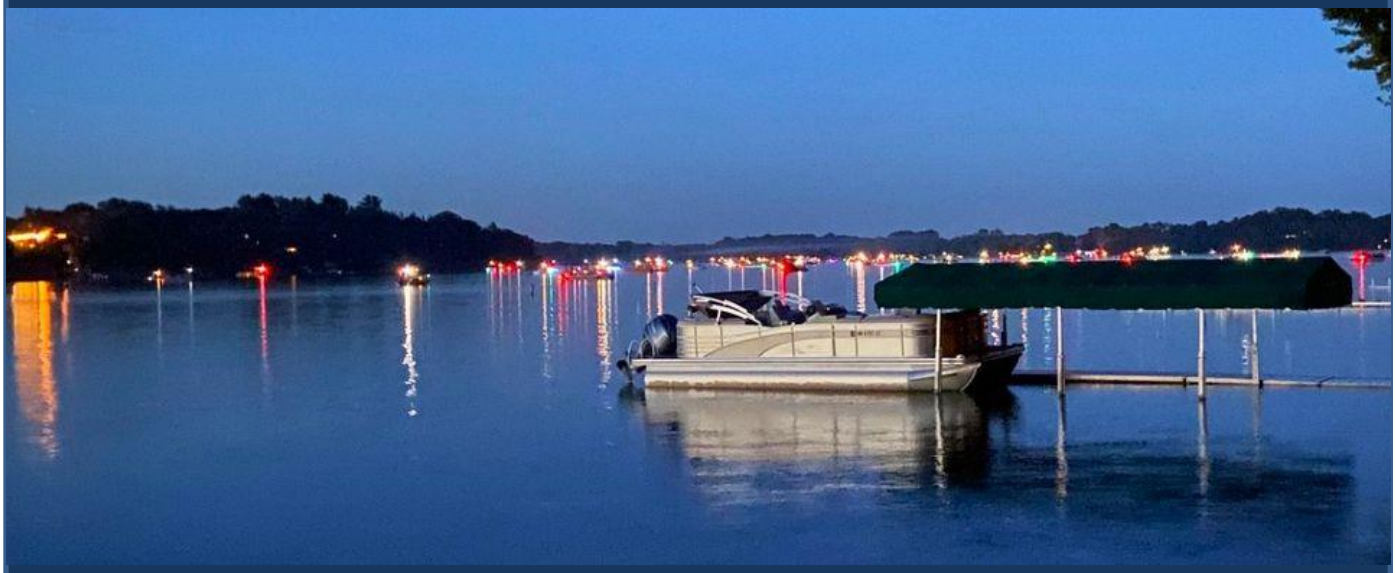
WAVES NEWSLETTER

LAKE WASHINGTON
Improvement Association



Lake Washington
Improvement Association
PO Box 3162
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waves

Newsletter of the Lake Washington Improvement Association

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LAKE WASHINGTON Improvement Association

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President's Note



Jason Femrite

Dear Lake Community Members,

As we approach another season here at our beautiful lake, I am reminded of the many reasons why we all cherish this special place. Whether it's enjoying the shimmering waters in the summer, the quiet beauty of the fall leaves, or the serene stillness of winter, our lake brings joy, peace, and a sense of belonging to all who live here. Oh, and also bringing back a spectacular fireworks show to celebrate independence day and our community.

This year has been one of growth and progress for our association. Together, we've worked hard to protect & research our water quality, preserve the natural habitats surrounding our shores, and ensure the safety and enjoyment of all who visit. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

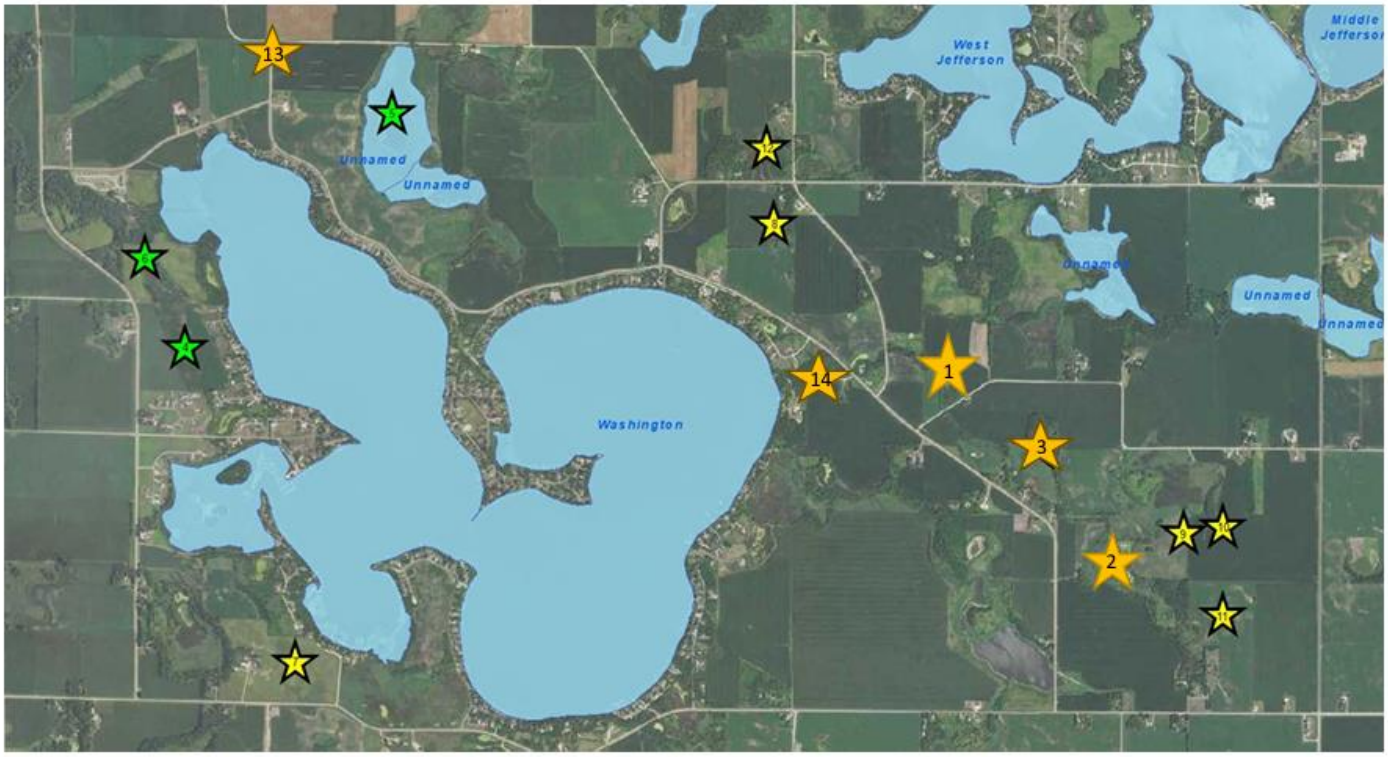
As we move forward, our focus remains on sustainability and maintaining the beauty of our lake for future generations. With your help, we'll continue to monitor water levels, safeguard against invasive species, and advocate for policies that protect our environment. But it's not just about preservation, it's about fostering a strong, connected community. I encourage everyone to take part in our upcoming events, to get involved with committees, and to share your ideas and concerns with us!

Your involvement is what makes this association strong, and together, we can ensure that our lake remains a source of pride for all. If you haven't already, I invite you to renew your membership, attend our next meeting, and continue to be a part of something that helps make our lake experience exceptional.

Here's to another wonderful year by the water, where we come together not only as neighbors but as stewards of a treasure, we all hold dear.

Sincerely,
Jason Femrite
President - Lake Washington Improvement Association

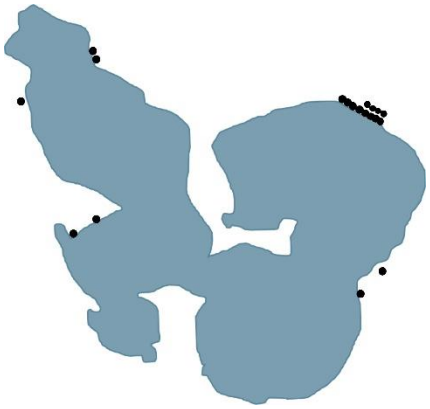
The LWIA is using your dues to clean the water before it enters the lake. Take a look at the current and completed projects.



