

# Lake Improvement District Proposal Template & Instructions

Citizens proposing a Lake Improvement District (LID) should organize their information as shown and explained in this template. Proposers should also be aware that, with the exception of the Table of Contents, each of the items discussed in the template below is required to be in the LID proposal by Minnesota statute and rule and is necessary for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct its review and issue an advisory report. When the DNR receives a LID proposal to evaluate, the DNR will first perform a completeness check to make sure that each of these items has been addressed; **if this is not the case, then the proposal will be deemed incomplete.**

## Table of Contents

Include a Table of Contents at the beginning of the proposal. This is a convenient way to make sure that all of the required information is covered in the proposal. For example:

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## The Problem(s)

What is the reason for the proposed LID? In this section, provide an explanation of the lake's problem(s) that the proposed LID will address. Discuss the history and magnitude of the problem(s) to help put the problem into perspective. For example, it is not sufficient to just say 'there are too many weeds.' Instead, explain the problem. For example: 'Since it was first discovered in 1986, curlyleaf pondweed has expanded and now covers 70% of the lake surface, choking out native vegetation and making boating and swimming difficult.'

## Objective(s)

In this section, provide the objectives for the LID. Objectives should break down the specific targets to address the stated problem(s). This can be a simple bulleted list of high-level outcomes. Common objectives from LID proposals include:

- Improve the lake's water quality by:
  - reducing phosphorus concentrations in the lake,
  - reducing the amount of sediment entering the lake, and
  - reducing the amount of nutrients entering the lake from adjacent land or the watershed.
- Preserve and enhance native vegetation.
- Improve aquatic and shoreline habitat.
- Reduce curlyleaf pondweed.
- Prevent new aquatic invasive species from getting established in the lake.
- Develop information and education programs for landowners.
- Conduct studies to understand what is contributing to the stated problem(s).

## Proposed Projects, Programs & Activities

Now that the proposal has identified the problem and objectives, what is the LID going to do to address them? In this section, provide an explanation about the proposed projects, programs, and activities to be undertaken by the LID. This must include complete explanations of the intended studies, management programs, and other activities to be pursued. Common projects, programs, and activities from LID proposals include:

- herbicide or mechanical harvesting to decrease aquatic plants
- dredging to remove sediment
- drawdowns to freeze and compact nutrient-laden sediments
- shoreline restoration projects to intercept runoff, improve water quality, and provide habitat
- water level studies and management

This section should also summarize and explain past or current programs and activities that are relevant to the problem(s). For example: 'The lake association has treated infested areas of the lake with herbicides twice a year

for the past three years.’ Include any relevant surveys, feasibility studies, or reports. If the lake association has already been treating curlyleaf pondweed for the past five years, include maps of the past treatment areas and vegetation distributions over that time, contractors’ reports, and an analysis of results. This information is essential to help the LID make the best treatment and project choices for the lake and to help the DNR provide the best guidance in the advisory report.

## LID Boundary

In this section, describe the boundary of the proposed LID, including an estimate of the number of properties included. Include a map showing the following:

- Boundaries of the proposed LID
- Location of homes and parcel lines
- Public water accesses
- A scale and North arrow
- Basic information that helps locate the lake on a map, such as streets or township/section/range

The proposers can ask their local GIS department for help in making an acceptable map, such as the example in **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1:** Example boundary map made by Crow Wing County for a proposed LID.



## Financing

In this section, provide a complete explanation of how the programs and activities will be financed. The LID proposers will need to work this out with the city or county who will be collecting the LID's finances on its behalf. The funding amount will be dependent on the number of property owners in the district and the kinds of programs that the LID will be pursuing: water quality and aquatic invasive species monitoring where no invasives are present is inexpensive, while a dredging program is very expensive.

## Board of Directors

In this section, explain the number and make-up of directors proposed for the LID. LIDs have between five and nine directors on the board. Board members must be property owners within the LID boundary and the majority of board members must be residents of the district (as opposed to vacation property owners). The city or county with jurisdiction will appoint the initial board of directors upon establishment of the LID, but subsequent members are elected by the residents of the LID.

## Existing Regulations

In this section, provide links to the following local ordinances and regulations:

- Shoreland management
- Floodplain management
- Wetland management
- Water safety/Water surface use
- Use or operation of lake public accesses
- Any other local ordinances affecting the use of the lake or lands around the lake.

