tel:320-251-4240)

Why Support the L.A.A.

“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.”

Last year, your membership dues helped us stock Lake Augusta with walleye. This is just one more way your membership dues will help us continue to provide a quality recreational fishing for our residents.

Here is a list of activities the LAA does:

- New Website for the LAA in 2026
- Survey and Treatment for Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) & Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)
- Walleye Stocking (Fall 2024 & 2025).
- Maintains DNR Bog Permit for removal for large problematic bogs.
- Bog Squad for Large Problematic Bogs.
- Rapid Response Plan for any new AIS Infestations
- Facebook Group Page.
- Annual Meetings for all Land-Owners on Lake Augusta.
- Works with DNR, Wright County, Stearns County, Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD).
- Annual Monitoring for new AIS including: Starry Stonewort.
- Monitor effects of Zebra Mussels in Lake Augusta.

4 Ways to Join/Renew Membership

1. Register On-Line and Pay with Credit Card. Go to LAA Website “Pay On-Line with Credit Card” page.
2. Pay with Venmo. @Joel-VonEnde
3. Print and Fill-Out Form on next page, Write a Check & Mail it to:

**Lake Augusta Association
13371 102nd St. NW
South Haven, MN 55382**

4. Fill-Out Form on next page & Give Cash or Check to any LAA Board Member.





2026-2027 L.A.A. Annual Membership/Renewal

2025-2026 L.A.A. Annual Membership Dues Payment: \$ 50.00

Yes, I'd like to give an additional donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Lake Augusta Address: _____

Timberwoods Resort Lot Number (if applicable): _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

4 Easy Ways to Join or Renew:

Fill out form with dues (cash or check payable to: **Lake Augusta Association**)

1) Fill out, give form & check/cash to any Member of the LAA Board.

2) Mail completed form with check to:

Lake Augusta Assoc., 13371 102nd Street NW, South Haven, MN 55382

3) **Venmo** - @Joel-VonEnde (or Scan Code at Right)

Note: This form must be filled out and mailed back even if paying by Venmo.

4) Go onto our new Website, register and pay by Credit Card.

<https://lakeaugustaassociation.org>



NOTE: If you are renewing only, and your information has NOT changed in past year, you only need to send in check or Venmo. Filling out this form is NOT required.

LAA is a 100% Volunteer Organization