

# You can't park there, Ma'am



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# 2026-2027 PGOLID - Merganser Nesting Site Abatement Project

## Assumptions

- Merganser brood (ducklings) are the primary vector for infecting the ubiquitous snails in the lake with the swimmer's itch parasite.
- Mergansers choose nesting sites from existing tree holes and cannot make new ones on their own.
- If there are no suitable nesting holes in an area, we expect the adults will move on to another place to nest.
- 2026 Spring had about eight (8) successful merganser nests in the LID.
- We currently **DO NOT HAVE** freedom to **directly** manage the merganser population or brood infection status.
- We currently **DO HAVE** the ability to reduce/eliminate any hospitable nesting sites on the ~1,400 privately owned PGOLID parcels (1,525 acres).
- We **DO HAVE** a very good idea what type of nest the mergansers will choose.
- We **CAN MAKE** that nesting site unavailable to the merganser by physically excluding the nesting adults.

# **2026-2027 PGOLID - Merganser Nesting Site Abatement Project**

## **The MNSAP Proposal:**

- 1. Work with experts to identify a) the highest nesting impact beaches in LID and b) the target nest specifications (Height, Opening size, Depth, Distance from shore).**
- 2. Negotiate a contract with 3<sup>rd</sup> Party to identify, document, and install appropriate, permanent, merganser exclusion device on the nest holes present in the target areas that meet spec. (e.g. 1,900 trees on 500 acres ~ \$90 / tree)**
- 3. Get landowner approval on targeted properties.**
- 4. Work to be completed before nest selection in spring of 2027**
- 5. Survey merganser nest and brood population during summer 2027 to assess impact of nesting site abatement project.**
- 6. Target would be > 50% reduction in successful nests lakewide. (2026 basis = 8)**
- 7. Evaluate the necessity of a 2027-2028 MNSA Project**

Lund's motion to provide funding for this project:

**A Motion to:**

- 1. Increase the overall levy request for 2027 by \$50,000 (~\$50 per owner) to a new total of \$200,000**
- 2. Combine the new \$50,000 with existing 2027 \$30,000 Itch contingency budget for \$80,000 total to be used on the MNSAP Project in 2027.**
- 3. Approve the use of up to \$100,000 out of the \$160,000 of the existing working capital reserve available to the MNSAP project.**