



Our Vision: HCCOLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers.

The Hubbard County COLA Charitable Fund, the endowment / component fund through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, participates in an annual grant round, coordinated by HCCOLA.

More information is available at
www.hubbardcolamn.org .

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**Hubbard County Coalition of
Lake Associations**
P.O. Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470

**You may contribute to the HCCOLA
mission through the**
Hubbard County COLA Charitable Fund
a component of the
Northwest Minnesota Foundation
www.nwmf.org



Reach out to HCCOLA if your organization has a coaching need for lakes area youth.



HCCOLA worked with 4-H youth to assemble 10 tubes for fishing line recycling for public water accesses and 50 zebra mussel veliger settlement samplers available for free for your dock.



The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) Charitable Fund provides financial support for charitable and educational programs, projects and activities that facilitate cooperation among member lake associations and to assist in encouraging environmentally sustainable use of lakes and watersheds .



The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HCCOLA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 1988. Today HCCOLA consists of 31 lake associations (43 lakes) and represents over 2,775 lake association members in Hubbard County.

An all-volunteer organization, HCCOLA's Mission is to protect and enhance the quality of Hubbard County lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational, and environmental values of shorelands, and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats.

HCCOLA Committees: HCCOLA is organized with an Executive Team, four operating committees, and four program committees. The Executive Committee (E-Team) acts as the planning committee, helps set annual goals, and addresses strategic actions. It meets monthly all year. The operating

committees focus on Finance, Charitable Fund Advisory, Communications, and Membership. The program committees are: Restore-The-Shore, Education, Lake Water Monitoring, and AIS Operating Team. The AIS Operating Team works with the Hubbard County Environmental Services Department to coordinate County and COLA actions on AIS Prevention. COLA operates on a budget of about \$28,000/year. All from dues provided by lake associations.



AIS Prevention: HCCOLA helps coordinate AIS watercraft inspection supplemental funding from lake associations, cities and townships. In 2024, \$180,034 was raised to supplement state funding to Hubbard County for watercraft inspection education at public water accesses. Several public awareness projects are co-supported with Hubbard County Environmental Services, e.g. Communications with local resorts and guests, fund roadside billboards,

distribute AIS ID Cards, local radio broadcasts on AIS, and public awareness posters. HCCOLA also sponsors information ads in the Chamber of Commerce Discovery Guide and Park Rapids Enterprise Residents Guide.



Early Detection/Lake Monitoring:

HCCOLA sponsors an “Eyes on the Water” program. The program is focused on early detection of AIS by lakeshore owners. Citizen Watch volunteers covering 28 lakes made observations and 99 reported survey results through HCCOLA’s website in 2024. HCCOLA coordinated the 18 lake associations sampling for zebra mussels using plankton nets. Volunteers participated in the state-wide starry stonewort search in August 2024 on 20 lakes. HC COLA coordinates water quality sampling by volunteers for 40 county lakes. Data is used by Minnesota MPCA for their lake database.

Education / Communications:

HCCOLA coordinates /participates in the following activities:

- HCCOLA publishes a quarterly Newsletter, with a wide range of information and links to lake-related information. Available on website.
- Writes monthly HCCOLA Column in Park Rapids Enterprise featuring water quality opportunities information —Northwoods Outdoors Section.
- Coordinates annual “Restore-The-Shore” order process for trees / shrubs in partnership with the Hubbard SWCD.
- Conducts aquatic vegetation surveys on 3 small lakes - began in 2024. Educates lakeshore owners. Plan 3 surveys in '25.
- Annual booth to educate Hubbard County Fair guests in the Environmental Education Building. Interacted with over 1,245 guests in '24 where focus was on aquatic vegetation ID and appreciation!
- Our shoreland coaches share information on preventing runoff and erosion to promote healthy lakes and rivers.

