



# ITASCA WATERS

*Team Up for Clean Waters*

## What a Summer!

**WaterFest 2021**  
ItascaWaters.org  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH 4-9PM  
KAXE AMPHITHEATER - GRAND RAPIDS, MN

**COMMUNITY EVENT**  
**FREE ENTRY**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
JOHN DOWNING &  
HOLLY CHRISTENSON  
BROTHERS BURN MOUNTAIN

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
REIF CENTER DANCE  
GRAND RAPIDS PLAYERS  
**FOOD TRUCKS**  
SINGING CHIHUAHUA TACOS  
RUBY GENE'S

FEATURED LOCAL BREWERIES: KLOCKOW BREWING & RAPIDS BREWING COMPANY

ITASCA WATERS INVITES YOU TO A CELEBRATION OF OUR WATER

Anyone else ready for a party? With this summer's oppressive heat, seemingly endless drought, and this week's damaging storms, we sure do deserve one. This year has given us lots of reasons to *worry* about water, so we made **WaterFest** all about **FUN!** Come join us at this family-friendly event at the **KAXE/Rotary Amphitheater** on the banks of the Mighty Mississippi. You'll find food, entertainment, **PRIZES** - and lots of terrific people - all celebrating the beautiful waters that make ours a great place to live, work and play. Don't miss out!

## Where Are They Now?

Back in April, we told you about a collaborative project to restore native vegetation to part of the Mississippi River bank which had been disturbed by construction of the pedestrian bridge downtown near KAXE. There's been lots of progress since then! In May, **GRHS** students re-potted plants grown at the University of Minnesota's North Central Research and Outreach Center (**NCROC**) for Itasca Waters, preparing them for transplant. Under the direction of landscaper **Jeff Poenix**, the site was prepared by workers from the **City of Grand Rapids**, and on June 17, these vital plants found their forever home. A month later, the lush green now seen at the site shows that they are thriving!



A good day's work, May 11



Transplanting, June 17



Happy and healthy, July

[Read About This Project](#)

[An Important Tip](#)



We've seen low water levels before, but conditions in 2021 are now worse than those seen during the drought of 1988. Lake residents have had to move docks and lifts to find water deep enough to launch their boats. You might have had difficulty launching at a public access; **power loading** is one big reason. To avoid making a bad situation even *worse*, click below for recommendations from the **Minnesota DNR**:

[What is power loading?](#)

## SCORE YOUR SHORE

We're happy to report that the response to the **Minnesota Lakes & Rivers (MLR)** "Score Your Shore" quiz featured in our last bulletin has been tremendous! So far, 40 Itasca County residents have taken the quiz. Their scores show that our friends and neighbors are working hard and making a difference. Go ahead - click below to take the quiz yourself. In the words of Lake Steward Award winner Lloyd Thyen, "It seemed like the easiest thing to do. It took only a few minutes."

Take the Quiz and find out.

Are you a  
**LAKE  
STEWARD?**

Does your  
**SHORELINE  
PROTECT  
WATER QUALITY?**

Take the Quiz and find out.

[What's YOUR Score?](#)



## LEAD-FREE FOR LOONS

The cry of a loon at night is practically a birthright for Minnesotans, and never forgotten by visitors to our lakes. But a single lead sinker or jig can be fatal to one of these iconic birds. Funded by settlement proceeds of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a new **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)** program called "Get the Lead Out" is helping remove lead tackle from use, with collection sites popping up around the state. Stay tuned for information on collection sites near you.

[Learn More](#)

## Support Itasca Waters

**Itasca Waters is an all-volunteer registered nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining the health of our lakes and rivers. [Donations](#) in support of this important work are much appreciated. To learn more about what we do and how you can be a part of it, [visit us online](#) at [www.itascawaters.org](http://www.itascawaters.org).**

[DONATE](#)