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The Official Newspaper of  
 Otter Tail Lakes  
 Property Owners  
 Association



Volume 56 - No. 1

– February 2026 –



# Lakeshore News

## Enjoying OTL



Sighted was a cross-country skier along Otter Tail Lake shoreline.  
 Submitted by Director Ken Wentz

## Water Testing



Director Ken Wentz out checking the water quality. See page 13 for details.

### Water Testing Result –

Blanche Lake .....	11 ft.
Deer Lake .....	15.5 ft.
Long Lake .....	6.5 ft.
Ottertail Lake .....	11-11.5 ft.
Round Lake .....	10.5 ft.
Walker Lake .....	13 ft.

## 8 Largest Lakes In Otter Tail County

Lake	Acres
1. Otter Tail Lake ....	14,078
2. Dead Lake.....	7,545
3. West Battle Lake...	5,615
4. North Lida Lake ....	5,523
5. Rush Lake.....	5,276
6. Big Pine Lake.....	4,730
7. Star Lake .....	4,486
8. Pelican Lake .....	3,962

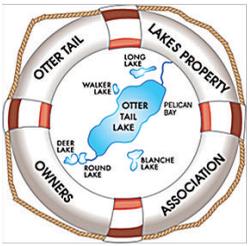


**OTTER TAIL COUNTY, MN**  
 FIND YOUR INNER OTTER

“The Voice of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association”

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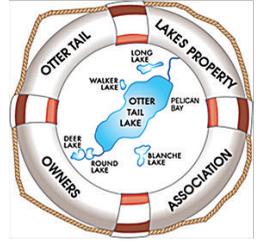
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# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 56 - No. 1 • February 2026 • Battle Lake, MN



*The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake and such other land areas further removed therefrom as its members shall from time to time determine, and to assist the property owners within said area in the preservation of their civic areas and those of Otter Tail Lake itself, including the planting and promulgation of fish therein and the protection and preservation of wildlife on the land areas adjacent to Otter Tail Lake as may be determined by the members, to promote and develop the horticultural development of the areas described, to promote the cultural and social lives of the inhabitants of said area and to provide a vehicle by which legal or political problems common to the areas and the inhabitants thereof, including tax problems, may be resolved in any manner provided by law for the common welfare of the members of this corporation; and to that and this corporation may acquire by purchase or other means such real or personal property as may be necessary in carrying out its stated objectives and to mortgage or sell or exchange the same and to do any and all other acts permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota in furtherance of its stated purposes.*

## Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA) Mission Statement

### – OTLPOA Board of Directors –

- President –**  
Eric Gerken (Otter Tail Lake) .....egerken31@gmail.com - 320-491-1277
- Vice President –**  
Mark Long (Deer Lake) .....mdlongmark@outlook.com - 701-640-1033
- Treasurer –**  
Pat Hunke (Otter Tail Lake) .....phunke@hunkestransfer.com - 218-639-4910
- Secretary –**  
Becky Kemling (Otter Tail River N) ....beckykemling@msn.com - 218-371-9095
- Website Manager –**  
Tom Kuder .....tom.kuder@gmail.com - 612-747-5021
- Blanche Lake Directors –**  
Ken Wentz .....kmwjmw@gmail.com - 760-885-9668  
Jeff Skogen .....jeffskogen@gmail.com - 303-898-2501

- Long Lake Director –**  
Paul Oxberry .....poxberry@outlook.com - 612-703-3116
- Round Lake Director –**  
Steve Mouritsen .....Steve.mouritsen@wellsfargo.com - 612-237-6927
- Walker Lake Director –**  
Mike Wendt .....MWendt3853@outlook.com
- Otter Tail Lake Directors –**  
Dan Carlisle .....dcarlisle@toddwadena.coop - 218-639-3972  
Devon Gemeli .....Devoch98@yahoo.com - 701-318-3600  
Debbie Ness .....deb@yourresort.com - 218-495-2468  
Julie Swanson .....julieswansonproperties@gmail.com - 218-282-0044  
Jerame Tysdal .....otproperties@arvig.net  
Steve Young .....Slyoung5@arvig.net - 218-371-9289



**Happy New Year everyone!**

### – OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

ture for the cold weather that has helped firm up our lakes for ice fishermen, ice boaters and snowmobilers. As always, please remember that ice is never 100% safe, test conditions before heading out, and check with local resorts and fishing guides who monitor ice thickness daily.

Each year, we work to address issues that matter most to our property owners, families and guests. One topic that continues to be top of mind is Swimmer's Itch and what can be done to reduce these pesky parasites in our lakes. The University of Minnesota AIS Department (MAISRC) continues to study these parasitic flatworms (cercariae) and your contributions help make that research possible. The OTLPOA Board donates annually to support their efforts in finding long term solutions.

Ice fishing is one of the greatest winter traditions on our lakes and we all play a role in keeping that experience enjoyable. Please remember to pick up all trash, wood blocks and debris before you leave the ice. Leaving the lake cleaner than you found helps protect the water, wildlife and shoreline we all value. When everyone does their part, we ensure that future generations can

enjoy the same clean lakes and rivers that we do today.

Enjoy the rest of the winter season on the lakes, stay safe and consider becoming a member of the greatest lake association in Minnesota!

Warm regards!

As we turn the page on another year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our directors for their commitment, service, and dedication to the OTLPOA Board. I also want to thank our property owners for supporting our mission and helping make our lakes a more enjoyable place for everyone.

We were fortunate to enjoy an amazing fall, followed by a strong start to the winter season. Thank you, Mother Na-

**811**  
**Know What's Below**  
**Know The Color Codes**

- White: Proposed Excavation
- Yellow: Natural Gas
- Pink: Survey Markings
- Red: Electric
- Orange: Cable, Internet, Phone
- Blue: Water
- Green: Sewer
- Purple: Reclaimed Water

# OTLPOA 2026 Meetings

## Mark Your Calendars!

April 23 • May 28 • June 25 • July 23  
August 27 • September 24 • October 22

**Ottertail City Community Center 6 p.m.**

**If any member wants to address the board with any questions or issues, please notify secretary or any board member to be added to the agenda.**

### Annual Meeting Date & Location To Be Announced (more detail to come)

## Calendar of Events 2026

February 28 . . . . .	Perham Demo Derby - East Otter Tail County Fairgrounds
March 14 . . . . .	Lakes Area Home & Cabin Show - Perham
April 11 . . . . .	Gathering Decoy Show - Perham
April 25 . . . . .	Walk For Glendalough State Park
May 9 . . . . .	Minnesota Fishing Opener (Walleye, Sauger and Northern)
June 6 . . . . .	Lake Region Healthcare Run - Fergus Falls Minnesota Muskellunge Opener
June 12-13 . . . . .	Fergus Falls Summerfest
June 13 . . . . .	Maplewood State Park Running Wild Trail Run - Free Park Day
June 16-17 . . . . .	Shrine Circus - West Otter Tail County Fairgrounds, Fergus Falls
June 17-21 . . . . .	Perham's 21st Turtle Fest
June . . . . .	TriCity Junk Jaunt - Battle Lake, Henning, Ottertail Rummage Sales
July 10 . . . . .	Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County in Perham
July 11-12 . . . . .	Phelps Mill Arts Festival
TBA . . . . .	Downtown Fergus Falls Shop Move'n Groove
TBA . . . . .	Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
July 15-18 . . . . .	West Otter Tail County Fair - Fergus Falls
July 23-26 . . . . .	East Otter Tail County Fair - Perham
July 23-25 . . . . .	Battle Lake's Wenonga Days
July 29-August 2 . . . . .	Vergas' Loony Days
August 6-8 . . . . .	WE Fest - Detroit Lakes
August 7-8 . . . . .	Silver Sage Pro Rodeo - Clitherall
August 7-9 . . . . .	Parkers Prairie Fall Festival & Bull Ride
August 8 . . . . .	Art & Craft Affair - Battle Lake
August 15 . . . . .	Vining Watermelon Day
August 22 . . . . .	Millerville Butter Days Clitherall Summer Festival
August . . . . .	Perham Crazy Days East Otter Tail County Breakfast On The Farm Perham Pioneer Days Rod & Gun Club Demo Derby - Ottertail Ottertail City's Otter Fest
September 4-5 . . . . .	Underwood's Harvest Festival
September 5 . . . . .	Battle Lake Area Community Fund's Gathering of Planes
September 11-13 . . . . .	Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's Reunion - Dalton
September . . . . .	Woodstack - Prospect House & Museum, Battle Lake

Events are subject to change.  
To submit an event, contact [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)



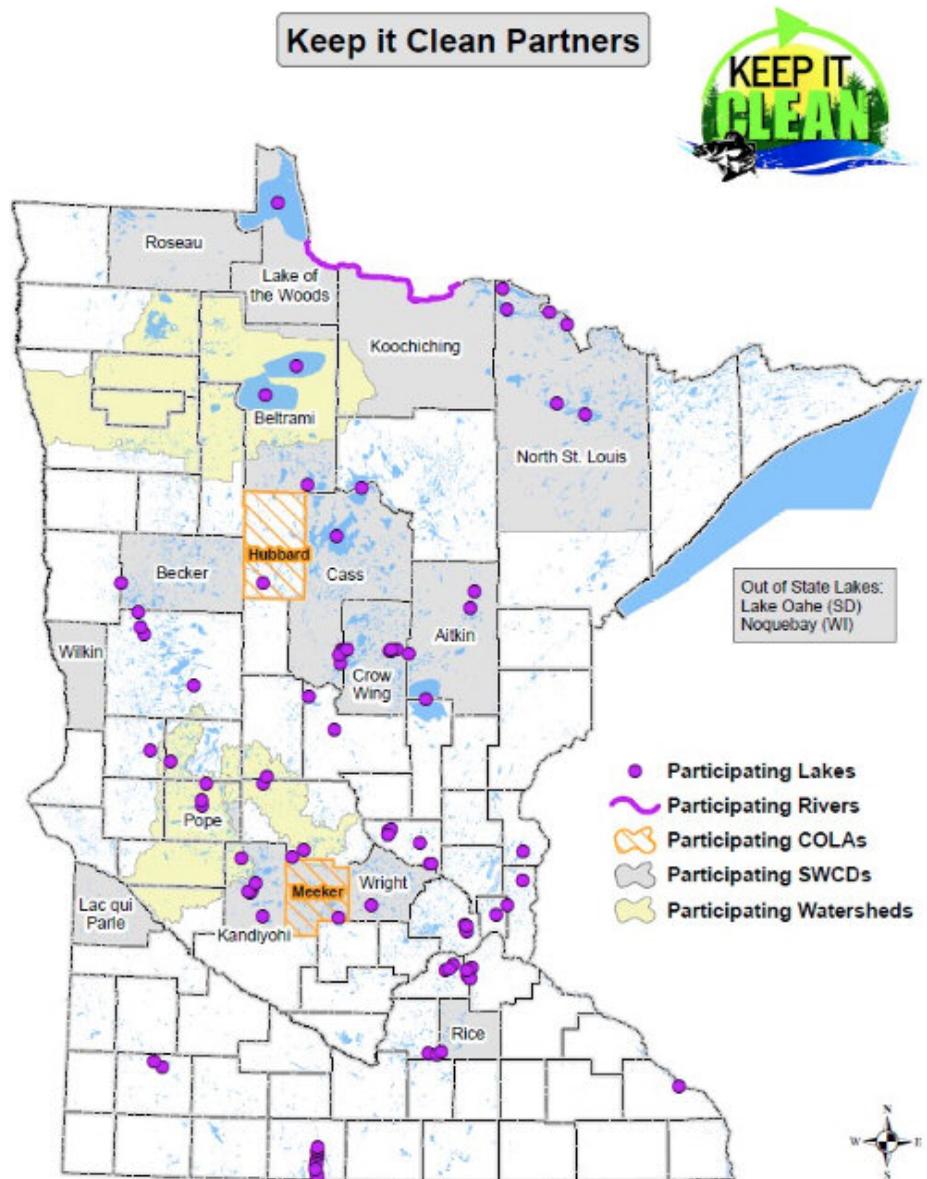
Ice is no place for your garbage and waste. Legally contain and dispose of it. To help stop litter and human waste from spoiling our lakes, rivers and shorelines:

- **Make a Plan:** Make a plan for trash and waste removal before you hit the ice.
- **Use colored garbage bags.** Colored garbage bags are easier to see.
- **Do not place garbage and waste on or under the ice.** It's the law.
- **Make Sure Your Garbage is Secure Before Departing.** This will help prevent it from blowing out of truck beds and off trailers and sleds.
- **Remove all materials when moving a fish house.** This includes wood blocking, insulation and other items.

It takes all of us working together to Keep It Clean! Thank you for doing your part to ensure the health of our lakes, rivers, fisheries and watershed areas.

**Join Us ... Love a Lake or River?**  
Help make it the best it can be by joining the Keep It Clean coalition. It's free!  
<https://keepitcleanmn.org/join-us/>

### Members and Lakes with Keep It Clean Representation



## Minnesota DNR Shares Reminders About Snowmobile Riding Season



As snowmobile riders prepare for the upcoming riding season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds riders of important dates, safety tips and registration requirements. While the snowmobile riding season can start as early as December 1, as yet this year there are no locations in the state with suitable conditions for trail grooming. Several conditions must be met before trails are open, groomed and ready for travel:

- The ground must be frozen. Where trails cross wetlands, 15 inches of ice are needed to support the weight of trail groomers.
- Adequate snow cover of about 12 inches must be on the ground to allow for trail packing and grooming.
- Trails must be cleared of fallen trees, signs put in place and gates opened.

While snowmobilers await the arrival of more snow and groomed trails, now is a good time to make sure registrations are current and snowmobiles are in good operating order, review safety training, and check local trail maps for route changes or new trails.

Registrations for new snowmobiles must be purchased in person at a deputy registrar of motor vehicles or at the DNR License Bureau in St. Paul. Renewals of registrations and state trail passes for snowmobiles not registered in the State of Minnesota can be handled in person at these same locations or on the DNR's licenses and vehicle registrations website ([mndnr.gov/licenses](http://mndnr.gov/licenses)).

The DNR shares information about snow depth and state-managed trail conditions on its DNR snow depth and groomed trail conditions webpage ([mndnr.gov/snow\\_depth](http://mndnr.gov/snow_depth)). Local trail conditions are often posted online by tourism associations, chambers of commerce and volunteer snowmobile clubs. To find the nearest club, visit the Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association website ([mnsnowmobiler.org](http://mnsnowmobiler.org)).

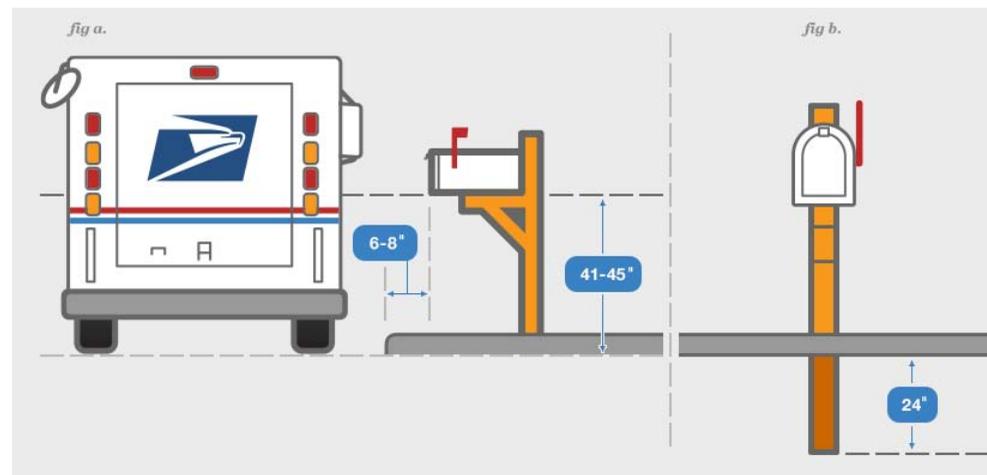
Important snowmobile riding safety tips include:

- Be weather aware and don't ride in adverse weather conditions.
- Check the trail conditions and weather forecast for the destination before leaving home.
- Measure ice depth before riding on lakes and rivers. The DNR recommends a minimum of 5 to 7 inches of new, clear ice for snowmobiles.
- Always stay on designated snowmobile trails. Venturing off trails can result in accidents, loss of trails from landowners, and trespass violations.
- Don't drink alcohol and ride. Alcohol is a factor in more than 60% of fatal accidents in Minnesota.
- Always wear a quality DOT-approved helmet and facemask.

An interactive snowmobile trail map can be found on the DNR's snowmobiling website ([mndnr.gov/snowmobiling](http://mndnr.gov/snowmobiling)). Paper trail maps can be requested from the DNR

Information Center. Email [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) or call 888-646-6367 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

## Curbside Mailboxes: Size and Construction Standard



A mailbox with the Postmaster General's (PMG) seal of approval meets USPS size and construction standards. If you build your own mailbox or buy a custom-made one, it must meet the PMG standards. Show your local postmaster your mailbox plans or your custom-made box for approval.

To get drawings and measurements for building your own mailbox, write to US Postal Service Engineering.

### Where to Place the Mailbox

Here are some helpful guidelines to follow when placing your mailbox:

- Position your mailbox 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry.
- Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb. If you do not have a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance.
- Put your house or apartment number on the mailbox.
- If your mailbox is on a different street from your house or apartment, put your full street address on the box.

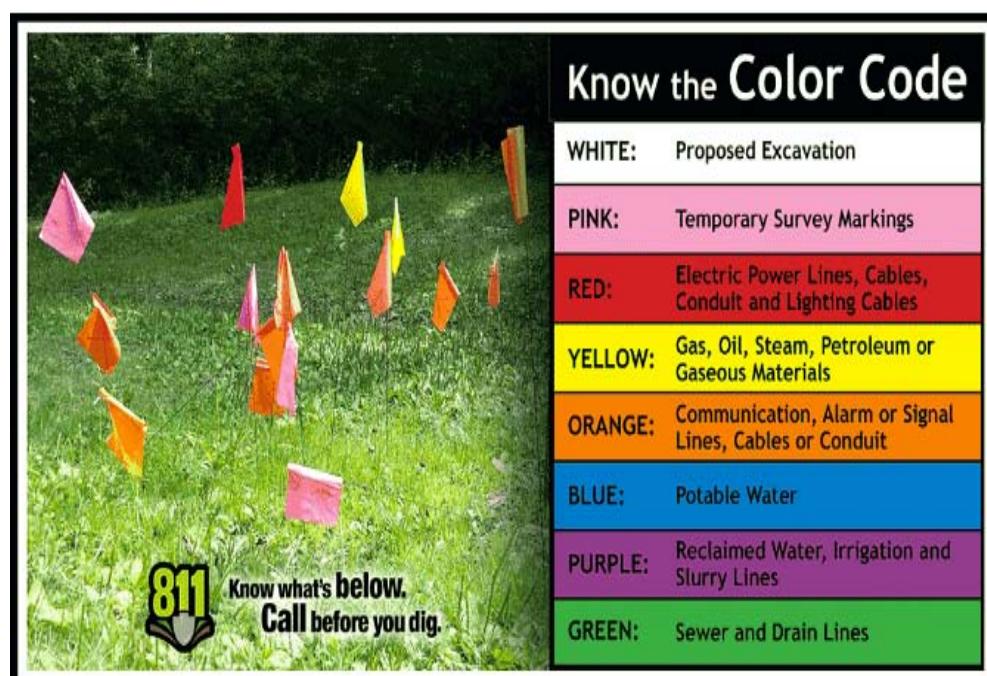
### Installing the Mailbox Post

The best mailbox supports are stable but bend or fall away if a car hits them. The Federal Highway Administration recommends:

- A 4" x 4" wooden support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe.
- Avoid unyielding and potentially dangerous supports, like heavy metal pipes, concrete posts, and farm equipment (e.g., milk cans filled with concrete).
- Bury your post no more than 24" deep.

### To clear snow around mailboxes

Create a wide, clear path (U-shape for curbside) for the mail carrier to safely approach, deliver, and leave without getting out or backing up; clear sidewalks and steps for hand delivery, removing snowplow piles, and remember that a clear path ensures consistent mail delivery, preventing service interruptions.



# OTLPOA Board Meeting October 23, 2025 Minutes

## CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by President Gerken. Members present: Kemling, Oxberry, Ness, Tysdal, Long, Wendt, Carlisle, Ness, Kuder, Skogen  
Absent: Mourtisen, Young, Swanson, Gemelli, Wentz

**Approval of Agenda** - unanimously approved as distributed

**Approval of Minutes** - unanimously approved as distributed

**Approval of Bills** –Treasurer Pat Hunke requested a motion to transfer the Grant Fund account #707535 and the sweep account #709175 to the OTLPOA general fund #089236. Motion was made by Carlisle and seconded, motion was approved by the board.

Motion made and approved by the board to move \$50,000.00 from our general fund #089-236 to a short term CD with 1st National Bank of Ottertail.

**President's Report** - Gerken talked about our By-Laws, reminding directors they have a requirement to attend at least 3 meetings. Discussed directory for next year, mailing or pick up? Will discuss more at April 23rd meeting next year.

## Committee Reports –

**Membership** - membership as of Sept. 25th- 866

**Auditing/Finance** - Hunke reported that an audit will be done by Smith and Sem CPA accounting firm in Fergus Falls at the end of the year.

**DNR/GOV'T** - Nothing at this time

**Water Testing** - Nothing at this time

**COLA** - Nothing at this time.

**Communications/Lakeshore News** - Skogen will ask Battle Lake Review for a new contract to continue producing LSN for OTLPOA.

**Website** - Board approved the proposal from Tom Kuder/Entente Marketing to maintain OTLPOA website for 1 year, it will renewable on a yearly basis. VP Long will be the liaison for the board and Tom Kuder/Entente Marketing has agreed to inform him if there are increased costs above the contract cost.

**Facebook** – Nothing at this time

**Worm** - Nothing at this time

**Foundation** - Nothing at this time

**Social** - Nothing at this time

**Swimmer's Itch Committee** - Nothing at this time

## Old Business –

**Election of Officers** - President - Eric Gerken  
Vice President - Mark Long  
Treasurer - Pat Hunke  
Secretary - Becky Kemling

**New Business** - Donations were approved to the Ottertail and Battle Lake Fire and Rescue Squads, and the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species and the special research project for swimmers itch.

Motion made and approved to authorize treasurer to pay any bills under \$500.00 over the winter.

**Closed Session** - Nothing at this time

**Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**Next meeting is April 23rd, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

## Unwanted Medications - Take It To The Box

Tossing or flushing old medications can pollute water and harm fish or wildlife. Otter Tail County residents have a safe, anonymous and free disposal option that minimizes risks to health and safety – Take it to the Box! Old or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications can be safely disposed of at a Take it to the Box drop box location.

These secure drop boxes are located at various law enforcement centers throughout the county. The boxes are accessible during regular business hours: 8 a.m -4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, unless posted otherwise.



## Locations

- Battle Lake Police Department, 106 S. Washington Avenue
- Fergus Falls - Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office, 417 S. Court Street
- Henning Police Department, 607 2nd Street
- New York Mills - Government Building, 118 N. Main Avenue
- Ottertail Operations Center, 469 W. Main Street
- Parkers Prairie Police Department, 102 N. Otter Avenue
- Pelican Rapids Police Department, 315 N. Broadway
- Perham Police Department, 525 W. Main Street

## Instructions

The program is 100% anonymous, no questions asked. Please follow these basic instructions:

- Leave medication in the original container
- Black out or remove your personal information from the label
- Leave the name of the medication on the container
- Drop the medication into the disposal box opening
- Absolutely no syringes, needles, or sharps accepted
- No mercury devices, household chemicals, or biohazardous waste

## Oxygen and IV Tubing

- Oxygen tubing should be wrapped and disposed of in the garbage. It should never be placed with recyclable materials.
- IV tubing used in home health care should be wrapped and disposed of in the garbage.

## Bandages, Disposable Sheets, Used Gloves

Soiled bandages, sheets / bedding and medical gloves used in home health care should be placed in a plastic garbage bag, tied closed and put in the garbage for disposal at a solid waste transfer station or with your solid waste hauler.

## Prescription Medication and Bottles

Unused prescription and over-the-counter medications can be disposed of at a county Take it to the Box location. Check the Waste Wizard for disposal information and locations!

- Prescription bottles that have recycling symbol and number can be recycled while all unmarked bottles should be thrown in the garbage.
- Medications that have been used to treat cancer, such as chemotherapy drugs, should not be placed in your garbage or sewer. Properly dispose of these types of drugs in Take it to the Box containers at law enforcement centers throughout the county.

## Syringes and Sharps

The Otter Tail County Household Hazardous Waste Facility offers the safest disposal option for used sharps or needles.

- Place used sharps / syringes in a puncture resistant container such as a 2-liter pop bottle, liquid laundry detergent bottle or red home sharps container. Make sure the cap is tightly secured, label the container "Sharps" and bring it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility or to any Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection.
- If you cannot bring your sharps to Household Hazardous Waste, follow the steps above and place the full, labeled container in your garbage.
- NEVER put sharps in the recycling and NEVER put loose sharps in the garbage.

## Contact Information

- County Sheriff, 218-998-8555 or sheriff@ottertailcounty.gov
- Public Health, 218-998-8320, Fax: 218-998-8352 or publichealth@ottertailcounty.gov
- Solid Waste, 218-998-8950, Email: solidwaste@ottertailcounty.gov

# Dealing With and Preventing Ice Dams

## What is an ice dam?

An ice dam is a ridge of ice that forms at the edge of a roof and prevents melting snow (water) from draining off the roof. The water that backs up behind the dam can leak into a home and cause damage to walls, ceilings, insulation and other areas.

## Effects of ice dams

Moisture entering the home from ice dams can lead to the growth of mold and mildew. These can cause respiratory problems.

- Prevent the growth of mold and mildew by immediately drying out portions of the house that are wet or damp.
- Take immediate action to get rid of the water source, clean the home environment and maintain its air quality.

## What causes ice dams?

Nonuniform roof surface temperatures lead to ice dams.

Heat loss from a house, snow cover and outside temperatures interact to form ice dams. For ice dams to form there must be snow on the roof and, at the same time, higher portions of the roof's outside surface must be above 32 degrees F (freezing) while lower surfaces are below 32F. These are average temperatures over sustained periods of time. For a portion of the roof to be below freezing, outside temperatures must also be below freezing.

The snow on a roof surface that is above freezing will melt. As water flows down the roof it reaches the portion of the roof that is below 32F and freezes. This causes the ice dam.

The dam grows as it is fed by the melting snow above it, but it will limit itself to the portions of the roof that average below 32F. So the water above backs up behind the ice dam and remains a liquid. This water finds cracks and openings in the exterior roof covering and flows into the attic space. From the attic it could flow into exterior walls or through the ceiling insulation and stain the ceiling finish.

## What causes different roof surface temperatures?

Since most ice dams form at the edge of the roof, there must be a heat source warming the roof elsewhere. This heat primarily comes from the house. In rare instances, increased heat from the sun may cause these temperature differences.

### Heat from the house and other losses ...

It is primarily heat flowing from the house that causes the nonuniform temperatures of the roof surface leading to ice dams.

Heat from the house travels to the roof surface in three ways: conduction, convection and radiation.

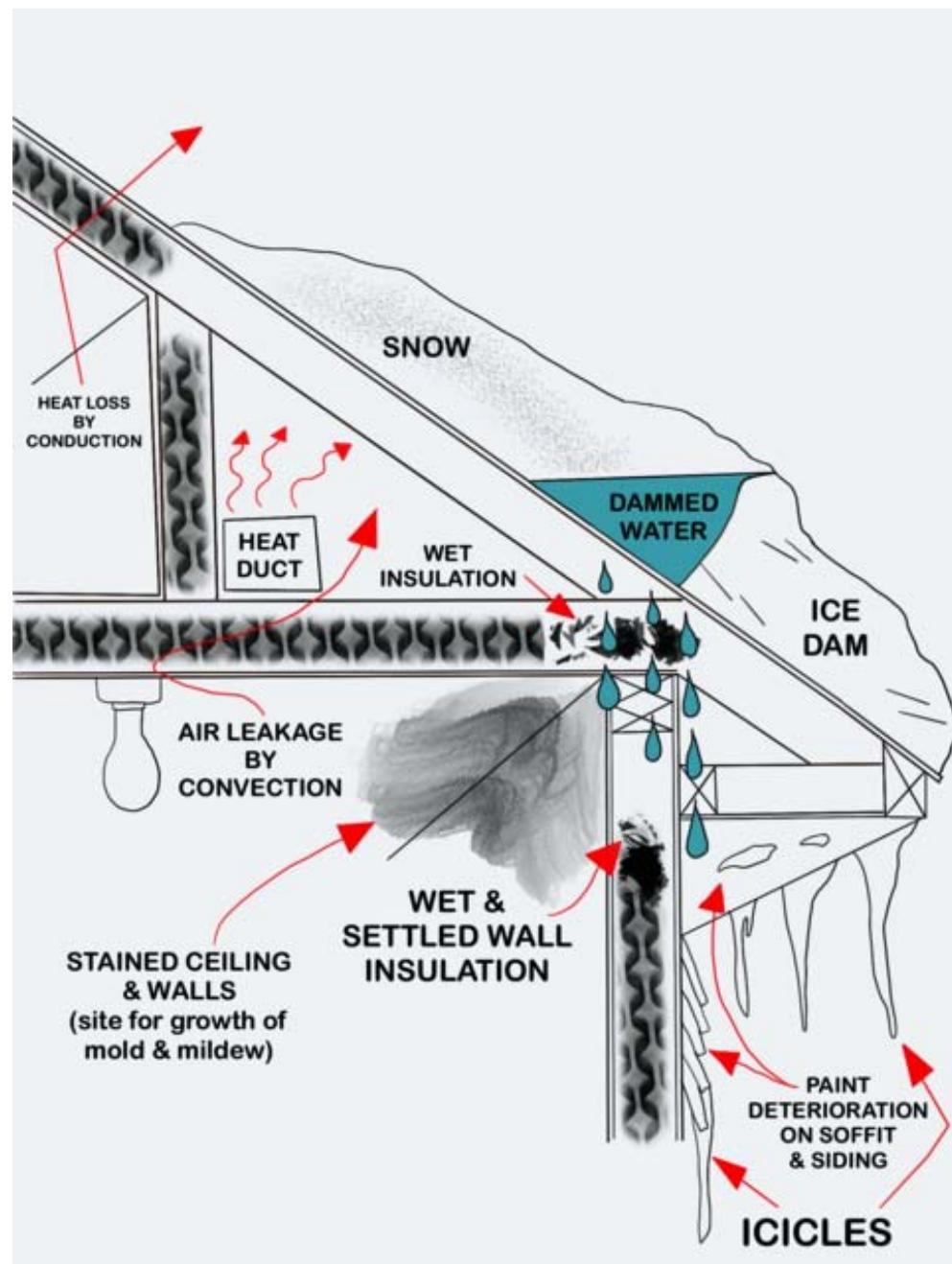
**Conduction** is heat energy traveling through a solid. A good example of this is the heating of a cast iron frying pan. The heat moves from the bottom of the pan to the handle by conduction.

- If you put your hand above the frying pan, heat will reach it by the other two methods. The air right above the frying pan is heated and rises. The rising air carries heat/energy to your hand. This is heat transfer by **convection**.
- Heat also transfers from the hot pan to your hand by electromagnetic waves and this is called **radiation**. Another example of radiation is to stand outside on a bright sunny day and feel the heat from the sun. This heat transfers from the sun to you by radiation.

### Adding insulation

In a house, heat moves through the ceiling and insulation by conduction through the slanted portion of the ceiling. In many homes, there is little space in regions like this for insulation, so it is important to use insulation with high R-value per inch to reduce heat loss by conduction.

- The top surface of the insulation is warmer than the other surroundings in the attic.



- The air just above the insulation is heated and rises, carrying heat by convection to the roof.
- The higher temperatures in the insulation's top surface compared to the roof sheathing transfers heat outward by radiation.

Convection and radiation heat transfer can be reduced by adding insulation. This will make the top surface temperature of the insulation closer to surrounding attic temperatures directly affecting convection and radiation from this surface.

### Heat loss by air leakage

There is another type of convection that transfers heat to the attic space and warms the roof. In the diagram, the winding arrow beginning inside the house and going through the penetration in the ceiling, from the light fixture to the attic space, illustrates heat loss by air leakage. In many homes this is the major mode of heat transfer that leads to the formation of ice dams.

### Exhaust systems

Exhaust systems like those in the kitchen or bathroom that terminate just above the roof may also contribute to snow melting. These exhaust systems may have to be moved or extended in areas of high snow fall.

### Chimneys

Other sources of heat in the attic space include chimneys. Frequent use of wood stoves and fireplaces allow heat to be transferred from the chimney into the attic space. Inadequately insulated or leaky duct work in the attic space will also be a source of heat. The same can be said about knee wall spaces.

(continued on page seven)

## Long- and Short-Term Ice Dam Control

Ice dams can be prevented by controlling the heat loss from the home.

### Take immediate and long-term action

- Remove snow from the roof. This eliminates one of the ingredients necessary for the formation of an ice dam.
- A "roof rake" and push broom can be used to remove snow, but may damage the roofing materials.
- In an emergency situation where water is flowing into the house structure, making channels through the ice dam allows the water behind the dam to drain off the roof.
  - Hosing with tap water on a warm day will do this job.
  - Work upward from the lower edge of the dam.
  - The channel will become ineffective within days and is only a temporary solution to ice dam damage.

### Long-term action

- First, make the ceiling air tight so no warm, moist air can flow from the house into the attic space.
- After sealing air leakage paths between the house and attic space, consider increasing the ceiling or roof insulation to cut down on heat loss by conduction.

### Can your roof carry additional snow load?

Immediate and long-term actions will increase the snow load that your roof has to carry because the snow will no longer melt.

If your house is built to current codes, there should not be a structural problem. Roofs, like the rest of the home, should be designed to withstand expected snow loads.

In Minnesota, plans showing design details to meet expected snow loads are usually required to receive a building permit. The plans for your home may be on file at your local building inspection office.

To help you understand the plans, or if you cannot find plans for your home, you may want to contact an architectural engineering firm. A professional engineer should be able to evaluate the structure of your home and answer your questions about the strength of your roof.

### Natural roof ventilation

Natural roof ventilation can help maintain uniform roof temperatures, but if the long-term actions described here are done effectively, then only small amounts of roof ventilation are needed to maintain uniform roof surface temperatures.

If heat transfer has been reduced substantially, then snow will build up on the roof and cover natural roof ventilation systems, reducing attic ventilation rates.

Natural attic ventilation systems are needed to dry the attic space and remove heat buildup during the summer.

### Mechanical attic ventilation is NOT recommended

Mechanical attic ventilation is not a recommended solution to ice dams in Minnesota. It can create other attic moisture problems and may cause undesirable negative pressure in the home.

### Preventing ice dams in new homes

- New construction practices should follow or exceed the state code requirements



for ceiling and roof insulation levels to prevent ice dams.

- New construction should have a continuous, 100% effective air barrier through the ceiling. There should not be any air leakage from the house into the attic space.
- Recessed lights, skylights, complex roof designs, and heating ducts in the attic will all increase the risk of ice dam formation.

### Hire an energy professional

Weatherization contractors are professionals who can deal with the heat transfer problem that creates ice dams.

- The contractor you hire should conduct a blower door test to evaluate how airtight your ceiling is. They also may use an infrared camera to find places in the ceiling where there is excessive heat loss.
- Do not repair interior damage until ceilings and walls are dry.
- Interior repair should be done together with correcting the heat loss problem that created the ice dam or the damage will occur again.

### Warning

- Anyone on the roof during the winter or performing work on the roof from below risks injury and may cause damage to the roof and house.
- It is important to contact professionals to carry out this job.
- Whenever a house is tightened up, ventilation systems, exhausting devices and combustion devices must have enough air to operate safely and effectively.

University of Minnesota Extension - <https://extension.umn.edu/protecting-home-rain-and-ice/dealing-and-preventing-ice-dams>

Authors: Patrick Huelman, Extension specialist; Richard Stone, Extension educator; Timothy Larson and Lewis Hendricks

**ONE OF THE ONLY LOTS LEFT ON OTTERTAIL LAKE!**

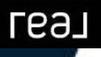
Call 218-770-0503 for more info

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REAL NORTH

by 





The Real North Team is your trusted partner for all things real estate across Otter Tail Lake, and the surrounding areas.

Kyle Haberman

218-770-0503

kyle@realnorthteam.com

Beth Madson

320-808-6492

beth@realnorthteam.com

## Keeping Dog Paws Clean, Healthy During Winter

It's that time of year in Minnesota. Days of 45 degrees followed by the surprise of 12" of snow, a slippery layer of ice and temps in the sub zero's. It seems like there is more darkness than sunlight. Here are some tips to keep your friendly canine friend safe in Minnesota winter.

### BE AWARE OF FALLING TEMPERATURES

If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your dog. Hypothermia and frostbite occur quickly. Limit time outdoors and walking to less than 15 minutes at a time. Consider a jacket or sweater for your canine friend.

### PROTECT THEIR PAWS

Snow, ice, and salt can cause irritation and damage to paws. Not every breed is intended to withstand cold weather, therefore booties are an effective way to protect your canine's paws because they offer warmth, full coverage, and are durable. Dog Booties are a great option! Let's be honest, not every dog loves them, and they may act like they can't walk at first, but most can be trained. To find your dog's right size measure from the heel to the tip of the toenail.

