



December 2025 Newsletter

Protecting Long Lake Takes All of Us and
We’re Asking for Your Help

Long Lake Keeps On Giving!



It's time to “give back” to the lake we love.

Please donate to the LLAA Foundation today!

Long Lake Area Association Foundation – 2026 Appeal:
by James Seifert, LLAA Foundation Treasurer.

For more than 125 years, Long Lake has been a place of beauty, recreation, family memories, and shared stewardship. Formed from five small lakes on the Hubbard Prairie in the early 1900s, Long Lake has become recognized as one of north-central Minnesota’s premier natural treasures. Generations of families have fished its waters, built memories at the cabin, watched loons raise their young, and passed forward a deep love for this place.

But today, Long Lake faces increasing pressure. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), expanding recreational use, increased shoreline development, and climate-driven environmental changes threaten the long-term health of our lake. The mission of the Long Lake Area Association Foundation (LLAAF) is to address those threats—proactively, effectively, and decisively.

This year, we have set a goal to raise \$50,000 to fund our 2026 conservation and protection priorities. LLAA Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank 58 families who were our early donors. Through their generosity we have already raised \$15,000, and we are deeply grateful. But we need your help to finish the work.

Your donation—no matter the size—directly protects and preserves Long Lake.

Here’s how your donation helps:

Critical AIS Inspections: Our First Line of Defense

AIS such as zebra mussels, Starry Stonewort, and Curly Pondweed pose serious threats to water quality, native plant life, fish habitat, and recreation. Without constant vigilance and action our lake could change forever. The LLAAF contributes more than \$30,000 annually—over 75% of our entire budget—to supplement Hubbard County’s AIS inspection program. This funding provides over 60% of all watercraft inspection hours at the north and south landings. Without donors, AIS inspection would be limited to sporadic weekend coverage. Your gift literally keeps inspectors at the north and south accesses, protecting the lake every single day.

Water Quality Monitoring: Early Warning, Informed Action

Keeping Long Lake healthy depends on understanding it. Regular testing for nutrients, contaminants, clarity, oxygenation, and pH provides the data needed to track long-term trends and respond early to problems. These tests require specialized equipment, lab analysis, and trained professionals. Ongoing monitoring gives us the information needed to protect water quality today—and for decades to come. Your donations keep this essential science going.

Combating AIS Already in the Lake

Prevention is ideal—but when AIS infiltrate the ecosystem, mitigation becomes essential. The LLAA Foundation works directly with the Minnesota DNR, LLAA volunteers, and licensed AIS mitigation firms to control and manage infestations. This includes ongoing efforts to combat the infestations of **Starry Stonewort (2023)** and **Curly Pondweed (2025)**. These infestations have required multi-season treatment and monitoring. These efforts are expensive, but necessary. Your support ensures we can act quickly and effectively muster resources and professionals to address these challenges.

Protecting Long Lake's Game Fish Populations

Walleye, bass, northern pike, and panfish are central to Long Lake's ecology and our lake traditions. Shoreline degradation, invasive species competition, warmer water temperatures, and increased fishing pressure threaten natural reproduction. Working closely with MN DNR, the LLAAF funds fish-habitat improvements, shoreline restoration, stocking efforts, and research partnerships aimed at preserving a healthy, self-sustaining fishery.

Your Gift Protects a Lake that has Given So Much

Every family on Long Lake has a story—how they arrived here, why they fell in love with the lake, and why they cherish returning year after year. Protecting those memories for the next generation is now our shared responsibility.

With \$35,000 left to raise, we ask you to join us in reaching our 2025 goal.

Please consider making your tax-deductible donation today:

Online: <https://donate.longlakeliving.org/>

By Mail:

Long Lake Area Association Foundation

PO Box 808

Park Rapids, MN 56470

Together, we can ensure that Long Lake remains clean, healthy, and thriving—for our children, our grandchildren, and the generations yet to come.

If you need to confirm your payment status, please contact our treasurer, Jim Seifert, at treasurer@longlakeliving.org



Scenes from around Long Lake.

Geese, Swans and some small ducks gathering on the lake. Picture on the left was taken before Thanksgiving and middle picture was taken on December 1st. Picture on the right shows that winter has arrived.

Protecting the Night: Why Long Lake Needs Smarter Outdoor Lighting

by Will Viner and Caren Martin

Northern Minnesota is one of the few places left in the Upper Midwest where you can still step outside, tilt your head back, and see a clear, star-filled sky. Our quiet nights, reflective waters, and dark horizons are part of what makes Long Lake special. But those skies are changing faster than many realize—they are getting ruined by too much outdoor lighting. This isn't just an environmental problem; it's a **neighborhood courtesy issue** that affects everyone's enjoyment of the lake.

The biggest cause of increasing light pollution around the lake is **bright, unshielded residential lights** that spray light everywhere. In some cases, inexpensive, overly bright LEDs are to blame. It is an issue of not only light that is too bright and very white in color (as perceived by the eye) but is a flood of light—that creates a widespread area of light with much of it aimed up into the sky and outward rather than down.

When your light is too bright, or aimed poorly or not at all it:

- **Shines into your neighbors' homes** and ruins their lake view and stargazing
- **Disrupts wildlife** (like loons and fish)
- **Creates a harsh glare** across the water that boaters and neighbors find distracting and impossible to ignore.
- **Wastes energy**

💡 The Lighting You Select Matters

Here are some things to think about when selecting a new exterior light fixture or purchasing new, more energy efficient replacement light bulbs (also called lamps):

Use shielded fixtures:

They direct light downward onto your property and light your path or driveway, not up into the trees or sideways across the water or towards your neighbors home.

Choose the right light bulbs:

Avoid harsh, blue-white LEDs. Instead use LEDs that are 3000 K for warmer, yellow light that causes less glare and skyglow. No matter which light bulbs (LEDs, incandescent, or halogen) you use, make sure that they are not overly bright. Think about how well you can see your way in a darkened movie theater when walking down the aisle.

Use motion sensors

Replace dusk-to-dawn floodlights that stay on all night. Motion sensors provide security without disturbing the animals or your and your neighbors' appreciation of the night sky.

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Place light fixtures only where needed

Light up your pathways and doorways—not the shoreline, trees, or across the lake. Appropriately placed lighting will keep you safe from tripping and get you where you're going. Well placed lighting can create a beautiful outdoor environment. Most of all, keep the light pointed downward.

Update older yard light bulbs and/or fixtures

Replacing old fixtures that have exposed bulbs that scatter light everywhere or retrofitting them with more energy efficient light bulbs (3000K or less) can reduce the unwanted spread of light into the night sky. Use a modern, shielded replacement.

Rethink flag lighting

If you must light a flag overnight, use a low-intensity, shielded light fixture that points down. A vertically or horizontally aimed spotlight is typically disruptive, spreading the light into the night sky.

Have a conversation with your neighbors

Most people don't realize their outdoor lighting is a problem. A friendly conversation can identify issues that your neighbors might have been hesitant to bring up.

Educate Yourself

Understanding some common terminology about lighting to help you decide what to do with your current lighting is key. For more information than what is provided here, head to the [Department of Energy's explanation](#).

Color temperature: this describes how your eye perceives light—cool or warm. Temperature is measured in Kelvin (K). We are used to warmer color temperatures (2750 K) like the color you get from your incandescent light bulbs in your home. LEDs are considered cool in color temperature (3000-5000 K), though when 3000 K, the temperature can be visually warm.

Footcandle: this describes the intensity or brightness emitted by a light bulb within a one-foot square area. For instance, if you're sewing, you probably would prefer 100-150 footcandles of light versus 30-50 footcandles while eating dinner or having a conversation in your family room. Contrary to those levels of brightness, only 5-20 footcandles are needed to find your way in the dark—if the lighting is aimed properly on your path. For additional information about how lighting can be effective and visually pleasing, examine websites from landscaping or exterior lighting companies. [Midwest Lightscaping](#) is one example.

