

Keep it Clean Report 2018

☞ May 21-25

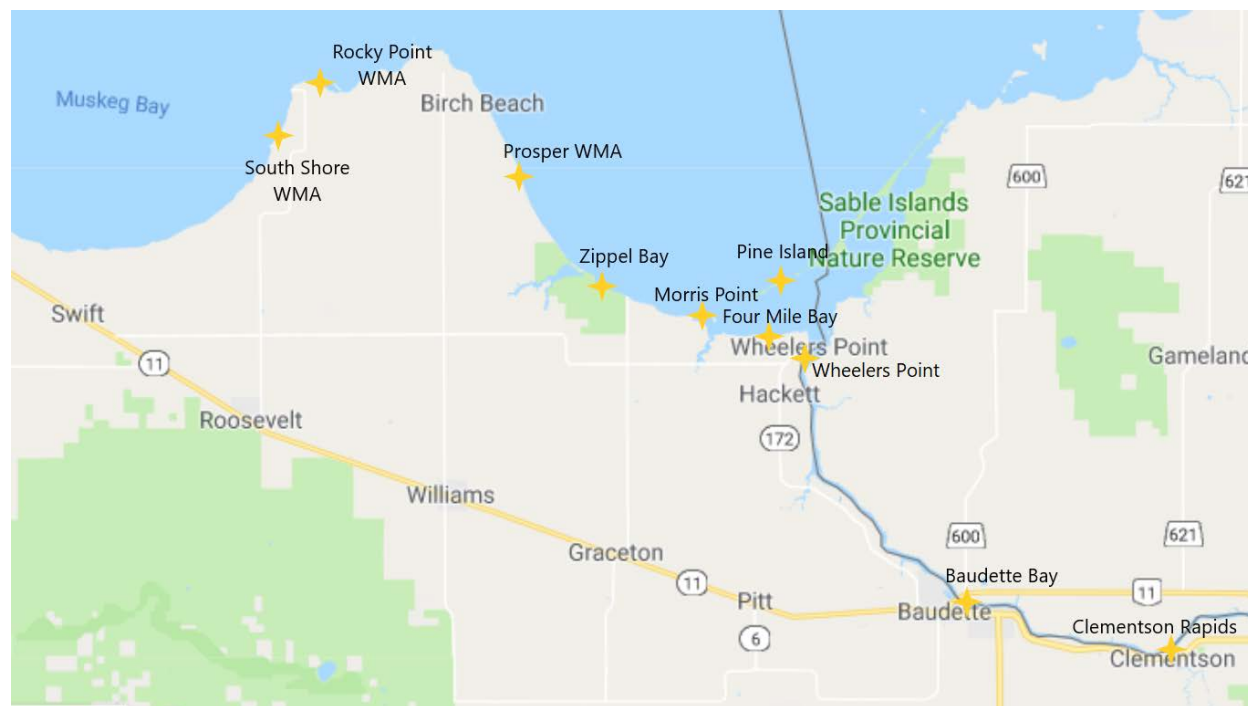
Lake of the Woods SWCD

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The *Keep it Clean* program was started in 2013 in order to preserve and maintain the waters and shorelines of Lake of the Woods County. Alongside the strategic placement of dumpsters and promotion of cleanly outdoor etiquette, the Lake of the Woods SWCD hosts a crew from the Conservation Corps of MN & IA to clean up various key areas after the Spring thaw (Page 3). For the week of May 21-25, a crew of four stationed in Duluth collaborated with LOTW SWCD staff to remove a total of 94 bags of trash from over twelve miles of shoreline.

Locations



Summary

Baudette Bay

The crew began cleanup at the Baudette Bay, with half of the team beginning at the north while the other half began from the fishing pier to the south by canoe. A total of 12 bags of trash were acquired from .3 miles of shoreline. They also removed a plastic drum, a microwave, and a flat screen television.

Clementson Rapids

Clementson Rapids is a particularly swift portion of the Rapid River which empties into a bay below at the confluence with Rainy River. Small amounts of trash have reportedly been found here in the past, and the crew cleared only three bags of trash from the .17 miles of shoreline.

Wheeler's Point

Half of the crew began at the boat launch and others began at the docks to the north. Collected from a .1-mile stretch, the four bags of trash consisted of boat hardware and rope as well as debris from ice fishing houses. Other items removed included three tires and a couple pieces of deteriorated steel structuring. In April, four bags of trash and burned up snowmobile were also removed from this site.



Three tires removed from Wheeler's Point

Pine Island

Thanks to the assistance from the MN DNR Fisheries office supplying a boat and a driver, the crew was transported from Wheeler's Point to Pine Island. The crew was then dropped off at the 'Shore Lunch' area near the western tip of the island. After a brief walk of the south side and determining that the north was much more laden with trash, the shore was walked from the west end until roughly the eastern edge of the wildlife sanctuary for a total 2.6 miles. The 23 bags of trash removed were comprised mostly of Styrofoam from ice houses and other plastic debris, as well as two small ice fishing poles. A tire, two five-gallon buckets, a traffic cone and a window casing were also found. The crew avoided the rare nesting bird habitat areas identified by the MN DNR Regional Nongame Specialist.



Debarking the boat from Pine Island at Wheeler's Point

Four-Mile Bay

Utilizing a Ranger UTV to access the site, the crew split from a central access road and went as far as possible in each direction. The 2 miles of shoreline were littered with timber and stakes and had a large sandy beach section followed by sparse shrub cover and cattails inland. Ten bags of trash, a buoy, a steel drum, and a sign were removed.



