



ITASCA WATERS

Team Up for Clean Waters

NEWS BULLETIN Spring 2021

Aaahhh, Spring! Isn't it nice to see the water BLUE again – instead of white? Winters here are long enough in any year, but the challenges we all faced in the past year make this spring all the more welcome. But we at Itasca Waters have been busy behind the scenes. Take a look at some of the projects we're working on:



A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES...

...begins with a single step. So does a journey of 9 MILLION miles! That's how much fishing line has been recycled by the Berkley company of Spirit Lake, Iowa. A single step that we can all take right here at home is to dispose of fishing line properly. For that reason, Itasca Waters members Perry Loegering and Dick Sandberg have designed and built more than a dozen of these nifty receptacles. In cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies, these will be installed at several locations throughout Itasca County. Look for them soon in Grand Rapids at

- Crystal Lake
- Forest Lake
- Downtown riverfront
- Sylvan Bay

Additional locations include Tioga Beach and the Mississippi River in Cohasset; Coon Lake and Lake of the Isles in Scenic State Park; at Winnie Dam, Pokegama Dam, and Mud Lake Dam; at Trout Lake in Coleraine.

A NATURAL SHORELINE

Preserving shoreline is vital, but did you know that even shoreland which has already degraded can be restored? Native plants play a big role, providing habitat for aquatic creatures, attracting pollinators, and providing root structure to prevent erosion.



In keeping with the mission of its Shoreland Advisor program, Itasca Waters has worked with The University of Minnesota's North Central Research and Outreach Center (NCROC), growing hundreds of these for transplantation. Some of these will be used by the City of Grand Rapids in a riverbank restoration project at the bridge near the KAXE studio. Watch for updates; this event will give a firsthand look at plants and processes you can use on your own shoreline. More information (and inspiration!) can be found here: <https://itascawaters.org/shoreland-advisors>

FIRST FRIDAY IS BACK!

Little by little, the world is opening up once again. And just like you, we can hardly wait to get out and take a deep breath of it. Come see us during Grand Rapids' First Friday Art Walk on Friday, May 7. First Friday is a popular monthly event which brings people from the community at large to our beautiful downtown. You'll find us at the old Kremer's parking lot, across Highway 2 from Central Square Mall. Itasca Waters volunteers will be on hand to talk with you, sharing information and linking you with resources. There are terrific **PRIZES** to be won, and for those of you who are inspired to take a step toward improving your own shoreland, some of the native plants grown for us at NCROC will be ready for transplant and available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

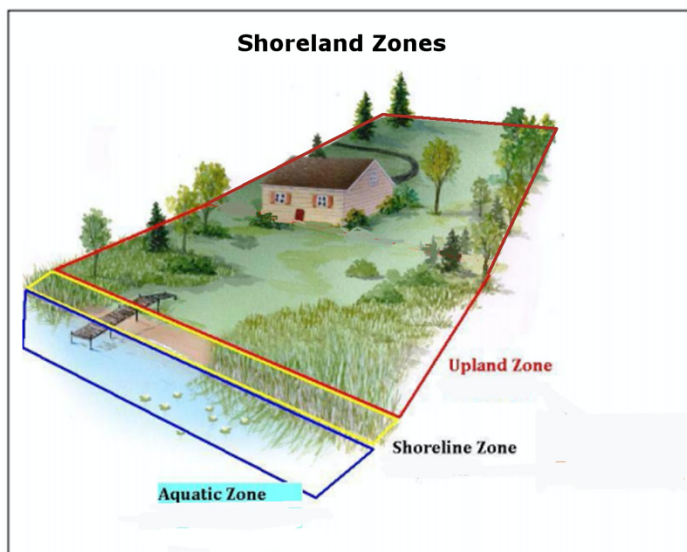


For more information about this event:

<https://grandrapidsarts.org/first-friday/>

HOW DOES YOUR SHORE SCORE?

A high score on the "Score Your Shore" quiz makes you a champion...for water. We ALL win when our rivers and lakes are healthy! Using criteria modeled by the Minnesota DNR guide of the same name, *Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR)* has designed a 10-item



questionnaire which helps property owners assess their land, shoreline, and aquatic zone. Questions pertain to issues such as erosion, habitat, groundwater, dock placement, and plant life. Itasca Waters and MLR encourage Itasca County lakeshore and riverfront owners to take this online quiz. Your score appears when your answers are submitted to MLR, then sent to Itasca Waters. If you would like to know more about the results of your

quiz, and learn ways you can protect shoreland and improve water quality, a visit from one of our volunteer Shoreland Advisors can be scheduled here <https://itascawaters.org/shoreland-advisors> or by calling (218) 256-5998.

Go ahead - Take The Quiz today!