

# OUR Mission and Goal

Whether boating, fishing, swimming, or just taking in the view – residents of Big Fish Lake have always enjoyed the benefits of its good quality water. It is one of the clearest lakes in the north-central Minnesota ecosystem.

Since it's founding in 1959, the Big Fish Lake Association has worked to steadily improve the environmental state of the lake. We have addressed water quality, shoreline restoration, fish habitats, and the new threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), particularly Zebra Mussels.

In 1998, the Big Fish Lake Association established the Big Fish Lake Conservancy Fund to raise funds and have a "nest egg" so the next generation can enjoy the treasures of Big Fish Lake in the future. We ask you to consider adding your financial support to the Big Fish Lake Legacy Fund.

# History of BIG FISH LAKE

Over the past seven decades, the environmental setting and water quality of Big Fish Lake have attracted shoreline owners to our Stearns County location. In 1947, one resort and 29 cottages populated our lake. Today approximately 187 homes surround the 558 acre lake with 5.8 miles of shoreline. Of those residences, 96 are year-round homes.



# Concerns and Opportunities

Being good stewards and protectors of the health of our lake should be our number one priority in this age of continued development on the shores and wetlands of Big Fish Lake. Upon finding Zebra Mussels in 2018, we must remain diligent in fighting this AIS and others that may come in our lake. BFLA has now formed a 5-person task force to help monitor, research and to look for ways to combat our mussel population.

## BIG FISH LAKE IS IN DANGER!!

Even though we have Zebra Mussels, we have bigger threats in Starry Stonewort, also called the "lake killer", and Eurasian Watermilfoil since it is now in our neighboring lakes. These plants have caused catastrophic damage so we need to:

- Have funds to deal immediately with these if or when they come to our lake
- Survey the lake regularly
- Continue to have the maximum amount of boat inspections
- Perform water testing diligently

If we were to get either one of these AIS, we would need at least \$100,000 to contain these plants and try to eradicate them! With close monitoring we hope to catch this threat before it becomes a large, uncontrollable infestation.

By creating our own "emergency fund" we can continue to have boat inspections as needed, survey the lake regularly, perform water testing and work with state and local agencies to stay informed of new ways to protect our lake.

The future values of our property investments along Big Fish Lake's shoreline will depend on how well we meet the environmental challenges facing our lake.

# Contribution REPLY FORM

**YES! Count me in as a supporter of  
Big Fish Lake Legacy Fund:**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to contribute:**

A one time gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Give over the next three years for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
per year for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pay with credit card (fees will apply) \_\_\_\_\_

Card type: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Make checks payable to: Initiative Foundation

**Mail to:** Initiative Foundation  
405 1st Street SE  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
Attn: Big Fish Lake Legacy Fund

\*Your gift will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law,  
and you will receive a receipt from the Initiative Foundation.

For other ways to contribute please see reverse side.