Lake Management Plan for
Lake Beauty

Todd County, Minnesota
July 2006

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership Committee
Lake Beauty Association, Inc.
“History

is the study of men and women struggling to work out
their individual lives within a larger process of change.

The actions of people do not occur in isolation.

Past and present are inextricably intertwined.”

Source: Historian James Henretta
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Introduction
In March 2004 the Lake Beauty Association, Inc. was invited to participate in the Initiative Foundation’s Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership program along with five other Lake Associations in Todd and Douglas County. Under the coordination of Kitty Tepley (Todd County Soil & Water Conservation District) and Emily Wolf (Douglas County Local Water Manager), representatives of each group attended two days of training on strategic planning, communication, and nonprofit group leadership.

Representatives of many state and local agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations also attended the training sessions in order to offer their assistance to each group in developing a strategic Lake Management Plan. The Lake Beauty Association was represented at the Healthy Lakes & Rivers training sessions by: Harlan and Marlene Clark, Dale Ellingson, Garry Gamble, Rick Hanson, and Richard Sullivan.

Following the training sessions, each Lake Association held an inclusive community planning / visioning session designed to identify key community concerns, assets, opportunities, and priorities. The Lake Beauty Association held this planning session on June 19, 200. Garry Gamble, Executive Director, Lake Beauty Bible Camp and Richard Sullivan, President, Lake Beauty Association, facilitated the session. Details of the public input received at this session are provided within this plan.

This document is intended to create a record of historic and existing conditions and influences on Lake Beauty, and to identify the goals of the Lake Beauty community. Ultimately it is meant to help prioritize goals, and guide citizen action and engagement in the identified priority action areas. While state agencies and local units of government have a vital role and responsibility in managing surface waters and other natural resources, this Lake Management Plan is intended to be an assessment of what we as citizens can influence, what our desired outcomes are, and how we will participate in shaping our own destiny.

This Lake Management Plan is also intended to be a “living document.” As new or better information becomes available, as we accomplish our goals or as we discover that alternative strategies are needed, it is our intent to update this plan so that it continues to serve as a useful guide to future leaders.

In discussing lake management issues, it is impossible to avoid all scientific or technical terms. We have tried to express our goals, measures of success, and other themes as simply and clearly as possible, but have included a glossary of common limnological terms at the end of the plan to assist the reader. Limnology is the state of lake conditions and behavior.

Finally, we would like to thank the funders of the Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership program for Todd and Douglas Counties, including The McKnight Foundation, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, Laura Jane Musser Trust, Tastefully Simple, Inc., Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Todd County Soil & Water Conservation District, Douglas County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Lake Hubert Association in Crow Wing County, Stearns, Inc., Linda Kaufmann, and Don Hickman & Sandra Kaplan. The Minnesota Environment has recently provided additional support and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Natural Resources (LCMR).
Physical Characteristics and location of Lake Beauty

Lake Beauty (DNR ID# 77-0035) is located nine miles east of Long Prairie in the southeastern portion of Todd County, just west of the Morrison County line. The lake has a surface area of 237 acres, ranking it 9th among the 10 largest lakes in Todd County. 137 of these acres (58 percent) are in the littoral zone (meaning that is has a depth of 15 feet or less). There is 3.54 miles of shoreline. The maximum depth in the lake is 27 feet, and the mean clarity is 8 feet. The lake is classified as Recreational Development.
In 1993, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) completed a Lake Assessment Report for Lake Andrew (in Douglas County, approximately 30 miles west of Lake Beauty) which included the following characterization of precipitation patterns for this area:

The normal precipitation for the period from May to September is on the order of 17 inches, and the annual normal is on the order of 26 inches for this part of the state. Evaporation typically exceeds precipitation in this part of the state and averages about 35 inches per year. Runoff averages about 3.9 inches with 1 in 10 year low and high values of 0.8 inches and 5.9 inches respectively...

