

CARP MANAGEMENT



Many lakes in the Chisago Lakes area have abundant carp populations. Carp feeding can agitate lake sediments, which may lead to phosphorus release into the water column and subsequent increases in algae growth. Carp can also disrupt the growth of native aquatic vegetation. Common carp prefer to spawn in seasonally flooded basins, particularly waterbodies that experience winterkill. This condition negatively impacts the native fish community, thereby minimizing predation of their eggs and fry by native fishes such as sunfish and bowfin.

Partners:

- Chisago Lakes LID
- Chisago Lakes Lions Club
- Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
- Frankie's Live Bait & Marine
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Saint Mary's University
- University of Minnesota/ Carp Solutions

At least two primary areas for carp reproduction have been identified in the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID). Linn Lake is a primary breeding area for carp in South Center Lake, and Lake Ellen is a primary breeding area for carp in Green and Little Green lakes. During the spring spawning period, masses of carp have been observed trying to migrate into both Linn Lake and Lake Ellen through the road culverts. A carp harvest plan was developed for Ellen Lake in 2017, but unfortunately permitting issues prevented the installation of a carp barrier and carp harvest event proposed in May/June.

Carp population research continues in the LID. In 2017, Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) conducted a carp spawning survey within shallow bays connected to the larger lakes within the LID. Data collected during the survey was used to determine if carp were aggregating or actively spawning at these locations during the spring spawning period. In addition, EOR assisted with the development of carp barrier options for Lake Ellen and explored options to trap and remove carp near the Linn Lake outlet and from the channel between North Center Lake and North Lindstrom Lake.

The LID continues to support, and coordinate with, the annual Chisago Lakes Lions Club Carp Festival. In 2017, data including age, length, and weight of captured carp were collected by Saint Mary's University staff and students. 739 fish from 25 boats were measured at the weigh-in. A report was prepared by Saint Mary's University and submitted to the LID. The more we learn about the carp populations in the LID, the better we can implement effective management activities in each lake.



LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT