



# SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION

Fall 2023



## Presidents Message from Wesley Steffan

With the summer nearing an end, all eyes are on the skies looking for the next rainfall. Low water levels have again plagued our Lake but not to the extent that happened in 2022. Water level numbers are available on the DNR website and displayed on page two of this newsletter shows prior to the 2014 flood, Spring Lake experienced low water levels as well. For those of you that are history buffs and have been on the lake much longer than I, this is probably no surprise. But on average, our lake level will drop 1.8 feet over the year.

2023 is not quite in the record books, but it has been a busy year as the Board has worked to fulfill our objectives around member engagement, lake improvement, sponsor involvement and education. We will finish this year with 160 members and 22 sponsors.

We hope that everyone has enjoyed the ongoing communication, social events, Lake Improvement Activities, growth in our number of Sponsors and watching Spring Lake Park develop.

Our education efforts this year focused on creating awareness around Safety and Boating Etiquette. Included in this newsletter is a new lake map along with recommendations from our board on how all lake users have a role in creating a safe and enjoyable boating experience. We also worked with PLSLWD and Steve McCommas from Blue Water Science who presented the second Aquatic Plant Seminar that was attended by over 20 people and live streamed to an additional 85 more. The Minnesota Legislature was extremely busy this year with a number of new laws and regulations impacting lake users. We have included a separate article detailing changes to boat registrations fee increases, watercraft operator certificates and the Keep it Clean campaign legislation.



In the area of Lake Improvement, the focus was on Eurasian Water Milfoil status and boat ramp improvements. Multiple surveys were completed this year by Blue Water Science and Board members with minimal EWM amounts found. We have included a separate article on the results but overall feel positive about actions taken in 2021 and 2022 to control the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil. We were also successful in working with the Prior Lake Association, House and State Legislatures and the DNR to establish funds to improve boat ramp accessibility in Scott County. We have started work with the DNR on investigating ideas on how to improve boat ramp accessibility with meetings scheduled for later in September.

We are excited that work on the Spring Lake Park on the north side of the Lake began back in April. See back page for photos of current progress.

Lastly, we have some board member positions expiring in 2024. Please see article on page 2 which outlines the open position and those board members who have indicated that they want to continue with the board. We hope you will consider joining the board.

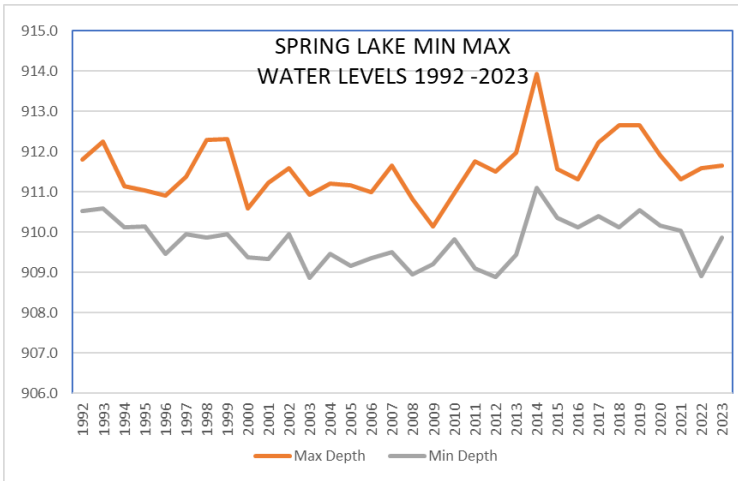
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### 2023 SILVER SPONSORS

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## SLA Water Levels from 1992 - 2023



## MN Boaters Education Card



## SLA 2024 Board Open Positions

The Spring Lake Association has Officer and Board Member openings beginning in May 2024.

- **Wesley Steffan**, President, has decided to run for an additional term.
- **Patsy Lundquist**, Vice President, has decided to run for an additional term.
- **Audra Miears**, Secretary, has decided to run for an additional term.
- **Lauren Peters**, Treasurer, has decided not to run for an additional term.
- **Matt Batulis**, Board Member, has decided to run for an additional term.
- **Val Selle** first term is expiring and **Monica Costello** has decided not to run for an additional term.

If you are interested in being considered for the open board member position, please send an email to [Board.SLA@gmail.com](mailto:Board.SLA@gmail.com) and include information about you and why you want to be considered for this position by January 31, 2024. We meet once a month; the second Monday of each month. Each board member is expected to be on one of our committees. Time commitment changes based on committee and program they are working on. If we receive more interest than open positions, we will have an election in the Spring.

To learn more about Spring Lake Association, visit our website at [www.SpringLakeAssociation.org](http://www.SpringLakeAssociation.org).

# LET'S TALK TRASH!

PLEASE REMOVE ALL OF YOUR GARBAGE AND WASTE FROM THE ICE AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF IT! THANK YOU!

**KEEP IT CLEAN**

GARBAGE/RECYCLE BINS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO DISPOSE YOUR GARBAGE AND WASTE AT:

- ★ SPRING LAKE BOAT LANDING
- ★ SPRING LAKE WINTER ACCESS

**HELP KEEP SPRING LAKE CLEAN AND HEALTHY!**

**Make a Plan Before you Arrive** to dispose of your trash and human waste. If your access site doesn't provide trash and waste service, take it home and properly dispose of it.

**Use Colored Garbage Bags** they are easier to see in snowy conditions making it less likely trash and waste will be accidentally left behind.

**Keep your Garbage and Human Waste Off the Ice** store it in your fish house, vehicle or trailer. Make sure it's secure before traveling so that it doesn't blow out of ruck beds or off trailers and sleds.

**Upon Departure, Check for Trash** to make sure you haven't left anything behind.

**Allow Time and Bring the Tools You Need** to move or remove your fish house. Take all support blocks, insulation, landscaping fabric, wood and other materials with you and properly dispose of them.

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## SLA Board Members

### Officers | 3-Year Terms

- Wesley Steffan - President | 2021- **2024**
- Patsy Lundquist - Vice President | 2021- **2024**
- Audra Miears - Secretary | 2021 - **2024**
- Lauren Peters - Treasurer | 2020 - **2024**
- Sandy Sauve - Communications | 2020 - 2026

### Board Members | 2-Year Terms

- Matt Batulis | 2022 - **2024**
- Monica Costello | 2022 - **2024**
- Jason DeJoy | 2023 - 2025
- Ken Rodning | 2021 - 2025
- Valerie Selle | 2022 - **2024**



# 2023 SLA Events Bring Community Together!

The Social Committee continues to do an excellent job on a number of social events this year, including our Annual Summer Concert. Based on the positive feedback received, they have already put in place plans for the 2024 Summer Concert and have booked the Chad Edwards band for a repeat performance next year. **Please mark your calendars for next summer's concert which will be held on Saturday, July 20.**

The year is not yet over but a Pick Your Paddle event on September 4 and a "New 5K Turkey Trot" November 23 are still opportunities to meet and strengthen our community bond.



## SAVE THE DATE

2024 SLA SUMMER CONCERT

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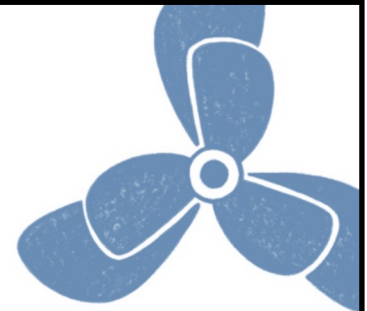
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## 2023 Minnesota Legislature Enacted Changes impacting Lake Users

During our Spring Lake Association (SLA) Annual Meeting in April, we spoke of certain laws that were being considered in the 2023 MN Legislature that would be of interest to our members. The ones that we felt would be of most interest include watercraft operator permits, boat licensing fees and the handling of garbage on the ice. **Below is an update on these issues.**

**Watercraft Operator Permit** - Depending on when a watercraft operator of a boat was born, certain operators 12 years of age or older will now be required to have in their possession a boating certificate showing that they have passed a Minnesota boating safety class or have one issued from a state which has a reciprocity agreement with the State of Minnesota. This will be phased in over several years as follows:

- (1) Individuals born on or after July 1, 2004, effective July 1, 2025
- (2) Individuals born on or after July 1, 2000, effective July 1, 2026
- (3) Individuals born on or after July 1, 1996, effective July 1, 2027
- (4) Individuals born on or after July 1, 1987 effective July 1, 2028

**A person who is required to have a watercraft operator's permit must have in their personal possession -**

- (1) a valid watercraft operator's permit
- (2) a driver's license that has a valid watercraft operator's permit indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 20; or
- (3) an identification card that has a valid watercraft operator's permit indicator issued under section 171.07, subdivision 20.

