

Deer Lake Association Mission Statement

The Deer Lake Association will provide leadership to preserve and maintain the high quality of Deer Lake, the surrounding land and community.

Values

1. The DLA values the fragile ecosystem, beauty, clarity, uniqueness, and magnificent hues of Deer Lake.
2. The DLA values the relationship of the permanent and seasonal residents, youth campers and vacationers, many of whom have returned over the years.
3. There is a shared stewardship for the lake and our neighbors.

Guiding Principles

The DLA will seek to:

1. Educate and provide leadership through a strong collective voice.
2. Encourage a partnership which promotes a greater protection of aesthetic, economic, and recreational environmental values.
3. Respect the right of people to use the lake and land responsibly.
4. Represent the views of its members and to encourage their active involvement.

Visions and Goals

The DLA will endeavor to:

1. Keep our members, the public and the government agencies informed and educated about the environment, eco-economic and political issues that impact our lake, its watershed and residents.
2. Provide for the mutual benefit of our members social opportunities to exchange ideas and introduce new residents to our community and the needs of the lake.
3. Reduce in-lake pollutants and pollutant loading through implementation of the "Best Management Practices."
4. Support compliance of existing regulations protecting the lake and its watershed.
5. To preserve the high quality of the lake in an environment which accounts for sustainable growth.
6. Influence through a collective voice to affect change.

WHY EVERY DEER LAKE LANDOWNER SHOULD BELONG.

IF YOU LOVE AND APPRECIATE DEER LAKE, IT'S CONTINUED BEAUTY, CLARITY, WILD LIFE AND PRIVACY, YOUR THANKS SHOULD GO TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION.

Years ago, lake associations were unnecessary. No one ever thought anything could happen to our lake. But times have changed. There are many things that can happen to our lake and surrounding land. Such as erosion, pollutants, (fertilizers, chemicals, improper disposal of hazardous household waste or chemicals, nutrients, pesticides, bacteria, oxygen demanding substances - to mention a few. All of these affect water quality, fish habitat and wildlife. It has become a necessity for us to protect our lake. It has also become a necessity for us to protect our shoreline if we are to continue enjoying all of our wildlife and their nesting areas.

What prompted the Deer Lake members to come together and become an association? In 1992, a group called Polaris, announced they were going to build a hundred bed hospital (in the Little Long Lake area) for teen age drug and alcohol rehabilitation. (Would you like to have a hospital like this across the road from you)? To make a long story short, a group of Deer Lake residents banded together and put up a fight. It was through our collective and convincing voice that the hospital was not built. It was then realized that there would be numerous other crisis affecting Deer Lake and we needed to form the present D.L.A.

We have faced other crisis. But we were organized and ready to do whatever was necessary to protect our lake, land and wildlife.

The DLA has a tax committee which works with other lake associations, the Minnesota Lake Association and the State Legislature in hopes of achieving a reevaluation of real-estate property assessment and an equalization of tax bases.

The DLA has a water committee which keeps track of Deer Lake. Some of their responsibilities include Sechi disk measurements, location of buoys and the over population of rockbass. Other concerns include control of jet-ski activity and slow or no wake zones for safety and wildlife protection. They are also involved in the fish stocking program.

The DLA has a land committee which is concerned with any activity that takes place on land neighboring Deer Lake. They are also compiling brochure which will advise prospective property owners of current regulations for septic tanks, land use, land clearing, shore maintenance and building set-back codes.

In 1992, there were a handful of Deer Lake residents who began to organize what is now the DLA. Currently, our membership exceeds 120.

This letter is being sent to those of you who do not belong. As times continue to change, all lake associations will require a stronger collective voice. It is our hope you will realize that we need each of you as members and you also need the DLA.

**AS WE ASK YOU TO JOIN THE DLA -- PERHAPS YOU ARE
ASKING YOURSELF - WHAT BENEFITS ARE THERE IN IT FOR
ME ?**

1. You become part of a strong collective voice in helping to preserve the rare aesthetics, water quality and secluded lifestyle we now enjoy.
2. Enjoy the Informative and educational speakers at meetings.
3. Receive the DLA Directory. "Your neighbors on Deer Lake" with names, addresses and phone numbers of lake residents.
4. Three newsletters a year (non-members will receive only one).
5. Opportunity to get to know other residents through not only membership but also our social events - pot luck supper, annual spaghetti dinner, etc.
6. Networking with other lake associations and the Minnesota Lake Association.

By joining now, you will become an EARLY BIRD - enjoying six months membership free. Your membership will begin immediately and will expire on July 1, 1997.

"There is a deep-seated response in all of us to the ever changing water hues, the songs of the wind and the beauty of the wildlife and forests surrounding our homes on Deer Lake. Preserving our lovely shorelines, the population of game fish, the water quality and the ever-present threat of higher real estate taxes will require increased vigilance and activity of our Deer Lake Association on these and other pressures as they arise."

-Neal Sorensen

With that beautiful statement in mind, we have a responsibility to protect, preserve and maintain Deer Lake and the surrounding land.

We'd like to welcome you as DLA members and hope you will use the enclosed application to join.

