



Eagle Lake Improvement Association (ELIA)

Willmar MN | Summer 2025 Newsletter

[Board of Directors](#) | [EagleLakeWillmar.com](#) | Facebook: [Page](#), [Group](#)

July 4th Boat Parade

We are encouraging lake residents to decorate their boats, pontoons, and jet skis for the July 4th parade. This is a great family event. Prizes will be given to category winners and this year we have a prize for every youth that is in the parade.

The Lake Association will be providing bags of candy for those that are watching the parade. Some residents had expressed concerns with bags of candy getting into the lake. We have listened to their concerns and will be using jet skis to get closer to the docks to distribute the candy. We are hoping this resolves the concerns about bags left in the water. It is also a good idea this year because of the high water levels of the lake and for safety reasons.

If we have rain on the 4th that prevents us from holding the parade, we will try to reschedule it for another time during the 4th of July weekend. If this happens, we will be posting the new time and date on facebook and send out an email to those residents who have provided their email address.

- Boat Line Up: 1:45 pm at the Boat Landing
- Start Time: 2:00 pm
- Parade Direction: Counter Clockwise from Boat Landing
- Candy bags: Handed out by volunteers on jet skis during the parade Awards:
 - Most Creative, Most Family-Friendly, Most Patriotic, and Youth Float (done by kids - please see "Important Notice" below)

Registration for Parade: Please register by emailing Lisa at lisa08busee@gmail.com or call/text (651) 319-3249. If you don't register, please just join in the fun of the parade! If you have any questions about the boat parade, please contact: Lisa Weckwerth at the email or phone number listed above.

"IMPORTANT NOTICE"

Starting on July 1, 2025, Minnesota will require boaters under 21 years of age to obtain a watercraft operator's permit to operate any motorized watercraft including boats, pontoons, or jet skis. This requirement will gradually extend to all people born after June 30, 1987 by 2028, and the permit can be obtained through an online safety course for a fee of \$34.95.

Due to recent heavy rainfall, Kandiyohi County Commissioners issued a No Wake Restriction within 150 ft of the shoreline. This restriction will expire June 25th, but if we continue to receive large amounts of rain, they will enact it again. Please use your discernment and be considerate of lakeshore property shorelines. Thank you!

Browse photos from previous boat parades on our Facebook page: [2024](#) | [2023](#) | [2022](#)



2025 Eagle Lake Summer Picnic

- Friday, August 1, 2025
- Willmar Community Center - 624 US-71 BUS, Willmar, MN 56201
- 5:30-6:30 – Registration & Social Hour
- 6:30-7:30 – Dinner
- 7:30-8:30 – Update from the Board

Every summer the Eagle Lake Improvement Association hosts a picnic to help everyone renew acquaintances and meet new residents. All residents who have paid membership dues are invited. You can pay your 2025 dues at the picnic. You and your family are invited. We'd love to see you there!

Food and refreshments are provided. For insurance reasons, only non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, but you may bring your own beverages.

Our attendance has increased, therefore this year our picnic will be held at the Willmar Community Center where there is more space and we have air conditioning. Our new Eagle Lake logo will be revealed that evening, as well as the merchandise that will be available to be ordered.

[Take a look at boat parade memories from last year on our Facebook page.](#)



Calling All Creative Artists...We Want Your Designs!

We need some new Eagle Lake wear & gear and are looking for talented and imaginative artists to help us design a series of fresh, unique logos that capture the spirit and style of our lake. Whether you're a seasoned designer or an up-and-coming creative, we want to see your ideas!

We're looking for multiple logo concepts for apparel and merchandise, and we're seeking designs that reflect the natural beauty, adventure, and community of Eagle Lake. If you're interested in designing, please submit a copy of your proposed logo(s) and/or a few samples of your apparel designs (with fun sayings, artwork, etc.). Let's create something amazing together!

Hand drawn ideas would need more work to transfer to clothing/embroider so anything electronic/digital would be best. If hand drawn, please ensure images have dense/thick edging.

We have a short deadline of July 8th, but we know it can be done!

