

Hello. Here's an update and a few notes about tomorrow's lake / park cleanup.

Safety First

- Lake ice is never 100% safe.
- Any event participants who prefer to stay on shore are more than welcome to do so. There is plenty of parkland that would benefit from our groups' cleanup efforts. It is up to you to decide whether to do a shore cleanup or a lake cleanup. Either effort will be very much appreciated!!!
- If participants find anything dangerous in their cleanup area, they are urged to be ultra careful and not injure themselves. If needed, call the authorities for assistance (or call me and we can figure out a course of action together.)

Lake Conditions:

- I just checked ice thickness at a few access points around the lake. The spots I checked were at least 14 inches thick, with the thickest ice being about 22 inches.
- Conditions by shore are deteriorating, but I was able to walk out onto the ice without getting my feet wet. The gap between shore and ice won't get any smaller, but... for folks comfortable walking out on the ice it should still be "doable" tomorrow.
- There are a few spots with standing water on the ice, but mostly the lake ice is covered with sloppy slush. Wearing good footwear is advised for all cleanup participants.
- I didn't see any areas of glare ice, but there may be some. The slushy conditions mostly made walking on the ice easy and not very slippery.

Tools / Bags

- Please bring your own gloves.
- Please bring a tool to chop trash out of the ice
- Having a sled or wagon to pull / haul trash off the lake will be helpful.
- Some groups have already made arrangements with me to pick up trash bags for use in tomorrow's cleanup effort. The Geocachers are picking up their bags on Saturday morning. There are other groups from whom I haven't heard; if those groups want bags, they are urged to contact me ASAP so I can set out bags for them this evening.

Requested Actions

- Please stay out of private property. This cleanup is intended to focus on the lake surface and public lands along the shoreline.
- Please try to estimate the weight of the trash your crew collects on Saturday and provide that info to me. Getting that info allows us to keep valuable metrics for this important annual event.
- Please have someone in your crew snap a few "action" photos and provide them to me.
- After the event, please tell me how many youth (under 18) and how many adults (18+) took part in your crew's cleanup.
- Please deposit all trash collected on Saturday into dumpsters / trash cans at your cleanup area.
- If your crew finds anything especially interesting or noteworthy, please let me know.

Final Thoughts:

- Community volunteerism is key for events like this. **THANK YOU for your participation!!!!**
- The date for next year's cleanup effort will be March 6, 2027
- If you have any questions or requests, please contact me ASAP. I will do my best to respond promptly.

Best,

Jim Schuster
2026 Lake Cleanup Co-Chair
cell: 651-269-0976