

AVAILABILITY OF SAVE THE LAKE FUNDS October 2009

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The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) currently has up to \$58,764 of Save the Lake Funds available for 2010. Save the Lake is a non-profit fund that invests in programs that benefit the environmental and recreational needs of Lake Minnetonka. Grant applications will be received for public safety, environmental, and public service/education projects.

Eligible Applicants

Non-profit organizations (*), businesses (**), cities, and school districts may apply for Save the Lake funds. Examples of potential applicants include:

- Lake Minnetonka communities;
- Other governmental agencies;
- Lake, homeowners, and neighborhood associations;
- Local business associations.

(*) Non-profit organizations and other groups must be officially registered with the State of Minnesota. Proof of organizational status will be required with submission of the 2010 Save the Lake Grant Application.

(**) For-profit groups are encouraged to partner with a Lake, homeowners, and neighborhood association. If a project will be implemented on private property, the applicant must show how it benefits the general public and is a public service. Applicants do not need to reside in the 14 Lake Minnetonka communities; however, the project must be implemented entirely on Lake Minnetonka.

Example of Past Projects

Detailed below are a few of the projects funded, or partially funded, by Save the Lake in recent years:

- Red and green navigational solar-lights on top of high traffic navigational buoys;
- Improvements to Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol safety equipment;
- Management of Eurasian watermilfoil on Carmans, Grays, and Phelps Bays in 2006, 2008, and 2009 through coordinated herbicide treatment projects;
- Education and prevention of new aquatic invasive species into Lake Minnetonka through MN DNR public access inspectors and video surveillance equipment.

Eligible Costs

Save the Lake Funds may be used for:

- Purchase of capital equipment;
- Purchase of supplies or materials;
- Contracting with specialists;
- Copying;
- Permit costs;
- Other items as agreed to by the LMCD and its representatives.

Funds may not be used to pay for existing staff and overhead expenses.

Application Guidelines

A completed proposal shall be submitted to the LMCD by Friday, December 11, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Proposals shall be no longer than five single-sided pages in the 12-point font (maps and any appendices do not count as part of the five-page limit). The following information needs to be submitted within the proposal:

Title Page and Executive Summary:

The title page shall include the following information: a) the primary applicant's (organization) name, b) contact person's name and title, c) address (including city and zip code), d) telephone number(s), e) fax number, and f) e-mail address. You need to list any partnering organizations with contact person information.

Include a brief Executive Summary paragraph (50 words or less) that summarizes the main goals and objectives of your project. Indicate the total amount you are requesting from the LMCD, along with any matching funds. **Note: it is important that your Executive Summary be 50 words or less.** The summaries will be used in the grant review process and on the LMCD website, should your project be funded.

Project Description, Goals, and Activities

Provide a brief description of your organization and the proposed project. List the primary goals and objectives for your project, including how you expect to achieve them and how they will be measured. Be sure to indicate where the project activities will take place (provide a one-page map 8.5" x 11") showing specifically the location of the work and indicating what will take place at each location.

Project Timeline

Provide a brief project time that lists major project activities and when they will occur.

Project Evaluation

Explain how the effectiveness and the success of the project will be measured.

Key Project Personnel

Identify who will be the Project Manager to implement the activities, including their qualifications. List any sub-contractors who will be working on this project and their expertise in participating. Clarify what role they will play in implementing the project.

Project Budget

Provide a detailed and reasonable budget that lists each item for which you request funding. If you have other sources of funding, please describe them.

Project Letter or Resolution

Non-profits, local units of government, and lakeshore owner associations should send a letter or resolution authorizing the proposal submission from their governing board.

These applications can be submitted to: LMCD, 23505 Smithtown Road (Suite 120), Shorewood, MN 55331.

Application Review Criteria

When a request for Save the Lake funds is received, the LMCD takes into consideration the following criteria:

- Does the request represent major environmental preservation or an improvement on an environmental priority?
- Does the request sustain or improve a major recreational resource?
- Will the investment of funds provide a long-term benefit?
- Does the request provide public benefit that spans a broad range of lake users in terms of age, economics, use, and interest?
- Does the request attract matching public or private funds to produce the program?
- Does the request appeal to contributors of Save the Lake who recognize and likely support the proposed program, and would likely continue to donate to Save the Lake?
- Does the request meet a major lake educational need not being met by other public or private initiatives?

The following criteria are established to guide the Save the Lake Advisory Committee and LMCD Board of Directors in evaluating and selecting programs for funding. Proposed projects are weighted by meeting one or more of the following program criteria:

Public Safety:

1. Improves public safety on the lake.
2. Benefits structures in the lake.
3. Lessens conflicts among lake surface users.
4. Enhances safe boat operation.
5. Assures greater personal safety.

Environmental:

1. Involves research or program implementation that studies or protects the lake environment.
2. Protects the lake from infestation of exotic aquatic plants or animals.
3. Prevents the spread of exotic aquatic plants or animals from the lake.
4. Allows or enhances enjoyment and use of the lake while preserving the lake from environmental degradation.

Public Service/Education:

1. Benefits the general public use of Lake Minnetonka.
2. Make Lake Minnetonka more accessible to persons unable, or choosing not to, access the lake by their own boat.
3. Encourages public participation in lake clean-up.
4. Promotes courteous boat operation.
5. Recognizes achievements in community service by individuals or groups that benefit Lake Minnetonka.
6. Advances the historical significance of Lake Minnetonka.

Further Information

Please contact LMCD Executive Director Greg Nybeck if you have questions at (952) 745-0789 or at gnybeck@lmcd.org.