A person who is required to have a watercraft operator's permit must display one of the documents described above to a conservation officer or peace officer upon request.

The online course posted on the DNR Website, as well as the ones offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and America's Boating Club will satisfy the requirement.

**Watercraft License Fees** - Changes were also made to fees for registering boats, personal watercrafts, and other types of watercrafts. Per Nancy Stewart from the DNR, as costs increased, the DNR was making cuts and falling behind on many of these activities. The funding will help catch up and then be able to meet demands and hopefully keep up with trends and changing conditions for many years to come. The last time these fees were increased was 2006.

**Additional fees will be to used fund some of the following areas:**

### Recreational Boating Access (Division of Parks and Trails)

Catch up on a backlog of maintenance and rehabilitate existing ageing water access sites.

- Upgrade facilities to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design standards.
- Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by adding/improving boat-cleaning areas.
- Protect water quality and enhance habitat for pollinators by incorporating native vegetation and best practices for storm-water runoff management, erosion control and shoreline buffers.
- Replace and add docks as needed. Recent survey data shows that docks are the most highly requested amenity.
- Repair parking lots as needed.

- Restore and add accessible portable toilets to enhance the comfort of water recreationists and prevent waste from entering waterways.
- Fix and replace boat ramps as needed.

### Boat and Water Safety Program (Division of Enforcement)

Additional support for the following activities with the goal of reducing watercraft accidents and injuries.

- Increase outreach efforts.
- Upgrade equipment with the newest technologies as needed.
- Increase patrol hours.
- Increase specialized training for officers.

### Public Water Protection Programs (Division of Ecological and Water Resources).

Additional support for -

- Issuing permits for aquatic plant management.
- Water quality monitoring.
- Collection and reporting of streamflow data.

Watercraft licenses cover a period of three calendar years and expire on December 31 of the last year when the license is valid. The expiration date appears on both the license certificate and on the validation decals. People who purchase a new watercraft or renew will now begin to see these fee increases beginning January 1, 2024. Below are some of the examples of the fee increases. Changes to fees were also made for commercial use, and watercraft used by non-profits for teaching, rentals/leasing, and dealer licensing.

Type of Watercraft	Old	New
Watercraft Less than 19 ft	\$27.00	\$59.00
Watercraft 19 ft by less than 26 ft	\$45.00	\$113.00
Watercraft 26 ft but less than 40 ft	\$67.50	\$160.00
Watercraft 40 ft and larger	\$90.00	\$209.00
Personal Watercraft	\$37.50	\$85.00
Kayaks, Canoes, Paddleboards over 10 ft	\$10.50	\$23.00

**Keep it Clean** - Early in 2023, the SLA partnered with the Mille Lacs Community Foundation on their "Keep it Clean Campaign" which was focused on garbage and debris that was left on the ice during the winter. It is now a petty misdemeanor for anyone found not to be disposing of their waste in an appropriate manner. What this means is a person using a shelter, a motor vehicle, or any other conveyance on the ice of state waters may not deposit garbage, rubbish, cigarette filters, debris from fireworks, offal, the body of a dead animal, litter, sewage, or any other waste outside the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance unless the material is placed in a container that is secured to the shelter, motor vehicle, or conveyance; and not placed directly on the ice or in state waters. Any individual found violating this law is subject to a civil penalty of \$100 for each occurrence.

SLA continues to partner with Buckingham Companies to provide garbage and recycle containers at the boat ramp and this winter will provide containers at the winter access on the north side of the lake.



# SLA Highlights Sponsors

SLA is highlighting our new 2023 sponsors. We hope you will take the time to learn more about our new sponsors and what services they provide. When you frequent their services, please let them know that SLA sent you!

Please visit our website at [www.SpringLakeAssociation.org](http://www.SpringLakeAssociation.org) for a full list of our sponsors and their bios.

## Bricks Boat Works became a Gold Sponsor this year!!

Bricks Boatworks is the Twin Cities #1 choice for marine structural repair and secure indoor boat storage. Serving the Metro since 2003, we are located just minutes from Prior Lake and Lake Minnetonka in Shakopee, MN.

