

News from Friends of Diamond Lake

restore protect improve



News Flash

Friends of Diamond Lake (FoDL) created history when the Lake Management Plan for Diamond Lake was approved by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Wednesday, October 21. Developed by the FoDL Lake Management Plan Committee, it is the first management plan approved by the park board for any lake in the Minneapolis system. This ground breaking document will set the standard for future lake management plans in the City of Minneapolis.

Learn more about the plan inside this newsletter, or visit FoDL online at friendsofdiamonddlake.org for the latest updates.

From the President

Dear Friends of Diamond Lake,

Welcome !

Less than two years ago a group of people concerned about Diamond Lake met to form a new organization. With the help and support of Minnesota Waters and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Friends of Diamond Lake was born. Since then we have grown to over forty members and supporters.

With our first newsletter we would like to update you with what has been happening and what the future holds for the group. The success of Friends of Diamond Lake so far has been the result of a small core group working to get the organization going, planning events, and writing a Lake Management Plan.

Going forward there will be multiple opportunities and the need for many more people to be involved. Please check out this newsletter to find out what we have done over the last year and a half, what we have planned, and how you can use your interests and skills to preserve, protect, and improve this unique resource we call Diamond Lake.

Dave Oltmans, President

Inside

Lake Management Plan Update

Busted Again!

**FoDL Partner:
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church**

Volunteer Opportunities

Membership Renewal Time



Busted Again!

More than a dozen volunteers combed the wooded areas surrounding Diamond Lake with “weed wrenches,” saws, and loppers, removing lots of invasive Buckthorn Saturday, October 24. This is the second year Friends of Diamond Lake organized the event. Numerous tree-sized, berry-laden plants were removed. It was also clear that previous years’ efforts paid off, as volunteers found some areas with little Buckthorn growing.

Buckthorn is a nonnative, woody plant that has become a widespread problem in Minnesota. It grows densely and aggressively, choking out native, more favorable species. The berry-producing invader is propagated through traveling roots and the droppings of birds that eat the berries.

Buckthorn lacks natural controls such as disease or insects, contributes to erosion by shading out other plants that typically grow on the forest floor, provides a home for pests such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphids and prevents the natural diversity that makes Minnesota beautiful.

Although it may be chilly, fall is one of the best times for buckthorn removal. Most other plants have shed their leaves or changed colors, but buckthorn retains its green leaves throughout the fall, making it easy for volunteers to identify.

Although buckthorn removal and control is a big job, a little help from everyone goes a long way in curbing the spread of this destructive and invasive species. **Many thanks to all of those who gave their time and muscle!**

Lake Management Plan Update

Were you one of the many members of the Diamond Lake community who attended the Community Visioning Session on March 24, 2009 or the Community Priority Setting on April 28, 2009? Have you been wondering what happened to the issues and priorities you helped identify? Much has been accomplished since those meetings in the spring!

As described in those meetings, the Lake Management Plan Group is a partnership of the Board of Friends of Diamond Lake, and representatives from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), the Hale-Page-Diamond Lake (HPDL) Community Association, and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church.

The Lake Management Plan group incorporated the community issues and priorities identified in the community sessions to create an inaugural Lake Management Plan for Diamond Lake. The plan has recently been approved by the MPRB Operations and Environmental subcommittee and was approved by the full MPRB October 21.

FoDL Partner: Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

Friends of Diamond Lake would like to thank Diamond Lake Lutheran Church (DLLC) for its generous donation of \$200. DLLC has been a kind and welcoming neighbor to FoDL. In addition to financial support, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church has allowed use of their facilities, invited us to participate in their Caring for Creation events and had a member work with us on our lake management plan committee.

We sincerely appreciate the support from Diamond Lake Lutheran Church and look forward to a continued partnership.



Volunteer Opportunity

Interested in helping Friends of Diamond Lake spread the word on upcoming events and our mission?

Friends of Diamond Lake needs a couple of communications committee volunteers.

Specifically needed are writers who will be responsible for updating website content, writing and editing newsletter articles and helping to promote events. Interested? Please email Shelley Johnson at sjohnson@friendsofdiamondlake.org.

Visit friendsofdiamondlake.org to learn about other ways you can get involved.

friendsofdiamondlake.org

What is in the Lake Management Plan?

Six top areas of concern were identified by the community and the corresponding objectives were developed to address them. The objectives guide the development and implementation of specific actions.

Concern 1: Information on Diamond Lake is scattered through different agencies and organizations. Neighbors do not feel informed regarding the state of the lake.
Objective 1: Establish a searchable and downloadable online data repository that can be easily accessed by community residents containing all the reports, studies, maps, and historical data available pertaining to Diamond Lake.

Concern 2: Neighbors are concerned that water quality in Diamond Lake is deteriorating over time.
Objective 2: Achieve measurable improvements in the health of the Diamond Lake ecosystem.

Concern 3: We don't have a current scientifically comprehensive wildlife census to evaluate baseline conditions in Diamond Lake.
Objective 3: Survey plants and animals in and around Diamond Lake.

Concern 4: Neighbors expressed an interest in taking actions to improve water quality; however, there is a lack the knowledge of what actions to take and specific information of how to implement these actions.
Objective 4: Partner with Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association (HPDL) and others to educate neighbors about what they can do with their properties to improve the Lake's water quality.

Concern 5: Neighbors have expressed concerns about the quality and safety of the existing trail on the east side of Diamond Lake.
Objective 5: Improve the quality and safety of the existing trail.

Concern 6: Existing dock is inadequate for water access and is not fully accessible.
Objective 6: Improve existing canoe and kayak access. Upgrade access and observation platform to be fully accessible.

For additional information and updates on the Diamond Lake Management Plan, visit us at friendsofdiamondlake.org.

What is a Lake Management Plan?

The Lake Management Plan is intended to create a record of historic and existing conditions and influences on Diamond Lake and to identify the goals of the Diamond Lake community. It is ultimately meant to help prioritize goals and guide citizen action and engagement in the priority action areas. While state agencies and local units of government have a vital role and responsibility in managing surface waters and other natural resources, this Lake Management Plan is intended above all else to be an assessment of what we as citizens can influence, what our desired outcomes are, and how we will participate in preserving and protecting this valuable natural resource.

This Lake Management Plan is also intended to be a “living document.” As newer or better information becomes available, as we accomplish our goals, or discover that alternate strategies are needed, it is our intent to update this plan so that it continues to serve as a useful guide to future leaders.

Lake Management Plan Leadership Group

- Tim Brown, *MPRB staff*
- Sue Buettgen, *FoDL*
- Melanie Countryman, *HPDL board*
- Scott Foss, *FoDL*
- Stuart Goldstein, *FoDL*
- Dan Heine, *FoDL*
- Shelley Johnson, *FoDL*
- Bob Lind, *HPDL resident*
- Mary Martini, *FoDL*
- Mary Moilanen, *FoDL*
- Dave Oltmans, *FoDL*
- Ken Oul, *DLLC*
- Angie Timmons, *HPDL board*

What's New?

Friends of Diamond Lake has been a busy group. Here's a sampling of what FoDL has been up to over the past year and a half or so.

- Participated in two **Earth Day** clean up events Pearl Park and the lake.
- Participated in two **Caring for Creation** events at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
- Met neighbors and spread the word about Friends of Diamond Lake at a booth at the past two **HPDL Picnic in the Park** events
- Organized two **buckthorn removal** events around the lake
- Spearheaded the ambitious task of developing a **lake management plan** for Diamond Lake.
- Hosted two neighborhood **visioning and input sessions** to learn more about the community's hopes and concerns regarding the lake.

Activities such as the Buckthorn Bust, Picnic in the Park, Caring for Creation and the Earth Day clean up are annual events that provide opportunities to partner with other organizations and share our vision and concerns for Diamond Lake. They also present great opportunities to meet your neighbors and make new acquaintances. Join us!

Partner Organizations

The work of Friends of Diamond Lake wouldn't be nearly as fun and effective without the support of these organizations. **Thank you!**

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church
HPDL Neighborhood Association
Friends of the Mississippi River
The Initiative Foundation: Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program
Minnesota Waters
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Friends of Diamond Lake Board of Directors

Sue Buettgen
Scott Foss
Stu Goldstein
Dan Heine
Larry Jetter
Shelley Johnson
Mary Martini
Mary Moilanen
Dave Oltmans *president*

It's time to renew your membership!

Friends of Diamond Lake depends on your involvement and financial support. Memberships come up for renewal in January.

To show your support and stay up to date on the latest Friends of Diamond Lake happenings, please send your membership renewal check for \$10, along with your name, address, and email information to:

Friends of Diamond Lake
PO Box 19436
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Your additional gift beyond the \$10 membership donation is always appreciated and goes toward helping to restore, preserve, and improve Diamond Lake and its watershed.

Not yet a member? We would love to have you join today! Visit friendsofdiamondlake.org for information.

Remember to Vote on Tuesday, November 3

Friends of Diamond Lake does not endorse or support political candidates.

friendsofdiamondlake.org

restore protect improve



Friends of Diamond Lake
PO Box 19436
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419