### KEEP PAWS WELL GROOMED

It is important to keep nails trimmed short during the winter to help with stable footing. The ice and hard snow increase the risk of broken nails which can be painful. And, for breeds with long fur between their toes, trimming this fur will aid with paw cleaning and make it less likely for ice balls to form between the toes.

### WIPE PAWS

After taking a walk outside in the winter ice and snow, simply clean your dog's paws with a warm soapy washcloth or keep a box of pet wipes at the door for convenience. This helps to remove any ice/salt or harmful chemicals.

### TREATING CRACKED OR DRY PAW PADS

Musher's Secret or Aquaphor can be great products!



### KNOW HOW DANGEROUS ANTIFREEZE IS TO PETS!

Antifreeze poisoning typically happens when antifreeze drips from a car's radiator, where it is licked off the ground and ingested by a pet. It is the ethylene glycol that causes the toxicity. The antifreeze has a sweet taste so dogs generally like the taste. It does not take a large amount of ethylene glycol to cause fatal damage to the system (death); less than three ounces of antifreeze is sufficient to poison a medium-sized dog.

Antifreeze poisoning affects the brain, liver, and kidneys. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has labeled propylene glycol safe and it is now used for antifreeze. Look for antifreeze with this ingredient instead, to keep your pet safer from accidental poisoning.

### REFLECTIVE GEAR

During the winter months, it is dark more often than not, but that shouldn't make us less active. Make sure both you and your pet have high visibility clothing and accessories such as: detachable collar lights, light-up collars, leashes, and vests, reflective collars and leashes, high-visibility dog vests. Head Lamps, LED Beanies and reflective vests for humans are important too!

### NEED MORE PET WINTER TIPS?

For questions about other winter tips or other questions regarding your pet, please contact your local veterinarian.

## Looking After Your Cat In Winter

### Do cats get cold?

Yes, cats can feel the cold. As they aren't used to extreme weather, they can develop hypothermia and frostbite, so it's best to keep your cat warm during winter months. Extra care should be taken for young and elderly cats, as they will feel the cold more than healthy adult cats.

### Keeping outdoor cats warm in the winter

Most cats prefer to curl up inside when it's cold out, but if your cat is the outdoors type, make sure they have a warm, dry place that they can always access, such as an outdoor shelter. Remember to also check garages, sheds and outbuildings before you lock them up, just in case your cat has taken refuge inside.

In extreme cold weather, try to encourage your cat to stay indoors as much as possible, particularly at night.

### Keeping your cat warm in the house

Even if your cat prefers to stay indoors, it can still get chilly. Here's our top tips for keeping your cat warm at home:

- Provide them with warm beds and blankets in a draught-free, cosy spot to curl up in
- Consider moving them into a warmer room when the temperature drops at night
- Make sure your cat has indoor litter trays for when it's too cold to go outside, even if they aren't used to using one
- Dry your cat off after an adventure in wet or snowy weather, so they can get cosy indoors
- Use a petsafe microwavable heat pad and slip it under a cosy blanket – it will stay warm for hours! Just remember to avoid electric blankets, as they can burn your cat and the electrical cord can be dangerous if chewed.

### Know when to bring your cat inside when it gets too cold

The great outdoors can bring lots of risks to your cat during the winter months, including:

- crawling into a car bonnet or engine to keep warm – when the engine is started up, cats can be seriously injured or even killed
- venturing somewhere they shouldn't when the weather takes a turn and getting trapped without food or water

- a higher risk of road traffic accidents during the dark nights, as cats are more difficult to see on the road

It's important to plan ahead when harsh weather is expected by keeping them inside as much as possible. Remember, if in doubt, keep your cat indoors and don't leave them out overnight.

### Indoor games

When it's too cold to go outside, your cat may be restless so it's important to keep them busy and active with toys, games, puzzle feeders or extra playtime. Not only will it prevent them from getting bored, staying active can also help to keep them warm!

### Antifreeze poisoning in cats

Antifreeze is highly poisonous to cats and swallowing only a small amount can be very dangerous. As the temperature plummets, antifreeze is often used to de-ice cars. Ethylene glycol is found in some types of antifreeze products, but sadly is highly toxic to cats. Cats can be tempted to lick it off if it gets on their fur and paws. You can keep your cat safe from antifreeze by:

- wiping down your cat's fur and paws when they come in from an outdoor adventure
- using non-toxic products or no antifreeze at all for your own car
- cleaning up spillages quickly and safely
- keeping all bottles and containers closed and tightly sealed to avoid any accidental spillages in case your cat accesses your garage or shed

### Cats and snow

A fresh layer of white snow means grit is needed to de-ice the roads and, just like antifreeze, salt grit is toxic to cats when eaten. Cats are likely to get grit on their paws when out and about, so washing their paws for them when they come back inside may help prevent your cat from licking it off.

When snow is deep, cat flaps can also become blocked, so you'll need to check them to make sure that your cat can get out and, more importantly, back in again.



## Talking Safe Drinking Water With U of MN

Drinking water is one of the most important factors in our day-to-day health. Yet, many Minnesotans rarely think about it, thanks to our abundant water supplies, strong protections and well-coordinated network of water professionals at the state and local levels.

The State Drinking Water Strategy just released by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) details the vulnerabilities in our system and actions for protection. Water experts Peter Calow, a professor in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and Ann Marcelle Lewandowski, a senior research and extension coordinator for the Water Resources Center, conducted extensive research for the report and provide an update on Minnesota's drinking water.



### Q: Where does my drinking water come from?

**Lewandowski:** 75% of Minnesotans get their drinking water from groundwater deep beneath the surface. A recent study of the age of groundwater in southeast Minnesota showed many wells had water that was only 10-40 years old, while water in other aquifers was thousands of years old. One-quarter of Minnesotans — including residents in Minneapolis, St. Cloud, St. Paul and 20 other communities — get their drinking water from rivers and lakes. You can find more information about your drinking water by searching for the Source Water Assessment for your community on the MDH website or by contacting your local water utility.

**Calow:** About 20% of Minnesota residents own and manage a private well. The remaining 80% are on community water systems, meaning the city, town or residential community is responsible for drawing, treating and delivering water to homes and businesses through an extensive system of pipes.

Most will be free of lead. But old properties may still have lead service lines, and an integral part of the Action Plan is to replace these with funding from the state. Lead exposure in children can lead to severe health issues, including developmental delays, learning difficulties and behavioral problems.

We collaborated with MDH to consider the costs of this — potentially billions of dollars — as well as the benefits. Minimally, these will include avoiding cognitive impairments in the young that reduce IQ and have knock-on effects for employability. On this basis alone, the benefits turn out to be twice the cost. This was part of an argument that swayed the Legislature to make the appropriation. The program is underway with a plan to be completed in 10 years.

### Q: How can I check if my water is safe for drinking?

**Lewandowski:** Households using a public water supply should receive an annual report showing the results from testing throughout the year. If you get water from a private well, you will have to test it yourself to ensure the water is safe. Bottled water is also tested, but safety standards are not as high as for community water supplies. Testing is done before bottling and there are opportunities for contamination on the shelf, especially from plastic bottles.

If you want to dig deeper into the safety of your water, here are the important types of contaminants to consider:

- **Microbes:** A few microbes may cause serious diseases and are the reason most public systems chlorinate water.
- **Arsenic and Manganese:** Dangerous levels of these minerals are naturally present in some groundwater. It is especially important that private well owners check if their supply is safe.
- **Lead:** Even tiny amounts of lead can permanently impact brain development. Generally, water is contaminated by lead in older plumbing in houses or the connection between the public pipe and the home. Visit the MDH lead webpage to learn how to determine the risk in your home.
- **Man-made chemicals** such as PFAS, chlorination byproducts, or pesticides can have serious health consequences, but the effects vary greatly depending on the specific chemical and the concentration. Utility managers closely monitor a limited number of these in public water supplies.

### Q: Who makes sure Minnesotans have safe tap water?

**Calow:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets standards for public water supplies for seven microorganisms; seven disinfectants and their byproducts; 16 inorganic chemicals — including lead, arsenic, fluoride and nitrate; and 60 organic chemicals, including eight PFAS and four radionuclides.

Local water suppliers have monitoring programs and are required to notify the state of violations. The state oversees these and reports results to the EPA. This system has been in place since the 1970s, formalized in the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Those using private wells have no such protection. Moreover, taking samples and understanding what they mean and how to respond is complicated as contaminants could come from a variety of sources. Due to these challenges, the Action Plan considers more proactive state assistance for those with private wells.

In Minnesota, around 2% of the public water systems recorded violations, far better than the national rate of 10%. No violations were for pesticides, industrial chemicals or bacteriological contaminants. Several recorded PFAS levels above new federal standards. Though Minnesota has more success in removing contaminants, we still need vigilance as the system is challenged by aging infrastructure, stress from extreme weather events and new chemicals.

### Q: How are we protecting our water?

**Calow:** There are both federal and state regulations for protecting all sources of drinking water in Minnesota. The challenge is that protection is delivered by different agencies: the Pollution Control Agency regulates chemical and industrial pollution to surface and groundwater, except for agricultural chemicals regulated by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Natural Resources manages the amount of water drawn from wells, which impacts drinking water quality. Ultimately, MDH is responsible for the safety of drinking water at the tap, including managing rules for local water utilities and well construction.

**Lewandowski:** Alongside monitoring and regulation, source water protection involves education, technical support, financial incentives, and a lot of voluntary work. The quality of water in our rivers, lakes and aquifers is a result of the unique geology, vegetation and land management across the whole area that drains to each water body. Aquifers are particularly critical to protect because once contaminated, they are extremely difficult to clean up.

Each public drinking water well has a defined area called the Drinking Water Supply Management Area. This is the area at risk of contaminating the well water in the near term. Source water protection requires collaboration among public and private landowners and managers, because every water body is impacted by many people.

### Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota help support safe drinking water across the state?

**Lewandowski and Calow:** Delivering safe and sufficient drinking water involves complex processes spanning many disciplines: water chemistry to microbial biology; engineering to economics; public health to public policy. The University serves communities across Minnesota, with a long history of working with the state and its agencies as a land grant institution.

The University's Water Resources Center and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs have worked with the Minnesota Department of Health on several projects over the past 10 years to help ensure that MDH processes reflect current science and diverse perspectives. Most recently, we led an assessment of drinking water governance, which means all the formal and informal ways that decisions are made about our drinking water. We gathered input from water professionals and water users around the state to learn what is working well and how coordination and communication could be improved. Results of this study informed the MDH Action Plan.

**Peter Calow** is a professor in the Humphrey School's Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy area. He has held faculty positions in the United States, Denmark, and Britain. In addition, Professor Calow has had a number of government advisory positions in the UK, Denmark, and for the European Commission. He has published more than 300 papers and 20 books.

**Ann Marcelle Lewandowski** is a senior research and extension coordinator for the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center. She leads projects that support healthy water in tandem with robust agriculture.

*Support Your Lakeshore Association By Joining!*

# Your Gift Helps Power The Science That Protects Our Waters



**Time is everything** when it comes to stopping aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota's lakes and rivers. For many years, the search for AIS has meant relying on finding the individual organisms themselves; zebra mussels **clinging to docks**, starry stonewort bulbils **hidden in sedimen**, or spiny water fleas **tangled on fishing lines**. But now, a breakthrough in environmental DNA (eDNA) technology is transforming how we detect and respond to AIS.

eDNA is genetic material that organisms shed into their environment, like a biological footprint left behind in the water. By collecting and analyzing water samples from lakes and rivers, scientists can identify the presence of AIS **even when populations are small** and the organisms are difficult to find.

At the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, we're **supporting multiple research projects centered on eDNA**, each unlocking a different piece of this complex puzzle: fine-tuning field-based rapid tests, testing for multiple species at once, and gathering lake-wide data to help understand ecosystems. Each approach has unique strengths in sensitivity, specificity, cost, and scalability - all essential pieces to **building a complete AIS detection toolkit**.

**Your support helps drive this progress.** Donations to MAISRC strengthen researchers' ability to uncover new understandings and scale-up new technologies like eDNA monitoring that make early detection and coordinated response possible. Your support also allows us to:

- **Train the next generation of leaders** in AIS research and management, to carry forward science-based approaches to AIS
- **Support our partnerships with local managers and communities** to translate research results into on-the-ground action

## ~ RECIPE CORNER ~

### Hidden Heart Cake

- 1 1/2 c. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1.2 c. golden caster sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 2 c. self-raising flour
- (2) 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1/2 c. ground almond
- 1 c. milk
- 3 tsp. vanilla extract

28 ml. bottle red food coloring or 1/2 tsp. coloring gel



For Icing:

- 1 c.. double cream
- 1 1/3 c. dark chocolate finely chopped
- 1/4 c. unsalted butter
- pink sprinkles (optional)

**#1:** Heat oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Grease loaf tin and line with a long strip of baking parchment. Cream 3/4 c. butter and 3/4 c. sugar until light and fluffy. Beat 3 eggs and pour in, a little at a time, mixing after each addition. Sift together 1 c. flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder and the cocoa, fold into butter mixture with almonds. Combine 1/2 c. milk, 1 1/2 tsp vanilla and food colouring; add to batter, mix until evenly coloured.

Pour into the prepared loaf tin and bake for 1 hour 10 mins. until a skewer comes out clean. Cool 10 mins in pan, transfer to wire rack. When cool, cut cake into slices. Using cutter, stamp out the hearts (save any remaining cake for another treat).

Repeat #1 to make a second cake mixture - no cocoa or food colour in this batch. Pour 3/4 of the mixture into the prepared loaf tin. Push the bottoms of the hearts into the batter in a tightly packed row. Spoon over the remaining cake mixture, covering as much of the hearts as possible. Bake for 1 hour or until a skewer comes out clean. Cool for 10 mins in the tin, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

For the icing, gently heat all the ingredients over a low heat until combined. Leave to cool, then chill until needed. Spread over the cooled cake and decorate with the sprinkles. Will keep for 3 days stored in a cake tin.



**We're looking for your favorite recipe to share**

Submit to Battle Lake Review at [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)

# Lakes Area Church Directory

### ~ Baptist ~

**Basswood Baptist Church BGC**   
 38188 340th St., Richville 218-495-3771  
 Bert Holmquist, Pastor 218-4953800  
**Sundays** - Sunday School 9:30 a.m., refreshments following  
 Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  
 Potluck Dinner (2nd Sunday)  
**Wednesdays** - Bible Study, Youth Group and Kids Club 7 p.m.  
**Thursdays (third)** - Ladies' Bible Study  
**Saturdays (first)** - Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.

### First Baptist Church

An American Baptist Church  
 "Little Brown Church on the Hill"  
 121 Lake Ave. N., Battle Lake 218-864-5319  
[www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org](http://www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org)  
**Sundays** - Worship services 9:30 a.m.

### ~ C & M Alliance ~

**Battle Lake Alliance Church**   
 401 W. Gilbertson St. 218-864-5539  
 Derek Mansker, Pastor [www.battlelake.org](http://www.battlelake.org)  
**Sundays** - Worship Service 10 a.m. or online  
**Wednesdays** - Kids 4 Truth Youth with meal 5:20 p.m.  
 Club 6-7:30 p.m.

### ~ Catholic ~

**St. James, St. Edwards and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Churches** Father George Michael 218-864-5619

**St. James Catholic (Maine) -**  
 32009 Cty. Hwy. 74, Underwood   
**Mass** - Saturdays 5 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.  
**Confessions** - Saturdays 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** - Wednesdays 8 a.m.  
**Bible Study** - Fridays 9 a.m.  
**Sewing Group** - Tuesdays 9 a.m.

**St. Edwards Catholic Church**  
 201 Douglas Ave., Henning   
**Mass** - Sundays 8:30 a.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m.  
**Confessions** - Sundays 8 a.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** - Friday 9 a.m.

**Our Lady of the Lake Catholic -**  
 407 N. Lake Ave., Battle Lake   
**Mass** - Sundays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.  
**Confessions** - Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** - Thursdays 9 a.m.  
**Men of Mary** - Saturdays 8 a.m.  
**Sunday School** - Sundays 9:15 a.m.  
**Mission Sewing** - Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.  
**Edge/Life Teen** - Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.  
 - Parish Notes -  
**Battle Lake Good Samaritan Center** - Rosary Mondays 3:15 p.m. and Mass Tuesdays 3:15 p.m.

### ~ Lutheran ~

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**   
 Battle Lake Campus - 21744 State Hwy. 78, Battle Lake  
 Pastor Nick Laven Visit [bethellutheran.church](http://bethellutheran.church)  
**Sunday Worships** - 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
**Sunday School (all ages)** 9:30 a.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**   
 Lynn Melchior, Pastor  
 505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake - 218-864-5686  
**Thursdays** - TOPS 8 a.m.  
**Sundays** - Worship 10 a.m. (and online)  
 Communion 1st and 4th  
 Coffee Fellowship 11 a.m.  
**Mondays** - Quilters 9 a.m.

**SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor   
[www.SverdrupLutheran.org](http://www.SverdrupLutheran.org)  
 209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood 218-8826-6919  
**Sundays** - Worship 9 a.m.

**TINGVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor 218-826-6487  
 2801 Cty. Rd. 35, Underwood  
**Sundays** - Worship: Sept.-May 11 a.m., June-Aug. 10:30 a.m.

### ~ Lutheran ~

#### ZION LUTHERAN-AMOR

[office@zionamor.org](mailto:office@zionamor.org) 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake  
 Chris Mathiason, Pastor  
[www.zionamor.org](http://www.zionamor.org) 218-495-2563  
**Sundays** - Confirmation 9 a.m. - 10th Graders; Worship 10 a.m.  
 (Traditional with Communion 1st and 4th; Contemporary with  
 Prairie Team 2nd and 3rd); Fellowship 11 a.m.  
**Mondays** - Quilting 9 a.m.  
**Tuesdays** - Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon  
**Wednesdays** - Praise Team 4 p.m.  
**Thursdays** - Chair Yoga 1 p.m. 

### ~ Methodist ~

**Ottertail United Methodist Church**  
 104 Shores Drive, Ottertail 218-367-2270  
 Ricardo Alcoser, Pastor  
**Sunday** - Worship 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship following.

**Richville United Methodist Church**  
 130 SW 1st Ave., Richville Rod Turnquist, Pastor   
**Sundays** - Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Coffee Fellowship following (2nd and 4th Sundays).  
**Wednesdays** - School 6 p.m.

### ~ Presbyterian ~

**Maine Presbyterian Church**  
 Bob Kersten, Pastor  
 30761 Co. Hwy. 45 Underwood - 218-495-2539  
[www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org)  
**Sunday Worships** - June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May  
 10 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday  
 Coffee following worship June-August.



#2 at 37728/37730 Eldorado Beach Road



#1 located at 35076 Deer Lake Road

**Smart911**

**Plan ahead for any emergency**

Download the Smart911 App Today.

*Did you figure out or find all of these unique items along our lake roads marking properties that were in August 2025 newsletter?*



#4 at 405 MN Hwy 78 Ss



#3 41014 Indian Drive

## OTLPOA 2026 Membership Form

**Complete your application online this year!**  
 Either click the QR Code or go to [www.otlpoa.com/24-join](http://www.otlpoa.com/24-join)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Important notifications will be sent via email - like meetings and worm spraying schedule*

<b>Annual Dues (January-December)</b> .....	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
Includes Membership, Worm Spraying, Research, Local Organization Support	
<b>Foundation Donation (tax deductible)</b> .....	\$ _____
Includes Membership, Worm Spraying, Research, Local Organization Support	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b> .....	\$ _____

Check payable to OTLPOA  
 Return form to PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515

**Your Membership makes a difference! Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association is primarily member supported. Your contributions help us protect our lakes and advocate on behalf of property owners. Thank you!**

# Join Your Neighbors and Preserve Our Lakes

Become an OTLPOA Member today! Your membership makes a difference. Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association is primarily member supported, so we rely on your contributions to protect our lakes and advocate on behalf of property owners.

OTLPOA is made up of lakeshore owners, community partners and civic leaders who understand the importance of stewardship and who want to protect and preserve our lakes' beauty and legacy. As a member, you'll help promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake.

**Your annual membership includes:**

- **Access to information and resources to help you care for our lakes**
- **Representation at state, regional and local organizations**
- **Five issues of Lakeshore News each year**
- **Lakeshore directory, published every two years**
- **An open Annual Meeting**

To join, visit [otlpoa.com/24-join](http://otlpoa.com/24-join) and complete the online membership form. Or, watch your mail for a registration letter from us this month.

Thank you!



## - Land Transfers (August 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Type
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	8/13/2025	DIANNA M GRENELL ET AL	RYAN & MICHELLE WEBER	\$ 500,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	8/12/2025	DAVID P THOMPSON	COLLEEN & WILLIAM SCHATZ	\$ 110,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030203 - SILVER 3RD-FF	8/4/2025	RICHARD & KATHRYN ALLEN	JOHN BARABE & STACEY PAUL	\$ 184,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560306 - ELBOW (EVERTS)-FF	8/8/2025	KAREN L PFEIFFER	BRADY & MACKENZIE SPEICHER	\$ 198,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	8/15/2025	JACK G BELANGER	MICHAEL & JENNIFER FRIDOLFS	\$ 190,000.00	SW Mobiles
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	8/7/2025	BRIAN W JOHNSON	WILLIAM & MARIE SHORES	\$ 580,000.00	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	8/29/2025	JOSHUA SNORTUM	DAVID & CYNTHIA TAFFE ET AL	\$ 140,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560200 - DONALD (OT CITY)-FF	8/20/2025	DANIEL P SCHNEIDER	SHAWN & LISA SIZONEN	\$ 684,900.00	Residential
Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	8/29/2025	NANCY JO KRUEGER	MICHAEL & TERI BAUCK	\$ 385,000.00	Multi Manuf
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	9/12/2025	PAMELA PEDERSON	NANCY WEST & BRUCE JOHNSON	\$ 691,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	9/23/2025	RYAN T HANSON	THOMAS & MELISSA HEILMAN	\$ 1,018,000.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	9/8/2025	CURTIS & SUSAN SCHERF	MICHAEL & JENNIFER FRIDOLFS	\$ 545,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030201 -1stSILVER-EVERTS-FF	9/4/2025	TERRY ABRAM & NANCY STANDAL	RMT CAMP LLC	\$ 499,900.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560379 - N TURTLE-FF	9/29/2025	JOSEPH J SR GUSTAFSON	ANDREW & AMY PEDERSON	\$ 164,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	9/12/2025	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	PAUL & KATHLEEN HENNEN	\$ 60,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	9/15/2025	KARIN ROREM ET AL	MARISA & NATHAN LUDVIGSON	\$ 750,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	9/8/2025	DAVID M HASTINGS	DEBORAH SHIRLEY ETAL	\$ 495,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	9/16/2025	MARK VANGUILDER	PHILIP & JOSEPH STOLL	\$ 103,500.00	SW Mobiles
Ottertail City	560202 - PELICAN BAY (OT CITY-	9/25/2025	ROCK FAMILY REV TST	BARRY & CARLA BAILEY	\$ 250,000.00	Multi Manuf
Otter Tail Twp	004712 - OTTERTAIL RIVER(OT)-F	10/20/2025	BLUE LIBELLE PROPERTIES LLC	ADAM KOMINKO	\$ 295,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10/9/2025	A & M RENTAL LLC	DOUG & NICOLE NORDICK	\$ 509,000.00	Residential
Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	10/15/2025	RONALD A LESTER	HARRIS HILLESTAD	\$ 300,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10/6/2025	CHARLES G VASEY	ERICK & JILL HEDMAN	\$ 600,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11/21/2025	MICHAEL ALLMARAS	BRIAN & JACQUELINE ANDERSON	\$ 570,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560193 - ETHEL-FF	11/10/2025	HARVEY & LANA GRUNST	DAVE & DARLENE ELLINGSON TRUST	\$ 720,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	11/25/2025	ELWIN F CRANDALL	DEBRA DECKER	\$ 730,000.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	12/5/2025	JAY M GUNWALL	CHRISTOPHER BUTTKE	\$ 625,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	12/11/2025	AGNES G MACAL TST	MARK & KRISTIN RICK	\$ 500,000.00	Residential
Everts Twp	56030201 -1stSILVER-EVERTS-FF	12/11/2025	MARK J RICK	ANDREW & CATHERINE RILEY	\$ 594,000.00	Residential

**Report Anything Not In The Right Place To Authorities!**

**SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS**

Unattended briefcases or bags may simply be forgotten or discarded items – but it's better to be safe than sorry. **Don't be afraid to report any of the following:**

- Bags, boxes or other packages left unattended on buses and trains, in stations, on platforms or on train tracks—especially if partially hidden or in unusual locations.
- Exposed wiring, leaks, strange smells or other signs of potential tampering on buses and trains.
- Suspicious carry-on items such as large backpacks, gym bags and luggage weighing more than normal.



**If You Observe Suspicious Objects:**

- ❖ **DO NOT** touch or move any suspicious objects
- ❖ **DO NOT** use a cell phone or radio in the direct vicinity
- ❖ **DO** evacuate the area to a safe distance
- ❖ **DO** notify appropriate authorities as soon as possible

**SAY SOMETHING?**

*(Who to tell)*

Once you **see something**, how do you **say something**? Below are helpful hints on how to report it – it could save your life.

**Describing "Something Suspicious"**

Tell the authorities who, when and where you saw something, and specifically what you saw. Be sure to note the number of the bus or train, or name of the transit station. Explain why you thought there was cause for suspicion.

**Tell...**

- POLICE OR SECURITY OFFICER
- EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
- TRANSIT DRIVERS
- CALL 9-1-1 IF NO ONE IS AVAILABLE.

# Lake Water Quality Monitoring

Lakes are central to Minnesota's economy and our way of life, making it imperative that we protect our high quality lakes and work to restore those with poor water quality. The MPCA monitors and assesses lakes around the state to determine if they meet water quality standards. The agency relies on local partners, including soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, tribes, non-profit groups, and citizens, to help monitor the more than 10,000 lakes in the state, and offers Surface Water Assessment grants to support local monitoring efforts. Lake enthusiasts can participate in our Volunteer Water Monitoring Program to help track water clarity trends.



## Monitoring –

The MPCA's lake monitoring primary goals are to:

- determine if lake water quality supports recreational activities such as swimming and boating.
- measure and compare regional differences in water quality.
- identify long-term trends in water quality.

These goals help meet the objectives of the 1972 Clean Water Act to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

The MPCA's lake monitoring is part of its overall watershed approach, intensively monitoring an average of eight of the state's 80 major watershed each year, on a rotating 10-year cycle. Routine lake sampling occurs once a month from May through September for one or two years, focusing on the water's total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and water clarity. It is not possible to sample every lake in Minnesota. The goal is to monitor and assess all recreational lakes larger than 500 acres and a portion of publicly accessible lakes greater than 100 acres.

The MPCA partners with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure that lakes are supporting healthy aquatic communities. A subset of lakes are sampled for fish community health each year and work is underway to evaluate plant community health.

Following monitoring, MPCA staff evaluate and assess the data to determine if the lakes meet water quality standards. Based on these results, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) and a watershed and restoration and protect strategy (WRAPS) are completed for each watershed. These reports are the foundation for restoration and protection projects in each watershed.

# Help Grow Minnesota's Future Forests By Collecting Black Spruce Cones For The DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' State Forest Nursery is seeking individuals to collect black spruce cones this winter. The DNR uses the gathered cones to directly seed public lands and grow seedlings at the State Forest Nursery, which is near Akeley. In 2025, the DNR reforested nearly 1,200 acres of state land using almost 70,000 black spruce seedlings and 40 pounds of black spruce seed – which is the equivalent of roughly 25 million seeds.



“Collecting tree seeds and cones isn't easy work. It often means hiking through the woods in cold weather, identifying the right trees, and gathering cones for several hours,” said Sarah Ebert, DNR State Forest Nursery Manager. “But for Minnesotans who enjoy being outdoors, it's a great way to play a hands-on role in restoring and replanting forests across the state.”

The DNR pays collectors \$200 per bushel for clean, closed, ripe, black spruce cones. Of note, collecting seeds and cones from yard trees is not recommended. Many yard trees are cultivars or nonnative varieties. Also, the DNR doesn't accept cones from non-native species such as blue or Norway spruce, or open cones collected from the ground with stems, leaves and debris. Individuals should contact their local DNR Forestry office ([mndnr.gov/contact/locator.html](http://mndnr.gov/contact/locator.html)) before collecting to confirm if black spruce cones are currently needed and to arrange drop-off.

Knowing how to correctly identify black spruce is an important part of successful cone collection, and the DNR encourages collectors to review identification tips and photos online before heading out. Some characteristics to look for are short, pointed, four-sided needles approximately 1/2" long and cones that are small and purplish black in color.

Black spruce is found primarily in northern Minnesota, and seed drop-off stations are located at Forestry offices in Baudette, Grygla, Wannaska, Bemidji, Cloquet, Deer River, Hibbing, International Falls, Littlefork, Orr, Tower, Two Harbors, Warroad and the State Forest Nursery. For an list of all cone collection offices, see the map on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/forestry/nursery/collection-map.html](http://mndnr.gov/forestry/nursery/collection-map.html)).

Collectors can find additional identification tips, current prices, collection guidelines, and drop-off locations on the DNR's seed and cone collection webpage ([mndnr.gov/seedcone](http://mndnr.gov/seedcone)).

# Show Your Support By Joining Your Lakeshore Association!

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# MN DNR Proposes To Reduce Walleye Limit From 6 To 4



Minnesota anglers would be able to keep four walleyes instead of six in a proposal by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to update a statewide inland water walleye fishing regulation that's been in place since 1956.

The rule change if approved, would go into effect March 1, 2027. The current regulation of only one walleye over 20" in possession would remain in place.

"The DNR is taking proactive steps to help ensure future generations can continue to enjoy the excellent walleye fishing we have in Minnesota," said Brad Parsons, fisheries section manager. "Over the last 70 years that the current limit has been in place, many factors have changed, including climactic conditions, invasive species introductions and fish-finding technologies."

The proposed rule would also clarify that, when fishing regulations for inland waters are different from rules listed in other parts of the fishing regulations, the rules in other parts of the regulations take precedence. Examples include border waters regulations, when waters are closed to taking fish, or waters with other restrictions on taking fish. This change would be applicable to all species.

The Minnesota DNR is inviting comments on the proposed rule changes until 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5. People may submit comments by:

- Email to [fisheries.rulemaking.comments.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:fisheries.rulemaking.comments.dnr@state.mn.us). Please mention "walleye limit" in the subject line or body of the email.
- Phone to the Minnesota DNR at 651-259-5235.
- Mail to Fisheries Rules and Regulations Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

"We have discussed this walleye limit proposal informally for a long time, including working with anglers and interested groups to see if this is something anglers would support. Now we're going through the formal process to propose the change and gather input," Parsons said. "This proposal is informed by what fisheries research and sampling data point to about walleye in the future."

More information about the proposal, including previous public input and factors the DNR considered, is available on the Minnesota DNR website ([mndnr.gov/fisheries/management/walleye-limit.html](http://mndnr.gov/fisheries/management/walleye-limit.html)).





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# MN DNR Requesting Feedback On Hunting, Fishing Regulation Books

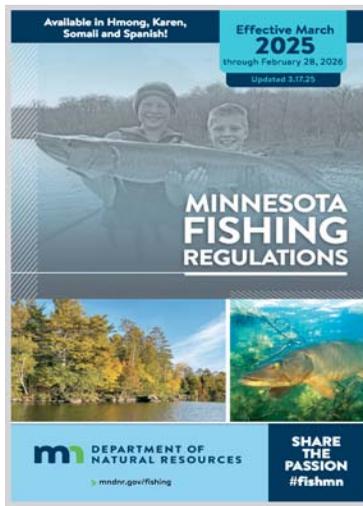
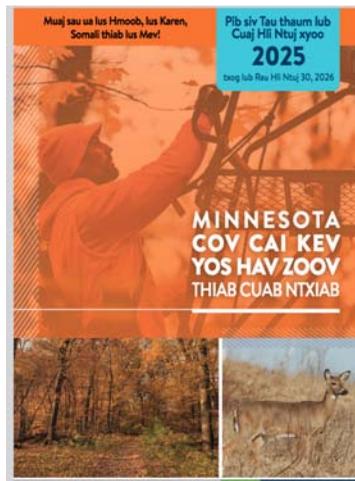
Anglers, hunters and trappers are invited to share their thoughts with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources about the regulations books published annually to inform people about how they can legally hunt, trap and fish in the State.

"We are interested in understanding how people access, understand and use the information in these regulations books," said Sarah Middleton, DNR Wildlife Rules and Regulations Coordinator. "To continuously improve how we inform the public about the regulations relevant to their activities, we want to hear from people willing to share their thoughts and experiences with us."

The DNR produces three regulations books each year for fishing, hunting and trapping, and waterfowl hunting. The regulations books consolidate complex legal requirements into a comprehensive format for public use.

The DNR encourages people to share their thoughts using an online questionnaire on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/qr/rt-regs-book](http://mndnr.gov/qr/rt-regs-book)) through Monday, March 16. People can also submit feedback by email to [Sarah.Middleton@state.mn.us](mailto:Sarah.Middleton@state.mn.us) or to the DNR Section of Wildlife, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

The DNR will analyze feedback this spring and plans to continue engagement efforts throughout 2026. Copies of the regulations books are on Minnesota DNR fishing regulations webpage ([mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing](http://mndnr.gov/regulations/fishing)) and hunting regulations webpage ([mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting](http://mndnr.gov/regulations/hunting)). Printed copies are also available wherever DNR licenses are sold.



# Do You Know The Difference?

American Crow



Common Raven



**Crows and Ravens** are both large, black birds but Ravens are bigger with heavier bills, shaggier throat feathers and a wedge-shaped tail in flight, while crows have slimmer bills, flatter tails (fan/squared), and make a distinct "caw" sound, whereas ravens have a deeper "croak" and often soar more, preferring wilder areas to crows' urban comfort.

**Size and Build:** Ravens are significantly larger and bulkier than Crows, with a heftier beak.

**Throat Feathers:** Ravens have shaggy throat feathers (hackles) that look like a luxurious cravat, especially when calling.

**Tail Shape (in Flight):** Crows have a fan-shaped or squared tail; Ravens have a distinct diamond or wedge-shaped tail.

**Flight Style:** Ravens often soar and glide; crows tend to flap more steadily.

**Sound:** Crows make a clear "caw," while ravens have a deeper, throaty "croak".

**Habitat:** Crows are more common in urban/town environments; Ravens prefer wilder, mountainous areas.

**Quick Identification Guide**  
Look at the Tail: Diamond = Raven; Fan/Square = Crow.  
Listen for the Call: Deep Croak = Raven; Clear Caw = Crow.  
Check the Throat: Shaggy feathers = Raven.  
Consider Location: Urban = Likely Crow; Mountains/Wild = Likely Raven.

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# Ice House Removal Dates, Fishing Licenses Expire

## Shelter removal deadlines –

Dark houses, fish houses and portables must be off the ice no later than 11:59 p.m. (end of the day) for each of the dates given in the categories below. County sheriffs may prohibit or restrict the use of motorized vehicles if dangerous ice conditions are present. If shelters are not removed, owners may be cited. A conservation officer also may confiscate, remove or destroy any ice structure and its contents if not removed by the deadline.

## Inland waters –

- ▶ South of line - March 3, 2026
- ▶ North of line - March 17, 2026

## Border waters –

- ▶ Minnesota-Iowa - February 20
- ▶ Minnesota-Wisconsin - March 1
- ▶ Minnesota-North and South Dakota - March 5
- ▶ Minnesota-Canada - March 31



Dates of removal are determined by an east-west line formed by U.S. Hwy. 10, east along Hwy. 34 to Minnesota Hwy. 200, east along Hwy. 200 to U.S. Hwy. 2, and east along Hwy. 2 to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. After removal dates, shelters may remain on the ice between midnight and one hour before sunrise only when occupied or attended. Storing or leaving shelters on a public access is prohibited.

## Fishing Licenses –

Fishing licenses are effective from March 1 to the last day of February of the following year. A fishing license for the current 2025-26 license year is effective until February 28, 2026. Lower-cost licenses are available for shorter time periods.

The purchase price of every fishing license goes into the Game and Fish Fund, a dedicated account that can only be used for fish, wildlife, law enforcement and certain other related activities.

## Popular licenses –

- ▶ Individual angling: Use code 111 to buy a fishing license for one person.
- ▶ Combination angling: Use code 112 to buy a license that allows a married couple to fish individually or together.
- ▶ Individual sports: Use code 216 to buy a license for one person to hunt small game and fish.
- ▶ Combination sports: Use code 217 to buy a license that allows one spouse to hunt small game and fish. The other spouse can only fish.
- ▶ Non-resident individual angling: Use code 121 to buy a license that allows a non-resident to fish anytime during the license year in Minnesota.
- ▶ All resident licenses
- ▶ All non-resident licenses

For more information and details go to Minnesota DNR website: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html)

# Thanks For Being An OTLPOA Member!

## • IMPORTANT NOTES •

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will collect your social security number when you apply for a non-commercial hunting or fishing license.  
 License prices listed do not include any additional fees or the \$1 agent fee.  
 Commercial licenses applications require a Federal Employer Identification number, Minnesota Tax Identification number or Social Security Number. Commercial licenses are issued at the DNR license center.

# Thanks for keeping track of our lakes' water in the best quality!



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# Share Your Memories At The Lake!

Submit your photos to [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)

note in subject line OTLPOA Lakeshore News Photos and include a brief description, when and by who!