Please attach your creative designs in an email sent to LImarks@yahoo.com or drop in the mailbox at 2531 66th Ave NE (West Side of Lake) with your Name and contact information attached.

If you happen to be the recipient of any of the winning designs, your creative ideas will be rewarded by receiving a "free" printed t-shirt or the equivalent off of any other apparel order you may want. Let's get those creative designs started!

2025 Carp Update

The lake association has been working with commercial fisherman Jason George to remove the rough fish again this year. Jason has done the rough fish removal the past two years. This year has been different from other years. With the depth of the ice this year, the water stayed cooler longer this spring. The carp and buffalo did not school up early this spring like years past. When the water warmed up and the fish finally began to school, we received large amounts of rain in June. With the extensive amount of water coming into Eagle Lake from Halvorson slough, it was impossible to set nets and remove them. Our lake levels rose almost 14 inches from June 1st to June 16th! The water levels began to recede the week of June 16th. We are hoping to begin the removal process before the July 4th weekend.

The board would like to say "Thank You" to all those that donated to the carp removal fund. Your support has been amazing! We will keep everyone up-to-date, once we are able to net and remove the rough fish.

[Read the West Central Tribune article from May 31, 2024](#)

[View the 2024 carp removal videos on our Facebook page: May 31 | July 21](#)

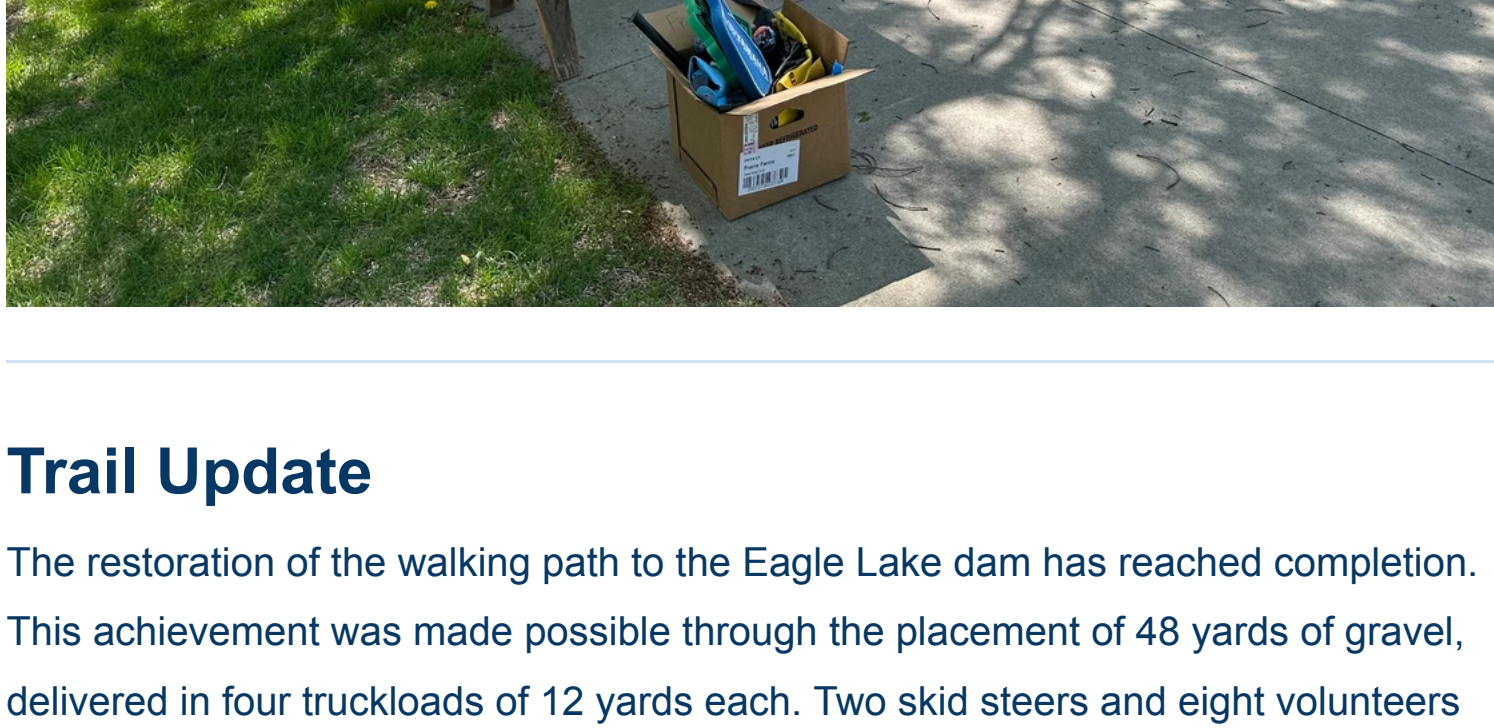
[Browse carp removal photos from 2023 on our Facebook page.](#)