We offer general service and maintenance on all major brands of inboard engines, outboard motors, and MerCruiser & Volvo Penta stern drives. We also carry a full line of OEM and aftermarket parts and accessories.

So whether you are in need of major fiberglass gelcoat structural repair for your boat, or just need a quick oil change, Bricks Boatworks is a full service marine facility equipped & ready to handle all of your boat repair, storage, and service needs. Locally owned and operated for over a decade, we believe that quality work & customer satisfaction is the foundation for our success!

### Travis Brick - Marine Technician / Owner

Born and raised in Savage Minnesota, Travis is a third generation marine technician. After receiving his degree in automotive collision from Dakota County Technical College he went on to pursue his career at Raymond Auto Body in St. Paul, MN. After

Two years working on luxury cars, Travis decided that his heart was not in the right place. Having been raised in a family owned boat business, he decided to re-focus towards his real passion as he went on to develop his talents with aluminum and fiberglass applications. After a few years, Travis opened Bricks Boatworks in 2003. With his dedicated work ethic and strong family values, Travis has a deep passion for his work, and is excited with every chance he gets to impress a client.

**John Brick** - Lakeshore Equipment Division / General Manager  
John joined Bricks Boatworks in 2009. Like Travis, John also grew up in the family boat business and learned the basics of the marine industry from a very early age. In an effort to help improve the client experience at Bricks Boatworks, John completed his Business Degree at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management in the spring of 2017. John specializes in lakeshore equipment sales and service.

### Brittney Brick - Office Manager

Brittney joined Bricks Boatworks in 2021. Along with her Communications Degree from Lake Forest College, Brittney brings with her a decade worth of customer service and sales support experience from her time spent at Northern Tool & Equipment Corporate. In her free time, Brittney enjoys summer camping trips and escaping to the south for the winter.

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SLA TURKEY TROT

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## Euoworx European Auto became a Gold Sponsor this year!

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We invite you to compare our employee certifications and experience with any of the top auto repair shops and dealerships in Minnesota. We are confident our lower pricing and superior skills will make Euoworx the logical choice to take care of your luxury vehicle!

Hello everyone! My name is **Jake De St. Hubert**, owner of both Euoworx Automotive Specialists and Legacy Autoworx. I started working on cars and trucks as a little boy. Tagging along with my Dad, who owned a black top company, I fell in love with auto repair of all kinds. I was allowed to help with his company, and by the age of 16, I was running the show and maintaining his fleet of cars and trucks! Always the overachiever, I even had 3 other jobs! One of those was being a technician's helper at a small vehicle repair shop here in New Prague. My path was set.

I am a born and raised Minnesotan who has been obsessed with cars since I was a child. I especially love European car repair and am manufacturer BMW STEP (Service Technician Educational Program) trained and have worked my way through various dealerships, auto shops, education, certifications, and more to become a top technician for those that truly love their European automobiles.

My son has a passion for car repair as well, and I am working to create a legacy for his future. I am a perfectionist. My commitment to you and your vehicle is unmatched. The success of my auto repair business is the future for my son. **You can count on me to do it right, because I have more riding on this than just a paycheck.**

Hello! My name is **Jen Kortie**. I have extensive experience in management over the past 20 years and am now the Vice President for Euoworx Automotive and Legacy Autoworx.

Hello! My name is **Brian Jindra**. I have been employed in the automotive field for over 20 years. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Ann, and daughter, Autumn. I love car shows, motorcycling, snowmobiling, checking out breweries, traveling, and honing my skills on the smoker and pellet grill.

Hello, my name is **Ryan Russell**. Like most young boys, I fell in love with cars at a young age. Cars quickly became an obsession when I got my first car at 16, a 1963 VW Bug. That laid the foundations for the career that I have loved for the last 20 years.

Hello, my name is **Jeremiah Vanwinkle**. I enjoy working with customers and helping them with their automotive needs. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

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## PHOTO OF THE WEEK CONTEST

Spring Lake Association continues to have a photo of the week contest on Facebook. If you have are not on facebook and want a photo entered, please email to [Board.SLA@gmail.com](mailto:Board.SLA@gmail.com) and we will post your photo. Note, photo should be in landscape format.

Winning photos of the week will be automatically entered into our Photo of the Year contest that will take place late October.

