

CARP MANAGEMENT



Many lakes in the Chisago Lakes area have abundant carp populations. Carp feeding stirs up bottom sediment, causing phosphorus release into the water column, which in turn increases algae growth. Carp can also disrupt growth of native aquatic vegetation.

Carp prefer to breed in shallow areas disconnected from the main body of water, where minimal sunfish populations exist. Sunfish are the primary predator of carp eggs and fry.

Linn Lake is a primary breeding

area for carp in South Center Lake. Under conditions of higher water carp migrate from South Center Lake through a culvert to Linn Lake. The carp breed in Linn Lake and then return to South Center Lake.

In late winter of 2014 there was a substantial fish kill on Linn Lake minimizing the sunfish population. Without a healthy sunfish population in Linn Lake, a large majority of carp eggs are able to hatch and grow toward maturity.

In spring 2014 water levels on South Center Lake rose to the point that carp were able to migrate between South Center and Linn Lakes.

In an attempt to limit the carp spawning run a temporary barrier covering one end of the culvert between the two lakes was quickly constructed. The barrier was constructed based on a design suggested by the DNR. Unfortunately, within a week, the sheer number and size of carp substantially damaged the temporary barrier. Shortly after the barrier was removed.

A more permanent long-term solution is needed. The Lake Improvement District has formed a carp sub-committee and is planning a more comprehensive approach to managing the carp populations throughout the watershed.



Partners:

- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Carp Festival



LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT