

MINNETOGA LAKE

Water Quality Fact Sheet 2009-03

Quick Facts

Lake Area (acres): 14.4

Littoral area (acres): 1

(The littoral area is the portion of water body extending from the shoreline lakeward to the greatest depth occupied by rooted plants)

Maximum Depth (ft): 26.9

Water Clarity (ft): 3.3

Lake Classification: Level 1

Trophic Status: Eutrophic (well-nourished)



What are the different lake classifications?

Level 1 — Whole-body contact recreational (swimming)

Level 2 — Partial-body contact recreational

Level 3 — Fishing and aesthetic

Level 4 — Runoff management

Location

The Minnetoga Lake system is located in the east central portion of Minnetonka. The watershed lies east of Interstate 494 between the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad and T.H. 7.

Lake Characteristics

The entire Minnetoga Lake watershed (691 acres) is primarily urbanized. The watershed consists predominantly of low-density residential land use with some parks and open spaces. A small commercial area is located near the intersection of Excelsior Boulevard and Baker Road. Southeast of the intersection of Interstate 494 and T.H. 7, there is a small area that has been developed for office use. There is a large wetland directly north of Minnetoga Lake, and smaller wetlands are sporadically spaced throughout the watershed. The outlet of the lake is a culvert located in the south end of the lake. Water drains into a wetland which eventually hosts the headwater of the South Branch of Nine Mile Creek.

Water Quality

Minnetoga Lake is currently a Level 1 classification level, which support full body contact such as swimming. However, there are occasional summer algal blooms that hinder swimming possibilities. The cause of these blooms is urban stormwater runoff conveying large amounts of phosphorus to the lake.

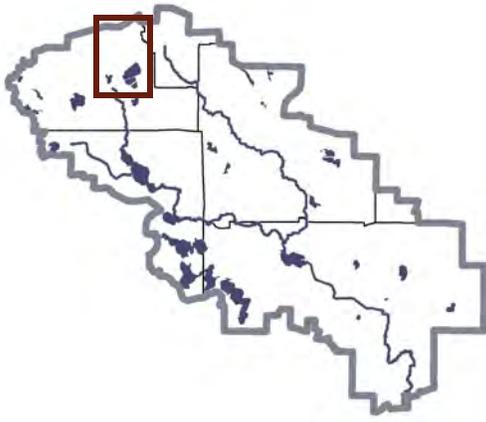
Goals

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed would like to maintain the lake to a level 1 classification.

Did you know?

Minnetoga Lake receives stormwater runoff from an urbanized watershed of approximately 691 acres. The watershed is primarily low density residential (71%) with some park and open space (3%). Open water and wetlands are 12% of the watershed. Commercial entities and roads account for 15%.

To learn more about the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District please visit us on the web www.ninemilecreek.org

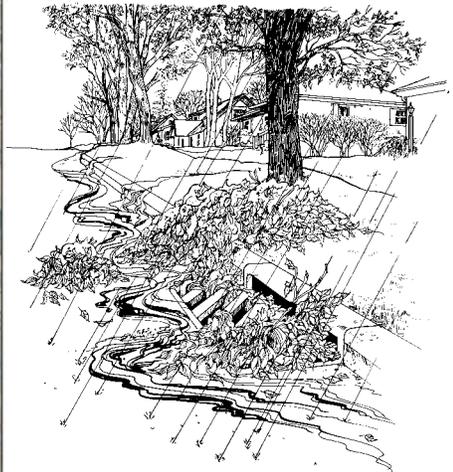
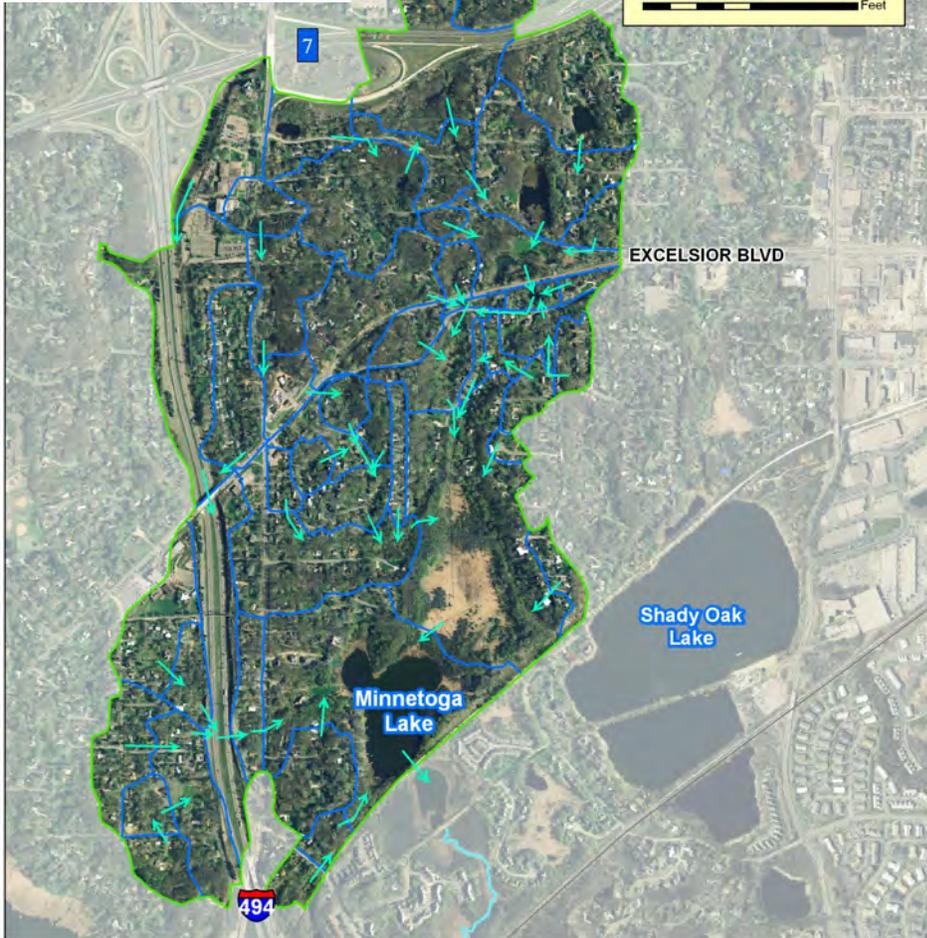


Where does Minnetoga Lake's water come from?



As visibly shown on the map, a lot of stormwater lead to Minnetoga Lake. These pipes carry water that fall on this part of the watershed and is not infiltrated in the ground. This water washes chemicals or pollutants left on lawns, streets, roof tops and parking lots and carries it right into Minnetoga Lake. This makes every curb part of a shoreline!

Minnetoga Watershed



Leaves are a big source of phosphorus. If left to enter the storm drain, they will contribute to unhealthy algal growth in Minnetoga Lake.

Critical Actions

The district is working with businesses to implement Best Management Practices also referred as BMPs to reduce nutrient loading into the lake. However, help is needed from local residents. Here are few tips to ensuring green lawns with blue waters:

1. Sweep up leaves, grass clippings and excess fertilizer from driveways and streets.
2. Dispose of trash appropriately.

3. Use native plants in gardens. Native plants have long roots that are more efficient in soaking up water.
4. Build a raingarden.
5. Use rain barrels to collect water.
6. Water with care—actively growing grass requires 1- inch of water per week. This equals to one hour of sprinkling once a week if no rain has fallen.

Cost-Share/Grant Opportunity

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District offers financial assistance via a Cost-Share/Grant program for efforts that protect and improve water and natural resources within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. The application are available early January and are due the first Friday in April. Past funded projects include raingardens, rain barrels, green roofs, pervious pavement, native habitat restoration. For more information please visit our website at www.ninemilecreek.org.