Here is an example from a LID proposal (chapters, articles, and divisions reference those sections of the local zoning code for the county in which the LID is located):

*“Local ordinances regulating the use of the lake include (hyperlinks provided):*

- Chapter 30 – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS
  - ARTICLE VI. – ZONING
    - [DIVISION 10.5. - WETLAND BUFFERING REQUIREMENTS](#)
    - [DIVISION 11. – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT](#)
    - [DIVISION 12. – SHORELAND MANAGEMENT](#)
- Chapter 86 – WATERWAYS
  - [ARTICLE II. – WATER SAFETY](#)

## Local Interest & Commitment to Future Management

In this section, explain the local interest in improving the lake and establishing a LID, as well as the community's commitment to future management of the LID. This information could be reflected in the number of people supporting the petition, feedback received during the petition process, or the community's history of involvement with lake improvement projects and participation in any existing lake association. This information is important because a high level of local interest in the LID is necessary to maintain it. If there is little local interest in it, then the LID will be less successful at its intended goals or continuing as a type of government. The information may also provide additional important background information on the lake and its problems. Here is an example from a LID proposal:

*“Local interest and commitment have strongly been demonstrated since 1995 with the initial creation of our Sedimentation Task Force partnership with the City and SWCD to successfully address sedimentation concerns in 1998.”*

*After project completion in 1999, the group became the Water Quality Committee partnership to collaborate on all areas needed to protect and enhance the quality of the lake, its fisheries and wildlife habitats; preserve its economic, recreational and natural environmental values; and promote its safe and responsible use. The committee published its first formal lake management plan in 2004.*

*A public survey was conducted in 2016 to provide feedback for the current Lake Management Plan in regards to the lake's problems and what solutions are supported. It is evident from the survey results that residents' feedback is aligned with the Lake Management Plan identified challenges, which include:*

- 1. Sedimentation of the lakebed*
- 2. Proliferation of curly-leaf pondweed*
- 3. Nuisance native plant overgrowth and algae and*
- 4. Impairment of water quality.*

*Results of the survey indicate:*

- 98% feel water quality is a problem*
- 92% feel algae is a problem*
- 88% feel aquatic plants are a problem*
- 83% feel sedimentation is a problem”*

## Lands & Waters That May Be Adversely Affected by the LID's Proposed Actions

In this section, identify any likely adverse impacts to lands and waters resulting from the LID's proposed actions. If this is a possibility, it requires discussion so the DNR can provide guidance to minimize harm and mitigating impacts. Also, remember that a LID is type of government and has a responsibility to anticipate likely adverse effects from its actions and take appropriate steps to mitigate them. Possible impacts and scenarios include, but are not limited to:

- impacts from water level manipulations, where downstream lands could be flooded or experience a reduction in water levels.
- impacts from sediment dredging and deposition of dredged sediment.
- spreading aquatic invasive species through fragmentation from a mechanical harvester.

Here is an example from a LID formed to dredge sediments from a reservoir:

*“No waters will be adversely affected by the implementation of the district purposes, but there will be short term impacts to crop production on lands that receive dredge spoils.”*

## Public Accesses

The proposal must include a description and show the location(s) and ownership(s), of any existing public accesses on the lake. If the lake does not have any public accesses, then the need for a public access must be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Size of the lake
- Extent of public interest in using the lake
- How the lake is used (e.g., fishing, boating, wild ricing, swimming)

This information is typically available on [MN DNR's Lakefinder webpage](#), via the Water Access Sites link on the left navigation pane. For example, this is the public water access information for Maple Lake in Wright County:

### **Maple Lake (W) Public Water Access Site**

**Directions to access:** 1 mi E of the City of Maple Lake on Mn Hwy 55, to S shore.

[Bing](#) | [Google](#) | [Google Earth](#)

**Administrator:** City of Maple Lake

#### **Facilities:**

- 1 ramp (type=concrete slab)
- 1 parking lot (type=)
- no vehicle parking spaces
- 5 vehicle/trailer parking spaces
- no accessible parking spaces
- 1 dock
- no restrooms

**Lat/Lon:** 45.226396, -93.978337

## **Estimate of Total Equalized Valuation of Property Within the District**

In this section, provide a brief statement with the required estimate. The proposers can get this information from the city or county tax records, with help from city or county staff. It does not need to be complicated or lengthy. The following language would be sufficient:

*“The estimated total equalized value of property in the District is \$XXX,XXX.”*

## **Any Other Supporting Information**

In this section, discuss anything unique to the lake not included in the previous sections, that would affect the proposed programs, projects, activities, or functioning of the proposed LID. This is a catchall item because every lake is unique and the checklist of standards and criteria in rule cannot address every possible circumstance that could affect every lake in Minnesota.