Yes, LEDs can be overpowering in terms of lighting output, especially if you have purchased a light fixture that is ultra bright and throws off much more lighting than you need or want. Often, that is what the big box home supply stores sell. Buy a light fixture or replace your current light bulbs with LEDs that have a color temperature of 3000 K. That way you can get the light you need and protect your view of the night sky.

In conclusion, light pollution does not have to be a consequence of progress. Take on the task of educating yourself to learn more about light fixtures and different lamps. Typically, with just a few small changes in our outdoor lighting, Long Lake can remain one of the clearest, calmest, night-sky environments in Hubbard County. Let's work together to keep our skies dark, our lake peaceful, and our neighbors comfortable.



Volunteer Opportunities:

LLAA is an all volunteer organization. It runs only with your help.

(This year we had over 97 volunteers including 5 kids working for our association.)

But more Volunteers are always needed:

We need one more person who has used Wordpress to help maintain the website.

Email us at volunteer@longlakeliving.org and tell us how you can help the LLAA.

Join the fun and build the community!

Specific Needs: Donor Data & Reporting Specialist

As with most of our volunteer work, it can be done remotely and on your schedule. Send this request along to your adult children and grandchildren.

We're looking for a detail-oriented **Donor Data & Reporting Specialist** to join our team as a volunteer. This essential role supports our fundraising and financial reporting by ensuring our donor records are up to date and are our reports are accurate.

Your main responsibilities will include:

- Maintaining donor records in **Aplos Donor Management Software**.
- Exporting data from Aplos and using **Microsoft Excel** to create customized reports and dashboards.
- Analyzing donor trends, campaign performance, and gift history to provide insights for our team.

This role requires a commitment of about 5-10 hours per month.

What we're looking for:

- Experience with **cloud-based database systems** like Aplos, QuickBooks, or Salesforce.
- Strong familiarity with **Microsoft Excel**, including functions like filtering, sorting, and pivot tables.
- A proactive attitude and a desire to learn new systems and solve problems.

If you're organized, enjoy working with data, and want to support our mission, we'd

if you're organized, enjoy getting your ducks in a row to support our mission, we'd love to hear from you.

To learn more or apply, please contact James Seifert at treasurer@longlakeliving.org.



Learn about your LLAA Board of Directors on this website page:
www.longlakeliving.org/p/board-member.html

Learn about your LLAA Foundation Board of Directors on this website page:
www.longlakeliving.org/long-lake-area-association-foundation-llaaf/board-of-directors/

Missed a Newsletter 2025, or want to read it again?
Follow this [link to see a list the last 12 newsletters](#)

Please forward this newsletter to others who are interested in Long Lake. Encourage people to contact us to get on the email list.



QR code link to the video



Use the QR code to view the video about being a lake steward.

Please contact our team if you have questions or need more information. Winter is a good time to plan for your spring planting.

Email stewardship@longlakeliving.org

PS: The SWCD is changing its method of selling trees/shurbs and bushes. The order forms were included with its newsletter and can be ordered by individuals. People will pick up their orders in May at the SWCD office at 603 North Central Ave in Park Rapids. The order forms should be on their website by January: hubbardswcd.org



Two Long Lake Facebook Options

★ Follow one or both! ★

Facebook Page: Longlakeliving

- Official Long Lake Area Association (LLAA) Facebook page
- Public page (Long Lake property owners & general public)
- Content:
 - Managed by LLAA communications team
 - Info: LLAA mission, membership, lake stewardship, AIS, events, fisheries, etc.

★ Follow one or both! ★

Facebook Page: Longlakeleisure

- Private group page & lake community-focused purpose
- Requirements to join: Long Lake property ownership & application
- Content:
 - Followers of private group post content
 - Posts span classified ads, wildlife, weather, lost & found, etc.
 - Most LLAA Facebook posts are reposted on this page

5 attachments

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