## Sheriff Luke Hennen became a Silver Sponsor this year!



"Serving as your sheriff over these past six years has been a great honor and privilege," Hennen said May 31, 2022 in a press release. "I would like to continue working to make this organization even better and am dedicated to keeping Scott County a safe place to live, work, and raise a family."

As sheriff, Hennen leads an office with more than 160 employees and a budget of \$18.9 million.

A 25-year veteran of the Scott County Sheriff's Office, Hennen has also served on many panels, including the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards & Training, the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force, the National Sheriff's Association and the Prior Lake Association, among others.



## Snowballs Shaved Ice became a Silver Sponsor this year!

Our family began our Snowballs Shaved Ice business in the summer of 2018. Our goal was to help our son with his college expenses and enjoy a little bit of home at the same time. Being from Texas we missed having this cool treat, shaved ice, and decided

the best way to work towards our goal was to open a small business that our son could help with. That led us to Snowballs! We bought a small trailer (food truck) that allows us to go to many locations to sell our Shaved Ice in and around Prior Lake.

Our shaved ice is shaved off a solid block of ice. We use real cane sugar but do not use artificial dyes in our syrups. We support private parties, school functions and markets. We're sure that you have seen us in and about the Prior Lake area!

**Contact us to schedule your next event.**

**Contact |** (952) 495-7669 | [shavedice@snowballs55372.com](mailto:shavedice@snowballs55372.com)

**Thank You the Miears Family**



## Eurasian Water Milfoil Update | August 2023

In July of 2021, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was discovered on Spring Lake during a yearly survey conducted by Blue Water Science (BWS). Up to this time, EWM was not present on Spring Lake but had been present on Upper and Lower Prior Lakes. EWM is an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that creates a dense mat on the water's surface which can inhibit water recreationists, overtake habitat from competing native aquatic plants and can provide unsuitable habitat shelter, food, and nesting for native animals. In August of 2021, The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was contacted and subsequently a more in-depth survey and hand pulling exercise was conducted by the DNR and BWS, but the degree of infestation was found to be greater than initially thought and further hand pulling was no longer recommended.

Due to the impact that EWM may have on the lake, the SLA decided to go ahead with a more aggressive approach and contracted to have approximately 8 acres of the lake treated with herbicide in September 2021. The \$4,800 cost for this treatment was covered with funds from the Spring Lake Association (SLA). This treatment was successful, but the SLA felt that there may be additional EWM findings in 2022.

In February 2022, the SLA applied for and received a Grant from the DNR for the control of EWM. This DNR Grant provided up to \$50,000 to be used for lake surveys and treatment in 2022 and 2023. In 2022, three additional surveys were conducted by BWS resulting in approximately 20 acres to be treated. The first treatment in June covered 14 acres and the second treatment in August covered 5 acres. The two surveys and treatments resulted in an expenditure of \$27,000 which was covered by the DNR Grant.

Three additional surveys were completed in 2023 by BWS: one in April 2023, one in June 2023 and a third later in June. SLA Board Members were present when all surveys were completed and provided additional eyes on the areas being surveyed. The second survey was a more in-depth point intercept survey by Blue Water Science that included rake sampling points every 50 meters where aquatic plants are present. This survey did not show any EWM present. The \$2700 cost of the Point Intercept Survey has been covered by funds from the DNR Grant. The total cost of the surveys and treatments is around \$30,000, leaving approximately \$20,000 of the DNR Grant unused. The Grant expired on July 1, 2023.

At that time and due to these early positive results, we were cautiously optimistic that the treatments in 2021 and 2022 had been successful. Unfortunately, some additional isolated plants were discovered during plant sampling prior to the Aquatic Seminar which was held on July 26. In discussions with Steve McCommas from Blue Water Science this is consistent with his experience. An additional Point Intercept Survey was conducted by Blue Water Science on August 16 and a half dozen additional EWM plants were identified. Even though additional plants were found, Steve McCommas believes that the aggressive actions taken in 2021 and 2022 were successful in managing and controlling the spread of this invasive plant. EWM only becomes a problem when it reaches the surface and creates dense mats.

Going forward, please be observant of any additional signs of EWM or other Aquatic Invasive Species and if found report them to the Board.SLA@gmail.com.