Garage Sale Recap

This year's Garage Sale weekend was a huge success! We received many compliments about how well things went. Start gathering your things for next May! It will be held on May 8-9, 2026.

[Check out more photos on the Eagle Lake Facebook page here.](#)



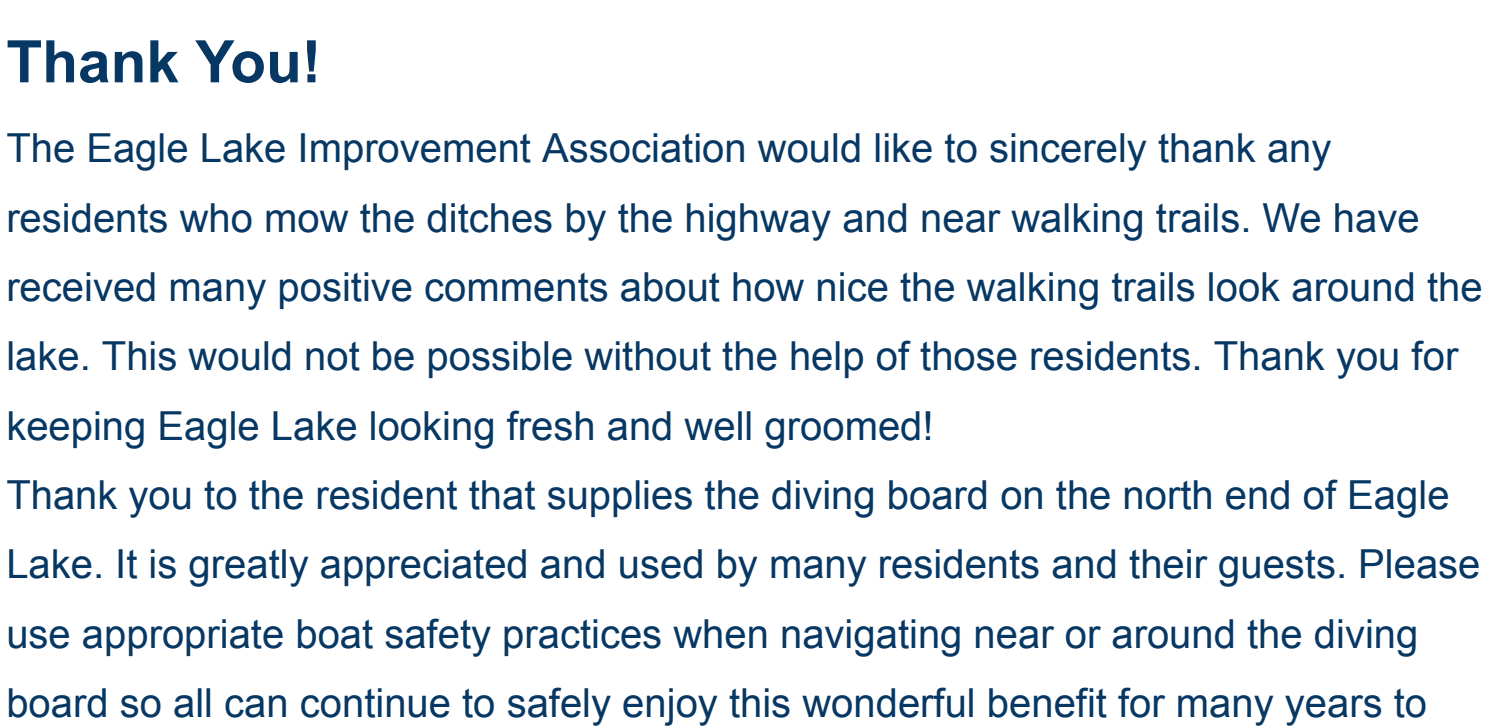
Trail Update

The restoration of the walking path to the Eagle Lake dam has reached completion. This achievement was made possible through the placement of 48 yards of gravel, delivered in four truckloads of 12 yards each. Two skid steers and eight volunteers contributed significantly to the project's success. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Wyatt Weckwerth and Dan Pomranke for their generous donation of heavy equipment and expert operating skills. Their contribution has significantly reduced manual labor and expenses for the ELIA. The volunteers included five current board members: Dale Neal, Dan Pomranke, Darrell Forkrud, Wyatt Weckwerth, and Dan Lorinser; two past board members: Myron Macik and Jim Brown; and one long-time homeowner on the lake, Leon Kettner. Following the completion of the project, Jeannie Kettner kindly provided cinnamon rolls from Sunray, which were greatly appreciated. We encourage you to visit the dam and enjoy the beautiful scenery, featuring a walking bridge, benches, and a gravel walking path free of debris and downed trees.

Despite the recent heavy rains and flooding of the path, the work done has held up. A big thank you to all the men who helped with this project.

[Check out more trail clean up photos on our Facebook page.](#)

[View photos of the dead trees at the dam in May on our Facebook page.](#)



Thank You!

The Eagle Lake Improvement Association would like to sincerely thank any residents who mow the ditches by the highway and near walking trails. We have received many positive comments about how nice the walking trails look around the lake. This would not be possible without the help of those residents. Thank you for keeping Eagle Lake looking fresh and well groomed!

