

CARP MANAGEMENT



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

Carp prefer to spawn in seasonally flooded areas, and in particular waterbodies that do not support a fishery population throughout the year. This condition minimizes predation of their eggs and fry.

At least two primary areas of carp reproduction have been identified in the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID). Linn Lake is a primary breeding area for carp in South Center Lake and Ellen Lake is a primary breeding area for Green Lake. During the spring spawning period masses of carp are seen trying migrate to Linn Lake and passing from Green to Ellen through the road culverts. Preliminary field assessments were made in 2016 to determine if these locations are suitable for constructed barriers or carp traps.

Carp population research continues in the LID. In 2016, Saint Mary's University (SMU) conducted a carp survey on South Center and Linn Lakes. Data collected during the survey was used to determine population and age structure. This information is being used to isolate conditions that lead to successful recruitment years within each lake system that supports a carp population and consequently enables targeting of management activities. Additional research is planned for 2017.

The LID continues to support and coordinate with the annual Chisago Lakes Lions Club Carp Festival and Carp Bow Fishing Tournament. In 2016, data including age, length and weight of captured carp was collected by SMU staff and students. A report was prepared by SMU and submitted to the LID. The more we learn about the carp populations in each lake, the better management activities may be targeted.

Partners:

- Chisago Lakes LID
- Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- SMU
- Chisago Lakes Lions Club
- Frankie's Live Bait & Marine



LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT