

Quarry Lake

History of Quarry Lake

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of key partners, Quarry Lake Park stands out as a one-of-a-kind, multi-use public recreational park.

Aggregate Industries (Agg-Ind) mined this approximately 130-acre area from the 1980s to the early 2000s, removing more than 12 million tons of limestone. Upon conclusion of mining operations, Agg-Ind performed environmental reclamation to restore natural beauty to the site. Water pumps that enabled mining were shut off, and a lake formed via groundwater infiltration where the mine once stood empty.

Agg-Ind was considering the best future uses for its land and lake when the **Shakopee Prior Lake Water Ski Association (SPLWSA)** introduced a plan for a multi-use recreational public park. Agg-Ind and the **City of Shakopee (City)** were enthusiastic proponents of the SPLWSA plan as it included use of the land by the public, along with coordinated use of the water by SPLWSA and other similar recreational organizations.

Agg-Ind sold the land and lake to the City for approximately 15% of market value, with the balance accounted for as Agg-Ind charitable contribution. In return for the donation, the City signed a long-term renewable Use Agreement with SPLWSA. The Use Agreement enables SPLWSA exclusive use of a designated portion of the lake from May through October, provided SPLWSA engages in activities for the promotion of water-skiing, including shows that are free to the public, as well as learn-to-ski clinics.

The City and SPLWSA raised funds for the purchase of the land and lake from Agg-Ind via public and private grants, plus increased SPLWSA membership fees and capital campaign donations. The organizations received two federal recreational trail grants, along with vital private enabling grants from Polaris, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Xcel Energy. The cost of the park improvements were paid for by the City, and Quarry Lake Park was officially created!



1997 Aggregate Industries Active Mining



2003 Aggregate Industries Reclamation



Shockwaves Show Team



Adaptive Ski Squad



SPLWSA is grateful for the generosity of Agg-Ind, the City, and all park grant funders. Per the Use Agreement, SPLWSA engages in activities at Quarry Lake for public benefit:

- The Shockwaves Show Team performs free water ski shows throughout the summer, attended by thousands each year
- Multiple learn-to-ski clinics are held each year, allowing families in the Shakopee and Prior Lake area to learn how to water ski from SPLWSA members

Since 2017, SPLWSA has expanded its presence, providing new public benefit events such as:

- The SPLWSA Adaptive Ski Squad (enabling smiles), which hosts several adaptive ski clinics each year, providing persons with handicapped conditions the opportunity to water ski on adaptive equipment (>100 adaptive athlete participants per year)
- Twice-weekly ski lessons for junior competitors to develop skills in slalom, jump and trick skiing
- Water ski tournaments each year featuring competitive slalom, jump and trick skiing

The City continues to add amenities for additional public enjoyment at Quarry Lake Park, including:

- Boating in non-motorized watercraft (kayaks, canoes, etc.) within designated areas on the northern and northeastern portions of Quarry Lake
- Fishing from shore and the constructed public fishing pier: Quarry Lake is a designated Trout Lake due to extreme depth from mining
- Paved and non-paved trails within the park
- Bathroom and picnic facilities along with planned beach area
- Mountain biking in the Xcel Energy Mountain Bike Park

See these websites for additional information regarding Quarry Lake Park and the ongoing activities of SPLWSA:



This history plaque was initiated in 2022 during the 100-year anniversary of the invention of waterskiing on Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minnesota. Installed and dedicated on-site in 2023.