Fall 2024 Lake Washington Project List

1. Beckel Grade Stabilization Project - Completed 2023.
2. Pilot Water Storage Grant - Completed 2024 .
3. Page/Meyer Wetland Restoration - Completed Fall 2024.
4. Baker CRP/Wetlands – We are hoping this will start in 2026.
5. Hinton Watershed Wetland.
6. Le Sueur County Park Wetland - Once approved, this project will be installed.
7. Schoemaker Wetlands - Complete-Installed 5 wetlands in fall of 2022.
8. Biehn/Mulvehill Water and Sediment Control Basin - Installed 2022.
9. McCarthy Water and Sediment Control Basins - Basin Installed 2020.
10. McCarthy/Beckel Water and Sediment Control Basins - Installed 2020/21.
11. Beckel Water and Sediment Control Basins - Basin Installed 2021.
12. Mulvehill/Struck Water and Sediment Control Basin - Installed 2022.
13. Gostomczik 160 acres of Cover Crops with No-till/Strip Till – 2023.
14. Camp Patterson Grade Stabilization - Fall 2024 Construction.

Lakers – Germscheid and Lynch Families



Ted and Lucille Michael bought a family farm and land on the north end of the lake in 1948. This is where Elaine Michael Germscheid, and her sister, Janice Michael Lynch, grew up. Elaine's and Janice's families built cabins along the lakeshore below the farm. The families lived in the cabins every summer from May-September. When Ted and Lucille retired 1977, the farm was separated. Half going to the to the Germscheid family and half to the Lynch family. Since then, the Germscheid's have built lake homes. The Lynch portion remains with cabins. Currently the 5th generation is living on the property. There are 10 Lynch/Germscheid cousins (below). Nine of the 10, and 5 nieces, own properties on the Lake. All together, the families own roughly 20 properties on or around the lake (above).





Back row left to right: Gene Germscheid, Elaine Germscheid, Janice Lynch, John Lynch
Front row: Colleen McCabe, Greg Germscheid, Diane Van Sickle, Joanne Corrow, Mike Germscheid, Dave Germscheid, Jeff Lynch, Jerry Lynch, Jane Williams, Jill Wenner

Lake Washington Open



In September we hosted the annual LWIA Open golf tournament. We had 15 teams participate and after the tournament ventured back to Westwood for a meal, silent auction, and raffle ticket winner announcements. The event raised about $10,000 for the association. Look forward to more information coming out soon regarding possible winter events on the lake! Sponsors included:

LWIA Membership
Please Join or Renew Now!

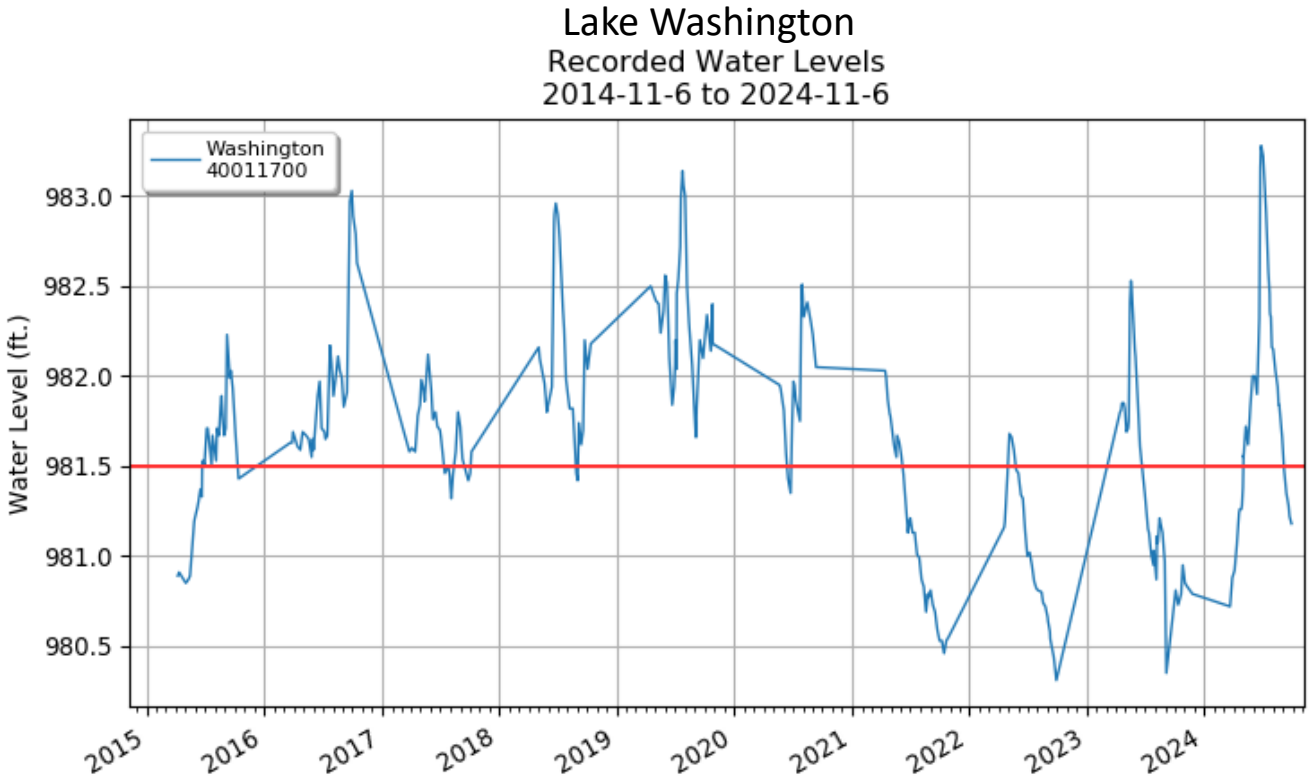
Name(s): _____
Email :_____
Mailing Address: _____
City:_____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Telephone Number:_____

