



Volume 3, Issue 3

We envision a harmonious coexistence of the urban community and the environment created around the lake.

Blooming Alleys Project

Sign up to participate in the Blooming Alleys for Clean Water Project now!

Join your neighbors and sign up to participate in the Blooming Alleys for Clean Water Project taking place in the Nokomis subwatershed. The goal of the Lake Nokomis Blooming Alleys for Clean Water project is to improve a polluted water body through a neighborhood-focused project that will engage local residents and business owners in efforts to enhance water quality.

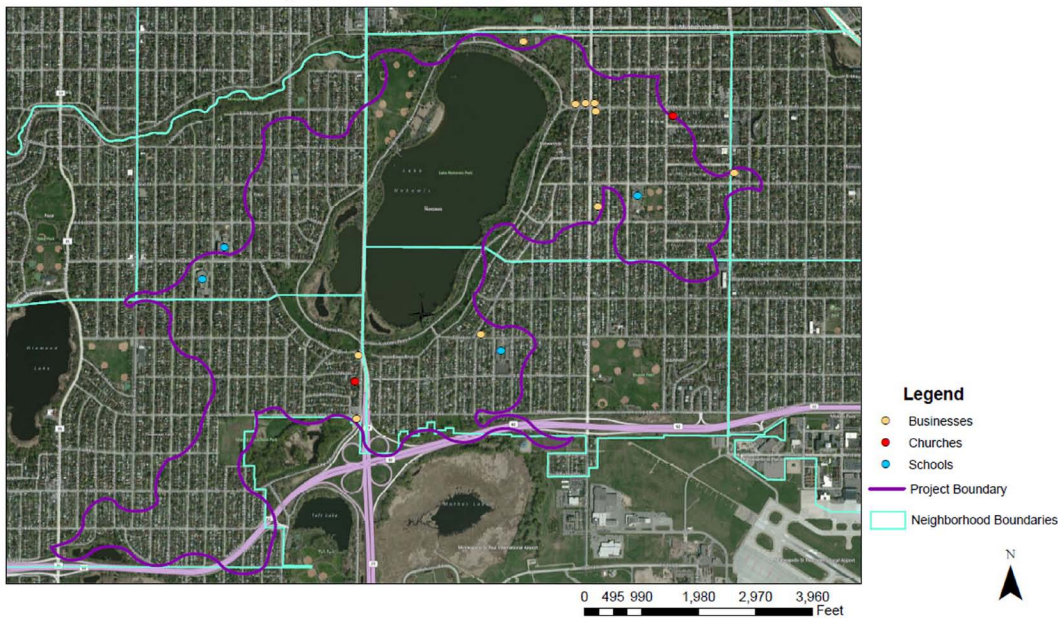
In 2013, with funding from the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund and the City of Minneapolis, Metro Blooms is working with Friends of Lake Nokomis to educate residents about healthy landscape practices and to engage property owners within the Lake Nokomis subwatershed (see map) in site consultations with one of their landscape designers to discuss opportunities for stormwater runoff capture. Through this project, they plan to install stormwater management prac-

tices such as raingardens and permeable paver strips in backyards, which will both beautify alleyways and clean up Lake Nokomis.

If you own property within the Lake Nokomis project boundary you are eligible for a FREE site consultation from one of Metro Blooms' landscape designers, and don't forget to tell your neighbors too, as they'd like to focus their efforts on entire blocks.

To sign up, send an e-mail to Laura@metroblooms.org, or call her at 651-699-2426. 💧

Lake Nokomis Neighborhood of Raingardens Subwatershed Map



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Sponsor a Newsletter

This newsletter was sponsored by our founding members—thank you all for joining us!

If you would like to sponsor a future newsletter please contact us via e-mail.

Friends of Lake Nokomis is the official publication of the Friends of Lake Nokomis, a nonprofit corporation, and is published four times a year.

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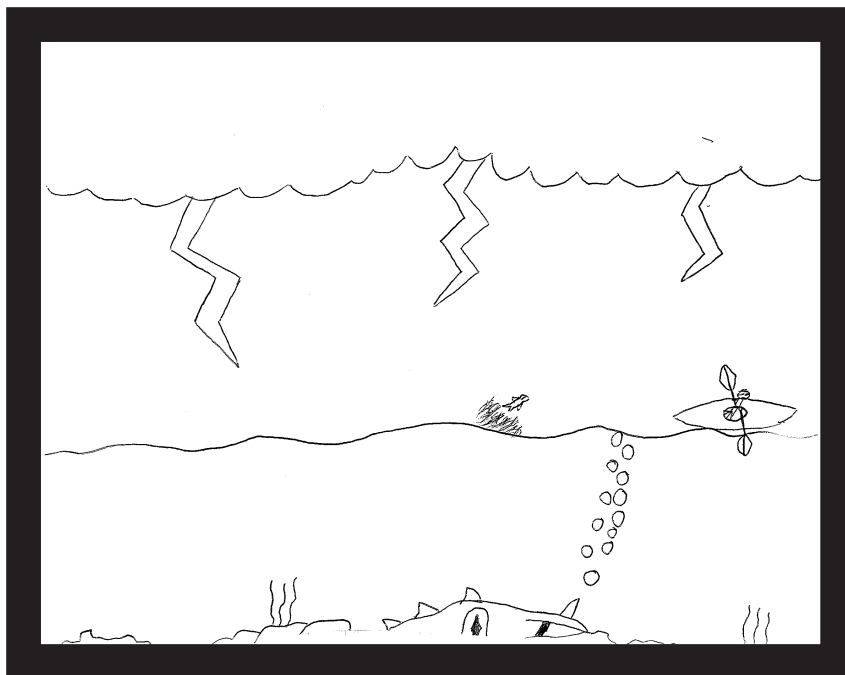
Writing Contest Winner!

Thank you for all of the great submissions we received for our Lake Monster writing contest! We know it can be challenging to get excited about writing outside of the

school year, but it's obvious that Minne is a real inspiration to many of you. Read on for our winning story from **Kobe Kimmes**.

Minne's Story

It was 1975, the day was dark, the clouds were low. At the bottom of Lake Nokomis the mud started to bubble, the rocks churned and the water boiled. And if you were there you would see an eye open and a neck stretch. A lake creature was created. The residents of Lake Nokomis were terrified they had a monster in their lake. But there was a brave boy named Chris and he took a kayak and entered the water. He met the Lake creature and he looked into the creature's dark and gloomy eyes. Then suddenly a sunfish jumped into Chris' kayak. He looked at the creature and laid it on the tip of the kayak. The creature snatched it right after Chris pulled his hand back and he said, "You know what? I'm going to name you Minne" and Minne looked up and smiled. 💧



Open Swim

Tuesday Nights are Open Swim night on Lake Nokomis during the months of June through August. Open Swim is a monitored activity coordinated by the MPRB. Swimmers over the age of 18 are permitted to swim from beach to beach (1600 meters) under lifeguard supervision. Most of the swimmers are training for triathlons or other open water races, but there are a few dedicated recreational swimmers that show up each Tuesday to make the trek, there and back again, just for the joy of doing so. If you participate and enjoy this activity, please send a Thank You to Mimi Kalb, the park's Manager of Athletic Programs & Facilities, mkalb@minneapolis.parks.org. Ms. Kalb manages the lifeguards at city lakes and is the appropriate point of contact for all compliments, or if you have them, complaints regarding the staff at the beaches. 💧

The Open Swim director did a survey of participants at the end of the Open Swim season this year and shared these results:

- 68.3% of the participants use Nokomis for training or the Open Swim event
- 84.2% of participants want an additional night added a week
- 64.9% of participants want buoys to mark the course
- 76% would continue to participate if the event initiated upgrades and became a fee-based swim club
- 65% came 2 to 7 times over the summer (out of 10)
- 25% came 8 to 10 times over the summer (out of 10)
- 40.7% heard about the event from a friend (thanks for spreading the word)
- 57.6% learned something about the course or something that helped their swim from talking to the event director

Welcome to the Neighborhood, Sandcastle!

If you are near the large beach off the Parkway and see a hint of bright orange hiding behind the calm blue planks of the new building you will see that gone are the envious days when Lake Nokomis patrons and residents had no source of sustenance or could not find a cold glass of relief on a warm summer day.

Sandcastle, a new restaurant in the same vein as Tin Fish of Lake Calhoun or Sea Salt at the Falls, has finally opened at the large beach on Nokomis and we could not be luckier. The Friends of Lake Nokomis of course made it to opening night Thursday, June 28 and, despite the enthusiastic line, caught a few minutes of Amy Flicker's time to get a sense of how it was going and how receptive people had been to their opening. As you can likely tell from my own tone, Amy said, "it has been incredible how warm the welcoming has been. You can just tell this has been something visitors to the lake and the neighborhood have wanted for some time."

Amy also made it a point to say, "I know because I have felt the same, I

have lived here and this is what we consider our neighborhood lake. This is just something we needed and we are lucky to be here." As lucky as Amy and Doug may feel, we should feel even luckier; anyone who has enjoyed the culinary masterpieces at Piccolo will recognize the names of Sandcastle's owners, Amy and Doug Flicker. This is not a Piccolo on the Beach; however, the food is just as good. See



the menu linked [here](#), and see a few creative twists to classics such as cheese curds and the Nokomis dog as well as a few things that might be new (but well worth the try) like the Indian Fry Bread. Thirsty? Well, Sandcastle also has wine, cider, and Fulton Brewery on tap. Amy talked about how they and their partners really wanted to create something different but to

be a place that fit in with the neighborhood and the lake. The menu fits and apparently so does the attitude of the owners.

As our mission says, the Friends of Lake Nokomis seeks to "preserve and improve the lake and its surrounding parks and watershed to ensure a safe, enjoyable resource for future generations" and it appears we now have a like-minded partner central to the lake we all love. Sandcastle has sustainability and conservation in mind in everything from their construction, to their menu, and even the cups. Everything is compostable! Read more about the construction, the zero-waste service plans and more on their [site](#). There's also a more in-depth overview of how you can help with the zero-waste efforts on our blog: friendsoflakenokomis.wordpress.com

Next time you are around the lake, stop by, grab a bite or maybe a drink; we are sure you won't regret it. Say the Friends of Lake Nokomis sent you! 💧

Zebra Mussel Monitoring

So far, so good. No evidence of zebra mussels has been found in Lake Nokomis this season. Monitoring devices located on the North Fishing Dock and at the public boat launch have been zebra mussel free so far this year.



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota DNR

They are checked by our volunteer monitoring crew monthly while the ice is out. More information about Zebra Mussels and the potential impact of their entry to Nokomis can be found on our blog: friendsoflakenokomis.wordpress.com

The discovery of Zebra Mussels in Hiawatha is disheartening, but not a reason to despair. The new weir on the North end of the lake is working as designed, and keeping the waters of Minnehaha Creek from entering Lake Nokomis. 💧



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

Scan this QR code with your smartphone for mobile access to our website.



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