

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO ENHANCE AND PROTECT THE LAKE

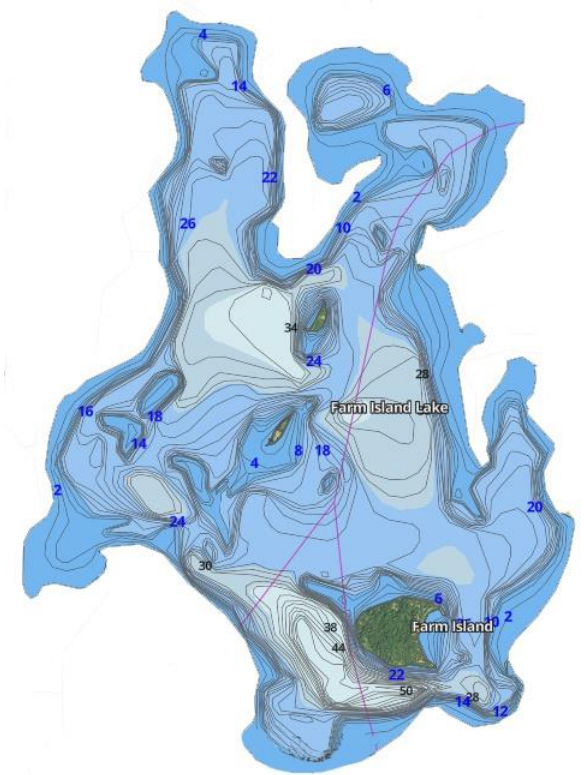
As property owners and visitors on Farm Island Lake we have a responsibility to protect and enhance the quality of the lake. We have seen improvements in many areas and we can continue to make gains by following these best management practices.

- 1. Maintain or establish a buffer zone between your yard and the lake.**
 - Limit fertilizing.
 - Slow shore run off by terracing your landscape.
 - Establish buffer zones of woody vegetation, tall grasses and native plants to prevent erosion and nutrients from reaching the lake.
 - Minimize the removal of aquatic plants since they help to stabilize shorelines and provide habitat for fish and other wildlife.
- 2. Maintenance of your lawn.**
 - Limit fertilizing and don't fertilize within 50 feet of the lake.
 - Use zero-phosphorus fertilizer.
 - Keep grass clippings, leaves and pet waste out of the lake.
- 3. Prevent the spread of exotic and invasive species. Clean, Drain, Dispose, Dry.**
- 4. Septic systems should be up to code** with local ordinances and properly maintained.
 - Do not dispose of paint, solvents, pesticides or household cleaners down the drain.
 - Minimize using antibacterial cleaning products.
 - Practice water conservation.
 - Have your septic system pumped at least every three years, more often if heavily used.
 - Systems with garbage disposals should be pumped every year.
- 5. Get involved with FILIA.**
 - Provide FILIA with your thoughts and suggestions on how we can continue to improve Farm Island Lake.

MNDNR BOATING AND FISHING GUIDE

is on our website and the DNR's. Here is some important information.

- PWC (jet skis) hours of operation are between 9:30 AM and sunset.
- PWC must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore, docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft, or nonmotorized watercraft. Exception is when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water.
- **It is illegal** to chase or harass wildlife, or weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of that boat.



FARM ISLAND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

“WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FARM ISLAND LAKE”

FarmIslandLake.org

FILIA

PO Box 135, Aitkin, MN 56431

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The Farm Island Lake Improvement Association is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, and a tax-exempt, environmental organization under article 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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Discover newsletters and more lake information at our website FarmIslandLake.org.

MINNESOTA LAW REQUIREMENTS

- **Clean** watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash and dispose of bait water.
- **Dry** docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into other waters.

For more information on the Minnesota law, which holds true whether or not a lake is listed as infested – go to the MNDNR website and search invasive laws.

Be sure to inform your visitors and neighbors of this important Minnesota regulation, which is also important and necessary to keep our lake clean and free of invasive species.

Important Phone Numbers

Aitkin County Sheriff & Water Patrol	218-927-7435
MNDNR Hotline	651-296-6157
AIS Specialist	218-203-4354

If you view or witness a concern, please call the Aitkin County Sherriff's office at 218-927-7435 and provide as much information as you can i.e., photos, videos and location. Our local law enforcement really does want to hear from you.

ABOUT FARM ISLAND LAKE

OHWL (Ordinary High-Water Level) is 1255.50 feet
Area: 2,005 acres **Shore Length:** 14.7 miles
Max Depth: 56 feet **Avg. Water Clarity:** 8 feet

The Ripple River flows into the lake on the west side and out on the northeast into Little Pine Lake. It flows through a number of lakes and empties into the Mississippi River in Aitkin.

There are 3 islands on the lake. The largest is Farm Island, or big island, at 29 acres. It gets its name from local farmers who, years ago, would graze livestock in the summer, using the ice or boats to transport their cattle, sheep and goats.

In June, 2020 Farm Island Lake was added to MNDNR infested waters list for Zebra Mussels.

The FILIA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund

- In efforts to maintain a healthy lake the FILIA AIS fund was created over 20 years ago to have monies available in case of an urgent issue arising for controlling AIS, which can be quite expensive.
- The fund was originally developed for the potential infestation of Eurasian Milfoil, but is now expanded to include any and all invasive species, both animal and plant.



THE PURPOSE OF THE FARM ISLAND LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (FILIA)

is to maintain and improve the environmental quality of Farm Island Lake and its watershed through a variety of best management practices and to address issues that concern lakeshore property owners on or near the lake.

Lake property owners and visitors will benefit recreationally and environmentally from the extensive efforts being made to preserve and promote the valuable natural resources of this central Minnesota lake.

The FILIA Board of Directors invite lakeshore property owners, seasonal residents and visitors to become engaged with an organization dedicated to preserving and protecting this great resource we all enjoy, by becoming a member of FILIA.

If you have not been a FILIA member in the past, please consider joining this year. If you are already a member, we hope you will continue to support the stewardship that FILIA provides. Visitors are also invited to donate money toward the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) fund.

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association Membership

\$25 per year Date _____

Name _____

Mailing address _____

Address if different than above _____

Phone number(s) _____

Email address(es) _____

You will receive the FILIA newsletters if you include your email.

Donate to the Aquatic Invasive Species Fund \$ _____

Won't you join us? Email your information or mail the enclosed form with your voluntary \$25 dues or donate online at FarmIslandLake.org. We'd love to see you at our annual meeting, which meets the 3rd Saturday each June from 9:00-11:00 AM at Hazelton Town Hall. FILIA address: PO Box 135, Aitkin, MN 56431. Email: FIILALake@gmail.com.