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# Need to Know Information

**Attention Boaters | Before leaving Spring Lake boat landing:  
CLEAN your boat | DRAIN all water | DISPOSE of your trash**

## BOATING ETIQUETTE RECOMMENDATIONS

This is about safe behavior and being responsible. Spring Lake is a recreational lake which allows for a variety of water-related activities. Acknowledge everyone's right to use the lake in a responsible way and to protect the environment of the lake.

1. **Dispose of your trash properly.** Trash and recycle bins are available at the Spring Lake Boat Ramp all year long.
2. **Respect the ramp.** Prepare your boat and equipment before getting into position to launch. Don't power load your boat!
3. **Own your wake.** It is recommended to keep a minimum distance of 200 feet from shore and other boats using the lake. For water-related activities which create large wakes, boat in the center of the lake and in water depths greater than 15 ft. Water depths are shown on the lake map.
4. **Keep the tunes in check.** Sound travels well over water.
5. **Minimize Repetitive Passes.** Once you have run a line, move to another area.
6. **Know No Wake / Speed Restrictions.** It's your responsibility to know speed limit or no-wake restrictions and respect them. Specific rules apply to personal watercrafts.
7. **Know the Boating Right of Way rules.** The basic rule of thumb is the more maneuverable the less Right of Way that a boat has.
8. **Be prepared.** Know state & local laws and have enough right sized life jackets for each person onboard.
9. Be polite – give a wave.

## SUMMARY OF SPRING LAKE USE RESTRICTIONS PRIOR LAKE, CITY OF / SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP

1. Slow-no wake zone on entire lake when water level exceeds 912.8 feet.
2. Slow-no wake zone within 150 feet of shore and specified channels.
3. 40 mph - daytime speed limit weekends and holidays (Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend).
4. 20 mph nighttime speed limit all year.
5. No inflatable devices (air mattresses, inner tubes) beyond 150 feet of shore.
6. Swimming must be within 150 feet of shore, unless accompanied by watercraft.
7. No water skiing or towed tubes within 150 feet of shore – except for launching or landing directly to and from shore.

## SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION

Email: [Board.SLA@gmail.com](mailto:Board.SLA@gmail.com) - Website: [www.Springlakeassociation.org](http://www.Springlakeassociation.org)  
The objective of the SLA is to support, educate and encourage lake users on an enjoyable and safe lake experience, through education, communication and social interaction amongst its community. The association is comprised of board members and volunteers from on and around Spring Lake.

## MINNESOTA PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI) LAWS

Decals which contain the information below are available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This is only a summary of the laws as of June 2018 and is required to be visible to the operator on all personal watercraft in Minnesota.

### YOU MUST....

- Wear a USCG-approved life jacket. Comply with label.
- Travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of: non-motorized boats; shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water); docks; swim rafts; swimmers; or any moored or anchored boat.
- Operate only from 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset.
- Use the cutoff lanyard properly.
- Obey operator age and permit laws for those younger than 18 years old.

### YOU MUST NOT...

- Chase or harass wildlife.
- Jump the wake of another boat within 150 feet of the craft.
- Operate a personal watercraft in a manner that endangers life, limb or property.
- Protect Your Sport Respect your neighbors.
- Don't operate for long periods in the same area or near occupied boats or shore.

## PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT (PLSLWD)

Phone: 952-447-4166 – Email: [info@plslwd.org](mailto:info@plslwd.org) Website: [www.plslwd.org](http://www.plslwd.org)  
The Watershed District works to manage and preserve the water resources of the District, with three primary goals of improving and maintaining the quality of water resources, reducing flooding impacts, and managing existing and preventing new Aquatic Invasive Species in the District.

## SCOTT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Emergency: Call 911  
Non-Emergency: 952-445-1411 (Such as questions or concerns)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat and Water Safety  
500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4047 651-296-6157 | 888-646-6367 | [mndnr.gov/boatingsafety](http://mndnr.gov/boatingsafety) Email: [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

*Knotty Car*  
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# Spring Lake Regional Park on the Shores of Spring Lake

Phase I | Site Design | Completed 2022

Phase II | Construction is scheduled to be completed and the park to open in May of 2024 and the snowmobile trail is scheduled to open for the season this year. This phase will bring a combination of parking, woodland enhancements, and walking trails as well as some level of water access. The pictures below show the current progress of this beautiful new park!

