

*Star Tribune* – Minneapolis, MN  
Metro Edition  
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**Simple Remedy Cleans Lake; Now it's Open to Swimmers;**  
**Round Lake in Eden Prairie Reopened This Week to Swimmers Thanks in Large**  
**Part to Barley Straw – an Inexpensive and Eco-Friendly Remedy for Algae-Clogged**  
**Water**

According to the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, Round Lake in Eden Prairie had an algae problem and in considering ways and the cost to fix it, turned to the use of barley straw. Once in the pond, the straw's high level of carbon attracts microbes that eat phosphorus that would otherwise feed algae in the lake. Consequently, Round Lake was reopened for swimmers for the first time in three years.

Workers place the barley straw, costing about \$1.00 per pound, in mesh bags that can be spread around key ponds. The barley sinks after a week or so and decomposes fully within a year. The amount of barley depends on phosphorus and algae levels in the pond, but ranges from 200 to 300 pounds of barley per acre of water.

In Round Lake these efforts has reduced the amount of phosphorus by 40 per cent.