The crew and Ranger UTV full of trash at Four Mile Bay

Morris Point

Beginning at the Morris Point Resort parking lot to the west, the crew walked together eastward until the west edge of the wildlife sanctuary. Seven bags of trash and a box spring were cleaned from the .42 miles we walked. The shoreline was also littered with a very high quantity of washed up stakes and timber, and most had to be left. The crew avoided the rare nesting bird habitat areas identified by the MN DNR Regional Nongame Specialist.

Zippel Bay

The crew began at a central point, the beach access of Zippel Bay State Park, and split to walk in opposing directions. Due to anticipation of harsh weather next day, the crew returned early in order to go to Pine Island that day, covering 1.4 miles. Despite the interruption, a total of 13 bags of trash were cleaned from the site.

Prosper Wildlife Management Area

Splitting up once again, half of the crew walked south from an access point through private lands, while the other half took the UTV vehicle on a more southern access point and walked south from there. A total of five bags of trash were removed from this 1.9-mile long segment as well as two tires.



Removing a tire at Prosper WMA

Rocky Point Wildlife Management Area

Half of the crew began at the west access point and the other began at the east, walking to meet in the middle. The 1.7-mile shore was relatively clean, with a total of three bags been collected amongst the whole crew.

South Shore Wildlife Management Area

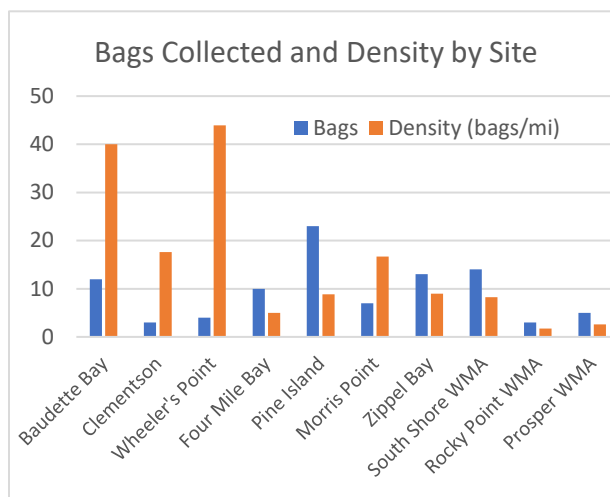
The crew walked as a whole for 1.7 miles from the northern edge near private landholdings to the southernmost point. After a brief delay from stormy weather, fourteen bags of trash were collected and hauled back up the shore.

Mileage



Figures and Analysis

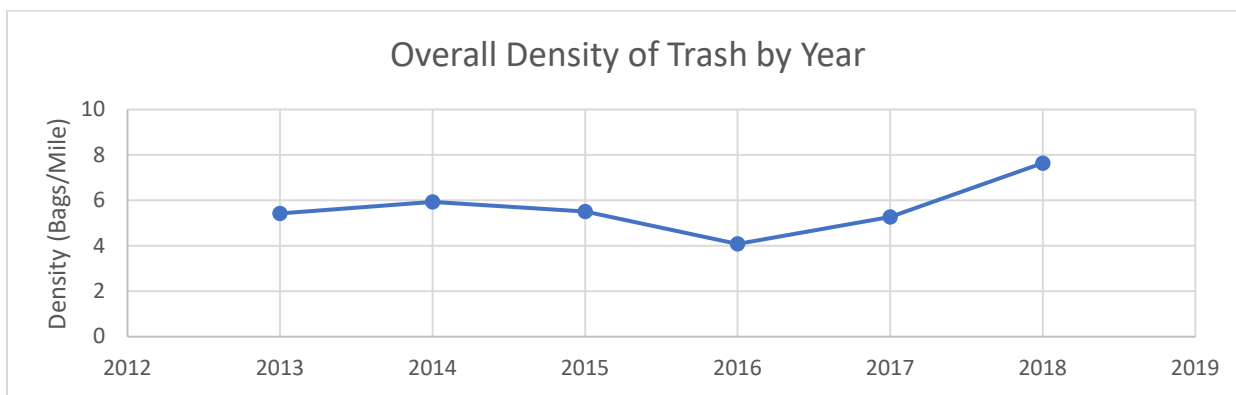
2018 Totals Site	Bags	Distance (miles)	Density (bags/mile)
Baudette Bay	12	0.30	40
Clementson	3	0.17	18
Wheeler's Point	4	0.091	44
Four Mile Bay	10	2.0	5.0
Pine Island	23	2.6	8.8
Morris Point	7	0.42	17
Zippel Bay	13	1.4	9
South Shore WMA	14	1.7	8.2
Rocky Point WMA	3	1.7	1.8
Prosper WMA	5	1.9	2.6
Total	94	12.3	7.7



Wheeler’s Point is the location of two Keep it Clean dumpsters during the ice fishing season and is also the busiest water access in the Summer, which could explain the high trash density found there. Baudette Bay, however, is located closest to town, and therefore may accrue more trash due to higher traffic. Based on total bags of trash collected, Pine Island was by far the dirtiest, which was observed qualitatively as well.

<i>Totals by Year</i>	Bags	Distance (miles)	Density (bags/mile)
2013	76	14	5.43
2014	86	14.5	5.93
2015	92	16.7	5.51
2016	64.5	15.8	4.08
2017	97	18.4	5.27
2018	94	12.3	7.64

Despite covering less mileage than other years, the crew collected a high quantity of trash. Comparing the overall density to other years, the level of trash has remained relatively stable until this year, perhaps indicating a particularly unclean Spring. The high quantity of trash collected could also be due to exceptionally low water levels in the county; this allowed for ease in maneuvering the shore and thus more thorough collection of trash shoreline by perhaps revealing trash that may have been hidden in previous years. This caused more time to be spent on collecting the increased trash level than covering a larger distance. Trash density appeared to decline up until 2016, where it began to rise to where it is now.



This project was made possible by Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. A portion of these funds are dedicated to Clean Water Fund to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater.