

ADMIN POLICY - CITY PARTICIPATION IN LAKE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Original Adoption: 05/10/22 F

Reviewed/Updated: 12/13/22

Reference No. ADMIN-011

Section 1. Purpose and Scope

This policy is intended to supplement City Code Chapter 78 Waterways to clarify the City's position on participating in lake management projects.

Section 2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has licensed the City of Mound Commons Dock Program to grant licenses for up to 590 Boat Storage Units (BSUs). The City of Mound allocates these licenses between three primary types of uses: Abutters, Non-abutters and Multiple Slip licensees.
- 2.2 The City of Mound Commons Dock Program is made possible because of the many miles of City owned shoreline that was dedicated by developers during the platting process and by nature of ownership of the public rights of way.
- 2.3 The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is the local unit of government responsible for managing and protecting the water resources for Lake Minnetonka. It permits shoreline stabilization projects and projects related to dredging and navigation when delegated by MN Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR).
- 2.4 The MN Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) issues aquatic vegetation permits for removal of aquatic vegetation and issues permits for dredge activities not specifically delegated to MCWD.

Section 3. Lake Management Projects

- 3.1 Lake management refers to projects that focus on water quality and navigability.
- 3.2 The City of Mound generally signs off on any permit to improve water quality and/or navigability as required by permitting agencies.
- 3.3 The MN DNR does not guarantee continued navigability.
- 3.4 The MCWD regulates the Gray's Bay Dam according to agreements with the MN DNR during high water and low water periods; but weather extremes, variability in precipitation, and fluctuation in lake level are becoming more common.
- 3.5 The discharge of stormwater into Lake Minnetonka as "receiving waters" under the City of Mound Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit does not establish an inherent obligation of the City to address general lake bottom, navigation, and/or weed conditions throughout the lake. Navigability, and access to shoreline are outside of the City's municipal responsibilities and fall to either private, county, or State entities to address except for specifically-assigned responsibilities within Lost Lake.

Section 4. Service Levels

4.1 The City of Mound does not guarantee use of all dock locations managed under the Commons Dock Program at all times nor does the City of Mound guarantee every dock location can accommodate any type of watercraft.

- 4.2 The City of Mound will not endorse dredge projects to create new abutting dock sites as the City's wetlands and shoreline are already included in the shoreline count for existing licenses through the LMCD.
- 4.3 The City of Mound will only participate in shoreline stabilization projects (primarily limited to rip-rap) in areas within City lands at or above the Ordinary High Water Level, where there is a significant level of erosion, and or shore exposure to breaking waves due to open waters over an extended period of time.
- 4.4 The City of Mound is not responsible for wild life management and property owners should take the necessary precautions to protect their landscape and watercraft from potential nuisances created by AIS, beavers, and muskrats.
- 4.5 The City of Mound will not initiate or fund lake-bottom dredge projects in shallow bays, marshes, inlets, coves, or harbors intended to increase navigational depth and access to shoreline dockage except for specifically-assigned responsibilities within Lost Lake.