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CARVER COUNTY

**Initial results show effort
killed off zebra mussels**

Crews are celebrating an initial success story in one west metro lake after preliminary results showed that zebra mussels were killed off with a copper-based pesticide.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District announced the results on Lake Minnewashta last week after using the copper product, EarthTec QZ, to kill off the tiny mussels in 29 acres of the lake. It's only the third west metro lake to use the product and it's the largest open-water treatment in Minnesota.

"These results are encouraging," Eric Fieldseth, the aquatic invasive species program manager, said in a printed statement.

In August, 14 invasive mussels were discovered in the lake near its boat launch. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association and Carver County partnered on the \$40,000 project and have now reopened the boat launch after closing the area for treatment.

The same copper product, along with two other chemicals, successfully killed off zebra mussels on nearby Christmas Lake, but more mussels were later found outside the treatment area, which was about three times smaller than Minnewashta's treatment area.

Now, the watershed district says the success stories will give them lessons for how to respond to other lakes' infestations. The fingernail-sized pest clings to boat hulls and docks, alters ecosystems and poses a hazard for swimmers.

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