

# Lake Coordinator Report



**To:** Lida LID Residents  
**From:** Hannah Passolt, Lake Coordinator, Houston Engineering  
**Subject:** Annual Meeting Report  
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## Introduction

Hello! My name is Hannah Passolt and I'm a scientist working out of Houston Engineering's Fargo office. I have been working on LLID projects for several years, and in June of this year, I started as the Lake Coordinator. I am looking forward to continuing this important work, which will contribute to preserving and improving the quality of Lida lakes for many years to come.

This annual report documents what we have been working on this year and includes summaries of the Aquatic Invasive Species management efforts, water quality monitoring, and the Comprehensive Lakeshed Study Report.



## Curly-leaf Pondweed

Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) is an invasive aquatic plant that has been present in the Lida Lakes for many years. It generally grows from the shore to water depths of 15 feet and can grow up to 15 feet tall. The biggest advantage CLP has over native plants is its unique life cycle. It's usually the first to come up in the spring, and it dies off in mid-summer, forming large mats on the water's surface that can interfere with recreation and become a safety hazard.



Surveys are completed each year to inspect areas of CLP, assess the effectiveness of herbicide treatments, and identify treatment areas for the following year. Following the 2025 treatment area recommendations, herbicide treatments were applied in May of 2026.

We conducted a post-treatment survey in June of this year, when the CLP was large and mature. The areas that were treated with herbicide this year were either very sparse or void of curly-leaf pondweed, meaning we achieved effective treatment. However, some new areas of CLP were identified and are recommended for treatment in spring of 2027. The full survey results and recommended treatment areas are presented in the 2026 Curly-leaf Pondweed Post-Treatment Inspection Report.

## Water Quality Monitoring

North and South Lida Lakes have been monitored consistently for more than 20 years, so we have a lot of information to work with that has increased our understanding of the lakes and provided insight as to how they change over time.

We primarily look at nutrients (phosphorus), algae, and water clarity; these parameters give us the best picture of overall water quality and lake conditions. Both North and South Lida are showing improving trends in water quality from 1998-2026. The improving clarity is likely due to zebra mussels, but the phosphorus is also improving, which shows the lake's overall water quality is improving.



To look up lake testing results for North and South Lida, visit: <https://lakes.rmbel.com>.

## Water Quality Study

In 2025 the LLID was awarded a state grant in the amount of \$57,000 to conduct a scientific lake study through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The grant funding comes from the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy amendment.

The study aimed to determine the phosphorus sources to the lake and identify a list of projects to help reduce phosphorus levels in the lake. Houston Engineering, Inc. conducted the study and completed the study report in April of 2026. The results of the study will be presented at the 2026 annual meeting.

