

2015 Storm Clean-Up—Beyond the Storm



By Rob Mason

As I have driven around the City many times since the July 12, 2015 storm, I have seen a huge transformation to the city I have lived and worked in for the last 40 years. I guess I can

qualify as an old timer now as I have passed the age 60 mark and feel that I have witnessed a lot of history making events for the city within those years. Many of the old names of residents in the past that I have known would be shocked to see the destruction that occurred. They would also be very pleased to see the resiliency of the residents and businesses in cleaning up and rebuilding for the future.

I have spoken to residents in tears that have related many stories of their loss of memorable trees in particular. Those areas hit the hardest such as the Pine Beach Peninsula and Birch Island areas have lost many trees that dated back more than two centuries. Old logging families thought so highly of the area that they built cabins on the beautiful lakeshore of the Pine Beach Peninsula and preserved the old growth pine rather than logging it off. Sadly, a good portion of those trees that were preserved went down in the storm.

Madden’s Resort suffered the greatest business loss with the destruction of many beautiful trees and over 100 lodging units as well as severe damage to one main lodge facility. They have made tremendous progress with reconstruction and clean up. On May 1, 2016 they will be opening a large percentage of their brand new facilities. Jim Madden (one of the original founding brothers of Madden’s Resort) once told me years ago that a fire burned the Madden Inn and Golf Club to the ground on July 4, 1964 and it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to the resort. This Storm may turn out to be the next best thing.

If I were to add up the money that has been spent to clean up the storm debris, repair the homes and businesses that were damaged as well as replacing the landscaping and planting new trees, I’m sure even with the insurance settlements collected, we will have spent many millions of dollars to put things back together. Undoubtedly, it may have been good for the local economy, but the stress level and the loss of enjoyment for what was left of the summer of 2015 will never be able to be replaced.

It is my wish for all of us that we have a safe and non-eventful summer to once again enjoy what we all love about East Gull Lake.

EAST GULL LAKE MEETINGS:

- ◆ Council: First Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM
- ◆ Planning Commission: Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30PM, no scheduled meeting in December
- ◆ Committee meetings determined as needed

Please check the City [website](#) for additional meeting information.



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Restoring Your Shoreline

Landscaping and Shoreline Restoration

Kathy Schack

It's that time of year. Time to spruce up the lawn and repair damage to your shoreline caused by old man winter. MN DNR has a great deal of information to assist in the natural restoration of shorelines. In their article "Lakescaping and Shoreland Restoration" they discuss the structure and function of the shoreland and the importance of keeping the systems healthy. They discuss the problem that "lawns are shallow rooted, provide little wildlife habitat, need frequent maintenance and are often over-fertilized." If a lawn is extended to the shoreline, according to the article, it can lead to problems such as:

- ◆ Shoreline erosion and lake sedimentation
- ◆ Algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth
- ◆ Loss of wildlife habitat, with an increase in nuisance animals
- ◆ Loss of leisure time

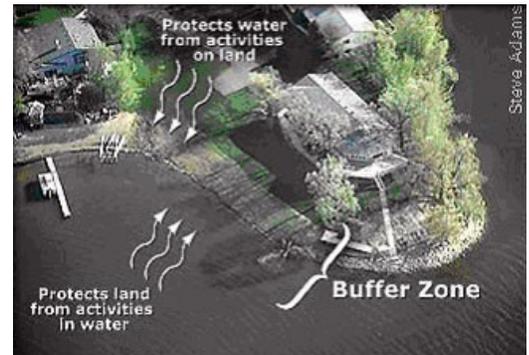
WHAT CAN I DO TO

CREATE A

MORE NATURAL

SHORELINE?

MN DNR



The Buffer Zone Solution

Excerpt from MN DNR website article:

Creation of a natural buffer zone is the essence of the lakescaping concept. Lakescaping and shoreland restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline:

- ◆ Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife
- ◆ Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
- ◆ Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
- ◆ Enjoy abundant nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds
- ◆ More leisure time to relax and enjoy the nature of life at the lakeshore

Shoreline Alterations: Natural Buffers and Lakescaping

Excerpt from MN DNR flyer:

A natural shoreline is a complex ecosystem that sustains fish and wildlife and protects the entire lake. Native vegetation along the shore acts as a buffer zone, intercepting nutrients and reducing runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for ducks, songbirds, and other animals while reducing problems caused by Canada geese and burrowing muskrats. Plants growing in and near the water are critical for wildlife and fish habitat and a healthy lakeshore. Tall plants like bulrush, lake sedge, and cattail can reduce the energy of wave action to minimize erosion and help maintain water quality.

[Click Here](#) to read the full article on the MN DNR website.

[Click Here](#) for access to the "Shoreline Alterations: Natural Buffers and Lakescaping" flyer in pdf form.

[Click here](#) to view the Shoreline Owners Guide on the Cass County website.



Wetlands—Why preserve them

By Carol Demgen

Ducks Unlimited has a bold vision: "Wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. These wetland provide habitat for a myriad of other wildlife as well as ecological benefits to people. From providing recreational opportunities and clean water to shoreline protection. The relationship between wetlands and wildlife and people who depend on them is increasingly fragile."

As conflict between wetlands and development occur, wetlands become the loser.

WETLANDS: Nature's water filter, a reservoir and purifier of water. Anytime we deposit refuse in them we hinder what nature designed them for.

We encourage wetland friendly policies in our city. Remember, it's home for our wildlife and waterfowl, reeds, cattails and swamp milkweed (shown on the right), a perennial wildflower.

Swamp milkweed is a plant that monarch butterflies use for food and laying their eggs. Hummingbirds and other butterflies also consume the nectar from the flowers of the swamp milkweed.

As you rake your leaves this spring, do not dispose of them in our wetlands as they are the lifeblood of nature. They provide clean water for our lakes and rivers and for humans to drink. Help us protect the wild places we love. Wildlife inhabit wetlands conservationists revere and sustain them. We call this creating keepsakes.

- ◆ Wetlands filter our water
- ◆ Up to 70% have disappeared



SWAMP MILKWEED

WHY PRESERVE WETLANDS?

Memorial Benches for City Trail

By Rob Mason

As we have improved the views of our beautiful lakes in the city, now may be the perfect time to consider sponsoring a bench along the nine miles of the city trail.

Currently we have one very nice bench overlooking a beautiful view of Dade Lake that was donated and installed by the family and friends of the Sharon Dumbek family.

We would be very happy to discuss with you the many areas and options where you could memorialize a loved one or just provide that perfect spot on the

trail to take a rest and reflect on all the good things we have in life.

The cost and designs can vary depending on your preference.

Our biggest concern is to keep them secure and make sure we can maintain the area around them.

Please give me a call if you would be interested in this opportunity.

City Hall: 218.828.9279
Cell: 218.820.2153



DONATING MEMORIAL TRAIL BENCHES



East Gull Lake History Update

Linda Olsen Engel

While this spring's history project update is being composed, a two man crew outside is sawing down dead and injured trees. Heavy machinery assists with stacking salvageable timber logs while smoke drifts up from carefully tended piles of burning debris. This scene in various forms took up ongoing transient residency after last July's mega storm blew in for a visit, forever changing historic landscapes. Four seasons later, rolling prairie-like hills replace forests that stood for decades. Lights from houses formerly hidden in the woods are now shining through the surrounding branches which remain.

During this interim, work on gathering history all but ground to a standstill. Residents grappled to assess damages and tackle clean up following the history making "Land Locked Category II Hurricane" as the storm was dubbed. Some who grew up here said they went out to survey property damage and actually got lost navigating terrain long familiar.

