

lakeadmin.org BULLETIN

February 2023

FREE Stakeholder Resource For MN Lakes



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WELCOME to the February 2023 publication of the lakeadmin.org BULLETIN.

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Tools For Assessing Lake Health

The attraction of living at the lake continues to grow exponentially in Minnesota. Lake living offers families opportunities to enjoy recreation, escape from the routine of modern life and to nurture family unity and fellowship. Investment in this life style is becoming more and more important to preserve and protect. There is high interest in pursuing information and education offered by government agencies and

academia to assist in taking advantage of this effort. Recent offerings by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the University of Minnesota (UMN) provide multiple programs to explore the challenges to lakes and opportunities to preserve and protect them.



DNR Watershed Health Assessment Framework

The [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources \(MN DNR\)](#) has recently announced the creation of a new online tool that provides access to water quality and health information for thousands of Minnesota lakes. The new tool, [Watershed Health Assessment Framework \(WHAF for lakes\)](#), is easily accessed and navigated to give comprehensive information on virtually any Minnesota lake.

[Tool For MN Lake Health Information](#)

[SHORTCUT to finding any Minnesota lake](#)

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EPA How's My Waterway

An updated version of the [How's My Waterway \(HMW\)](#) application, developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was released in June 2020. HMW provides a comprehensive overview of water quality data and information in the United States on three different scales: community, state, and national. Collecting data from eight databases across EPA, HMW answers questions about aquatic life, eating fish, swimming, drinking water, restoration, and protection. This tool can help users:

- Explore information about their drinking water, local stream conditions, and whether their waterways are suitable for swimming or eating fish and if they support aquatic life.
- Discover if their waterways are being monitored and the location of local monitoring stations.
- Learn what issues might be affecting their waterways.

[MORE: EPA How's My Waterway](#)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

University of Minnesota Lake Browser

The [Lake Browser](#) has provided satellite derived water clarity, an indicator of lake water quality, data for over 10,000 Minnesota lakes since 2002. It has been updated with data created using an automated image processing system developed with resources from the University of Minnesota and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund — Legislative and Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources. The automated system processes all available satellite data (Landsat 8 and Sentinel 2) and provides daily (when clear imagery is available) and monthly (May – October) median clarity, chlorophyll and CDOM data for 2017 through 2021. Also improved are its capabilities for image and data display, geospatial analysis, and data access and download.

[MORE: UMN Lake Browser](#)

Navigation Assistance

For more information or assistance in navigating the DNR Watershed Health Assessment Framework, EPA How's My Waterway or UMN Lake Browser, contact lakehelp2@gmail.com.

Featured Posts February 2023

- [Watershed Districts / SWCDs](#)
 - [COLA Lake Association Newsletters](#)
 - [Landscaping & Shoreland Restorations](#)
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Your Comments And Suggestions Are Invited

Comments, Suggestions and critiques are invited for the enhancement of the lakeadmin.org Bulletin and lakeadmin.org website. Ideas for website posts are always appreciated.

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WWW.LAKEADMIN.ORG Profile

lakeadmin.org is a library of postings and articles to provide unique and innovative

tools to organize and manage lake organizations. It also includes valuable information on combating Aquatic Invasive Species and lake water quality challenges. It is intended to be informational, educational and inspirational for all lake stakeholders.

There is **NO COST** to receive the lakeadmin.org Bulletin or to access lakeadmin.org. Subscriptions are encouraged to build a wide base of lake stakeholders contributing to the benefit of all lakes. Please forward this Bulletin to all who might be interested.

MORE: [Introducing www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

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