

February 11, 2008

Mr. & Mrs. Lakeshore Property Owner
1234 Sunnyside Lane
Sunfish Lake, MN 55118

Dear Lakeshore Property Owners:

In response to citizens' concerns about lake access for ice fishing by non-residents, the Sunfish Lake City Council spent a significant amount of time at our January 15th meeting discussing possible solutions to the problem. The concerns included the following issues:

- Do the non-residents have valid permission to fish?
- What are the regulations for fishing (i.e. time of day, number of anglers, proper removal of equipment and debris)?
- Are there potential safety/security risks because of what appears to be an increase in non-resident ice fishing, as well as insufficient regulatory control?

City Attorney Timothy Kuntz and West St. Paul Police Chief Bud Shaver advised that since the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources supersedes the City in fishing regulations, the City should concentrate its efforts on addressing access to the water over private property in order to better manage what occurs on the water.

The Sunfish Lake City Council proposes the following recommendations:

1. If you grant permission to non-residents to access the lake, please state that permission in writing and ask that the non-residents keep the written permission on their person when they are on the lake. This will help in identifying who has permission and who does not have permission.
2. As a lakeshore property owner, if you wish to control access to the lake across your land, you should write a letter of intent to the West St. Paul Police Department, indicating who may or may not have permission to cross your property. You may also wish to give the police department permission to access your property in order to monitor and enforce this intent. (This letter will be especially valuable for "snowbirds" who may want to regulate

trespassing while they are gone for extend periods of time). Contact the West St. Paul Police Department for guidelines on this process at (651) 552-4200.

3. Lakeshore property owners may wish to post a “No Trespassing” sign on their land as a more direct way of managing the problem. Contact our City Planner Annie Rexine at (763) 231-2555 or arexine@nacplanning.com for guidelines about sign posting.
4. The West St. Paul Police Department has assigned Officer Matt Muellner, whose specialty is Park and Recreation issues, to monitor our lakes on a regular basis as well as to respond to citizens’ calls regarding any irregularity on the water. Officer Muellner may be reached at (651) 552-4200, when needed.
5. The DNR has assigned Officer Tony Salzer to monitor our lakes to ensure that good fishing practices are maintained (i.e. proper equipment usage and removal, as well as proof of a valid fishing license). Officer Salzer may be reached at (651) 779-3651.

These measures have been developed to better regulate the access of our lakes over private property. The success of this program depends on community commitment, communication and consistency. We’re all in this together. Furthermore, it applies to all of our lakes equally. Our professional Peace Officers are ready and willing to aid us. And the more information we all give them, the better they will be able to implement our guidelines. Let’s work at this together to **MAKE THIS WORK!!**

Thanks for your time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (651) 455 8809 or mollypark@mac.com.

Stay warm, safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Mayor Molly Park