Complete this form and mail it to Lake Washington Improvement Association, PO Box 3162, Mankato, MN 56002-3162. Dues are $75 (Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2025). Make checks payable to Lake Washington Improvement Association.

LWIA Membership Dues are Tax Deductible. If you have already renewed, please consider making an additional contribution. Thank You, LWIA.

Need more information about the lake? Google these:

- **LakeFinder**: An online tool that provides information on over 4,500 lakes and rivers in Minnesota. This includes information on water quality, fishing regulations, lake maps, and more.
- **Lake Level Minnesota**: A program where volunteers and organizations collect and report lake levels across the state.
- **Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program**: A federal and state partnership that manages coastal resources.
- **Water Quality Data and Conditions**: Data and conditions from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- **Lakes-DB**: A computer database that stores and retrieves information on Minnesota's lakes.
- **Lakescaping For Wildlife and Water Quality**: A DNR publication that provides information on erosion control methods.
- **Shallow Lakes Program**: A program from the Minnesota DNR.
- **LeSueur County Beacon:** The map function on this website includes satellite images of every lot in the county. The site also includes property owner names, property values, and tax information.



Highest recorded: 983.86 ft (06/25/1993)
Lowest recorded: 978.51 ft (04/17/1990)
Average: 981
Shore Length: 12.08 miles (Roughly the same distance as from Westwood to LeCenter)
Area: 1516.11 acres

Annual Meeting



The LWIA annual meeting was held at Camp Patterson on August 13. Julie Blackburn from ISG gave a water quality update. Dr. Ryan Wersal of MNSU-Mankato discussed aquatic plants and discussed lake chemistry, focusing on what is in our lake. We hope to see you next year!

Fireworks





The 3rd of July fireworks was a huge success. Thanks Goose (above) for the great show! Thanks also to the Fireworks Committee for raising funds. Thanks to the FUN Committee for contributing funds (below). No LWIA funds were needed for the fireworks.



From Our History Book

Contact Dan Sachau at Daniel.Sachau@mnsu.edu if you would like to purchase a copy of our book. All proceeds benefit LWIA.

The Lake Washington Club

The boat club was opened in 1927 by the Masonic Lodge. The site included a pavilion, beach, boat slips, and caretaker's cabin. The club remained a Masonic organization until the mid-1970s when it was opened to associate members. The pavilion was lost to a fire in 2005. A new shelter was built in 2006.





Watercolor of the Lake Washington Club by Marilyn Sween

You can renew or join by using this QR code.

LWIA Website

https://www.lakewashingtonmn.com/membership.php

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/lwiamn/

You can still donate to the fireworks using this QR code.

venmo