Thank you to the resident that supplies the diving board on the north end of Eagle Lake. It is greatly appreciated and used by many residents and their guests. Please use appropriate boat safety practices when navigating near or around the diving board so all can continue to safely enjoy this wonderful benefit for many years to come.

Upcoming Events

- Boat Parade - Friday, July 4
- Summer Picnic - Friday, August 1
- Leaf Pickup - Saturday, November 1
- Winter Social - January 9, 2026

Membership Dues

We have 170 paid members as of the end of May of 2025. Our goal for 2025 is to have 210 paid members. If you have not paid your dues yet, please consider supporting the lake association. A \$50.00 investment gives you many benefits that include:

- Water quality – testing and reporting to the DNR
- We work with the DNR on algae blooms, weed control, fish population.
- Benches along the walking path around the lake
- Work with the DNR, county, and township on issues that arise that impact our lake
- Annual summer picnic Annual banquet meeting
- Fall leaf pickup
- Maintain website and Facebook page
- Quarterly newsletter
- Advertisement for the annual garage sale
- Boat parade candy and prizes
- Eagle Lake directory every three years
- We work with legislatures and local government to address any issues surrounding Eagle Lake
- Rough fish removal

Your Board of Directors continues to look for ways to save money and also provide the best service. With the high cost of postage, it was decided to eliminate printing and mailing a hard copy of the Eagle Lake Newsletter. Our communications moving forward will be via email and Facebook. Please join [Eagle Lake Facebook page](#) for communication and to have access to Lost & Found items on the lake.

- Pay online: [Click here](#) to pay via Venmo & fill out the online form.
- Pay by check: [Visit our website](#) to download the membership due form.

Mission Statement

We are a non-profit organization committed to enhancing, preserving, and protecting the quality of Eagle Lake and its watershed. In collaboration with public agencies, we promote responsible environmental practices and provide information and opportunities to unite the Eagle Lake community through recreation, social, and civic activities.