Our Precious and Threatened Lakes

Minnesota is blessed with some of the cleanest lakes in North America, actually some of the cleanest lakes on Earth. These lakes have drawn people to them for generations, powering the economy in Minnesota’s lakes areas. Family times, lakeside relaxation, and on the water recreation have brought us all to the Pelican Group of Lakes. Unfortunately, our lakes face many threats that can change their character, reducing the benefits future generations enjoy. Learn More.

The threats to our lakes are many and often those threats synergize upon each other to produce greater changes in our lakes than we would have thought possible. Changing natural habitats to developed areas increases runoff, reduces food sources for native species including those in the lake, and causes changes in community expectations of what our watershed should look like. Changes in climate patterns are producing larger rainfalls and quicker snowmelt increasing erosion and the runoff of sediment and nutrients into our lakes. Invasive species capitalize on these disturbances in the natural balance to establish and spread, capturing pollutants and utilizing them to grow and thrive with often dramatic results. Increasing amounts of medications, chemicals, and herbicides are reaching our lakes changing the biology of our lakes in ways both obvious and imperceptible.

There are many simple steps each of us can take to help retain the lakes as we have known them for future generations. This summer we are featuring a series of news articles that outline separate threats to our lakes and some steps you can take to minimize those threats. Each article has links to additional information and resources that can assist landowners technically and financially to help preserve our lakes. Please visit the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District [website](https://pgolid.org/) to get a jump on implementing lake friendly projects or check the PLPOA newsletter monthly for new articles and links. Thank you for your efforts to maintain our lakes for future generations.