But now spring returns with its ritual greening. Docks re-appear on ice free bays to re-assure that some things really do stay the same. The humming sounds of boat motors compete with and replace chain saw buzzing as a "new normal" gains familiarity.

"Before" and "after" photos are being posted on the city website to document the way views have changed via road entrances around the city. You can check these out by clicking "History" then choosing "photos" followed by "events" as drop downs appear. It seems every drive into, out of or around the city produces noticeable changes grabbing attention. Diligent cleanup efforts continue, showing the pride, strength and determination of city residents and businesses to prepare for another summer of unforgettable memory making. Website pictures show that signage, like the city itself, remains intact. The fact that there was no loss of life is miraculous.

This point was again brought home a month after returning from a mission trip among the gracious people of Ecuador. This past April 16th a 7.8 earthquake forever changed the before and after history of the people, infrastructure and coastal/mountain regions of that beautiful South American Country.

The variable forces of nature continually change the world, leaving generations of survivors to report and preserve historical heritage via photos and stories. Any pictures you have that portray property changes are welcome if you're willing to share and post. Please email your photos to the address below, or bring copies to City Hall for scanning and adding to the website.

History committee meetings will resume once winter snowbirds return. If interested in joining the committee, please know you are welcome! For more information contact City Hall or Linda Engel: (435.714.0618/ email: olesengel@gmail.com)

**EAST GULL
LAKE HISTORY**



BEFORE THE STORM



AFTER THE STORM

Are 9-digit ZIP Codes really good enough for sales and use tax jurisdiction determinations?

Excerpts from PitneyBowes Blog Article

by bmeador | November 2, 2009

The vast majority of sales and use tax service providers use 5 digit ZIP Codes to determine if the tax location is inside or outside city limits or a special tax jurisdiction.

This can cause several problems: ZIP Codes cross city boundaries approximately 30% of the time, resulting in multiple choices for the actual tax jurisdiction.

The postal city name can be different than the actual place (municipal) name, i.e. Thornton, Northglenn, Westminster, and other Colorado cities show as Denver in the USPS database.

Mayor's Corner

Dave Kavanaugh

I would like to welcome back all summer residents to a little more open-terrained East Gull Lake.

After last July's storm there has been a lot of logging and clearing that has taken place and people will notice a change.

The USPS does not know or care where a municipal or special tax district boundary occurs.

9-Digit Zip Code

Information

Kathy Schack

The East Gull Lake area is a bit more defined as to sales tax jurisdiction. Adding your 9-digit zip to your address insures you aren't paying Brainerd/Baxter additional sales tax of 0.5% when you have items delivered to your home.

If you have questions, please contact City Hall at 218.828.9279 and we will provide you with your 9-digit zip code.



ZIP CODES

CROSS CITY

BOUNDARIES

APPROXIMATELY

30% OF THE

TIME

MAYOR'S

CORNER

We know that there will be more clearing that will be happening this summer and we hope that people understand it takes time. Please do all you can to clean the downed trees from your land to prevent any fire danger.



Debris Dump Site Information

Please note that the debris dump site by the Pine Beach wastewater plant has been closed for resident dumping of debris from the 2015 storm damage.

Mike's Tree Company now takes all brush and tree debris, except trunks, at no charge.

If you have any questions, please call Mike's Tree Company at 218.825.8207, or call City Hall at 218.828.9279.





SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS:
www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Mobile Collection

Lake Shore City Hall will be the site of this year's household hazardous waste collection for Cass County residents only. The collection will be on:

Tuesday, June 23, 2016 from 12 Noon until 4:00 p.m. at the Lake Shore City Hall

Items accepted include: electronics, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, un-wanted or unusable paint and paint products, adhesives, mercury products, corrosives, pesticides, oven cleaners, cleaning products, and old gasoline.

Do not bring used motor oil, oil filters or antifreeze (can be taken to any county transfer site), explosives or radioactive wastes, or unusable joint compound (can be dried out and disposed of in regular trash).

