

Floating islands to help improve Lake Crystal water quality

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Lake Crystal floating islands

Volunteers from the Crystal Waters Project move one of a pair of floating islands into Lake Crystal designed to improve water quality Friday afternoon. Photo by Pat Christman

LAKE CRYSTAL — Lake Crystal gained a couple of islands Friday.



The small artificial islands were launched during the town's annual Duck Days celebration and are aimed at trying to suck up some of the excess nutrients in the lake that have caused dangerous, smelly blue-green algae blooms in recent years.

The islands are made up of more than 4,000 water bottles taken from a landfill. The islands were then planted with a mix of native wetland plants such as swamp milkweed, New England asters, sweet flag and sedges to build a filtering root system under the island and — once they grow out — an aesthetic vegetative mix on top of the island.

The "BioHaven" islands are made by Midwest Floating Island, based in St. Paul.

There are more than 6,000 floating bio islands around the world.

A short video and more information are available on www.MidwestFloatingIsland.com