The DNR Division of Waters, with the cooperation of volunteer readers, has monitored water level since 1956. During the period of record the lake level has varied 2.55 feet based on 202 readings (through May 2005). In general, water levels decline from May through September.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Recorded (feet/dates)</th>
<th>Lowest Recorded (feet/dates)</th>
<th>Average Reading (feet)</th>
<th>Ordinary High Water (feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,200.69 (June 17, 2001)</td>
<td>1,198.14 ft (June 16, 1976)</td>
<td>1,199.52 ft</td>
<td>1,198.8 ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Beauty - 77803500**

![Elevation Graph]

-3-
History of Lake Beauty

Origin

Like many of the lakes in the State of Minnesota, Lake Beauty was likely formed by glacial activity that invaded Minnesota on four different occasions, the last of which originated out of Canada’s Hudson Bay area. The mixture and overlapping of these glacial flows produced hardwood timber in the western regions of the State with fine pine trees in eastern regions. The large meadows were, in ancient days, lakes fed by these glaciers as they melted.

Inhabitants

It wasn’t until centuries later, following the melting of the great glaciers, that humankind inhabited the area. It is probable that a race known as “Mound Builders” at one time occupied the region. The research work of Jacob Vrindenburg Brower, first county auditor for Todd County, attracted attention in the scientific world and established the strongest probability that races of men existed in Todd County before the Native American’s arrived.

When the Native Americans eventually inhabited the area in and around Todd County, it was the Sioux who initially held possession of the lands. Later, during the early years of the nineteenth century, this territory became the disputed battleground between the Sioux and the Chippewa. Of the two rivals, the Chippewa proved more powerful and when the first white men ventured into the area, it was the Chippewa tribe that generally occupied the land surrounding Lake Beauty. Circa 1840.

'Hole In The Day Treaty'

Land in Todd County was eventually ceded to the United States, August 31, 1847, by the ‘Hole In The Day Treaty’ (Chief of the Chippewa Nation) of Fon du Lac. 11 years later, 1858, Lake Beauty, along with the surrounding territory, was surveyed by Deputy United States Surveyors and in 1860, when the homestead law of the United States became effective, citizens of the US could acquire 160 acres by living on a parcel of land for five years.

Source: Todd County Histories Published by Bicentennial Committee
Odd & Even Numbered Sections

In addition to the homestead law, the U.S. government also enacted legislation to encourage development of the newly acquired wilderness area by railroad and lumber companies. Odd numbered sections were indentured to railroad companies and even numbered sections to lumber companies.

Northern Pacific Railroad Company

The majority of the land that surrounds Lake Beauty to the north, located in Section 3, was part of this land grant of odd numbered sections indentured by the State of Minnesota to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to financially support the construction of a railroad from Stillwater to the western state border near Big Stone Lake.

Settlement Into The Area

The real settlement of Todd County began in 1866, at the close of the Civil War when soldiers and others immigrated into the area. Prior to this time, 1857, there were only three or four families who lived along the road between Little Falls and Long Prairie. These were thought to be the only families living in the entire region. There were no white folks living north of the County at this time.

State Park Consideration

It was during this time—the mid-1880’s—that the magnificent stands of White Pine around Lake Beauty and the surrounding area attracted the attention of the State of Minnesota. It was proposed that a State Park be established that would include a series of five lakes: Lake Beauty to define its northern boarder and Long Lake its southern boarder. The idea never materialized and the heavily timbered lands were sold to the lumber barons.

Source: Todd County Histories Published by Bicentennial Committee
Lumbering

As the pursuit of furs had opened up the Northwest Territory in the 1700's, so too did the pursuit of timber open up much of Minnesota. The fine stands of pine that covered most of Bruce Township saw successful mills spring up in the area. But the real lumbering in Bruce Township was done at Lake Beauty.

Logging On Lake Beauty

Around the year 1880, F. LaHatte and H.H. Velie established a saw mill on the west shore of Lake Beauty and together with a mill on Coal Lake, north and west of Lake Beauty, these two mills cut from a half-million to a million feet of lumber a year for nearly ten years. Another logging operation, however, became interested in the timber around Lake Beauty, and Pendegast, Bridgman and Whipple, who possessed ample means, erected a second large mill at the southeast point of the Lake. The Pendegast mill proceeded to buy up all the timber around the Velie and LaHatte mill and the two gentlemen were left with no choice but to close down operations.

Prime Timber Gone

By the early 1890's most of the prime timber was gone. The timber barons had stripped off the best timber, and then disposed of the land for whatever they could get, as they would not keep it and pay taxes.

1894 Winnebago Indian Census

According to the Winnebago Indian Census conducted in 1894, the Native American population accounted for over two-thirds of the total population in Todd County - approximately 3,000 people. By comparison, the city of St. Paul, at this time, had a population of approximately 750 people.

Source: Todd County Histories Published by Bicentennial Committee
Howard Hamlin Farm

It wasn't until February 20, 1920, that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company entered into a contract agreement to sell a tract of land, along the west shoreline of Lake Beauty (north of the location of the former LaHatte/Velie mill) to Howard Hamlin of Long Prairie. The Hamlin family, his wife, daughter, and future son-in-law would operate a small dairy farm on this tract of land for nearly a half-century; milking by hand, and cultivating corn and other grain crops using a team of draft horses. Howard also ran a trap line in the area to supplement the family's income.

Source: Personal Interview Conducted by Garry Gamble with Hazel Hamlin, 2002
Nellie’s Log Home

Howard’s aunt, Nellie, who never married, lived in a log cabin located just south of Howard’s home. Nellie basically raised Howard from his teen years, his parents being unavailable. When Howard’s log cabin was destroyed by fire he and his family moved in with Nellie. To the north of the Hamlin’s farmstead was located a small Native American village.

Local school house where Howard Hamlin’s daughter, Hazel, attended

Source: Personal Interview Conducted by Garry Gamble with Hazel Hamlin, 2002
Bible Camp Purchases Land

In 1960 Lake Beauty Bible Camp, Inc. purchased tax forfeited land, bordering (to the south) the former location of the Hamlin farmstead. The Bible Camp has, in subsequent years, purchased portions of the Hamlin farmstead (to the north) and Hillary’s former tavern (to the south). The Bible Camp presently owns 127 acres along the western shore of Lake Beauty. Before the Camp could welcome its first campers, the lake along the waterfront had to be dredged to remove the years of sawdust that had been disposed of in the lake by the logging mill.
## History of Lake Beauty's Plat Development

79 Lots / Approx. 32% Compliant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Development</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Lots</th>
<th>Compliant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Frank Burger Lakeshore Lots / Block</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Frank Burger Lakeshore Lots / Block</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Lake Beauty East Shores Lots</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Lake Beauty West Shores Lots</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Lake Beauty Woods</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>All but 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Lake Beauty East Shores / 2nd Addition</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>All but 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Lake Beauty West Shores / 1st Addition</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Number of Lake Residents

- Seasonal Residents: 56
- Permanent / Year Round Residents: 33
- Bible Camp & Retreat Center: 1
- Public Landing: 1

Total: 91
History - Lake Beauty Association, Inc.

Organizational Meeting / Purpose Statement Drafted
September 2, 1990

Primary Function (Mission)
Protect and manage the Lake and its wildlife.

By Laws Adopted*
August 24, 1991

Articles of Incorporation Adopted*
September 27, 1991

Incorporated
October 14, 1991

Signators: Randolph Brown
Harlan Clark
Marvin Morrison

Initial Governing Body: Executive Board Consisting of:
1991-1992
President Ken Jorgensen
Vice President Dick Hedlund
Secretary Collette Peterson
“Toots” Kedrowski
Treasurer Randy Brown
Directors Harlan Clark
Marvin Morrison

Present Governing Body: Executive Board Consisting of:
2006-2007
President Richard Sullivan
Vice President Troy Lynch
Secretary Carol Jones
Treasurer Carol Jones
Directors Marlene Clark
Garry Gamble
Art Krentz
Gail Piorer
Mark Rogalski

Federal ID Number: 41-1722675
Minnesota ID Number: 11262302

Lake Association Annual Meetings held
2nd Saturday in June and 3rd Saturday in August
Nadine Norgren

While there have been those who have stepped forward in various capacities as volunteer advocates for Lake Beauty, the most passionate champion for the Lake was Nadine Norgren.

Nadine consistently encouraged Lake owners and the Lake Beauty Association, on which she served as secretary/treasurer for a number of years, to actively pursue resources - education, grants, volunteerism, community leaders and agency representatives - in support of maintaining a healthy lake and protecting a quality of life that we all have come to appreciate and value.

With Nadine’s sudden passing, July 2005, we not only lost our greatest advocate, we lost a good friend, a person who exemplified the best of humanity.

Her seemingly, endless energy, expertise, winsome laugh and endearing regard for others are sorely missed. May her legacy of service inspire others to follow her lead.