

## April - Week 2

### *Ice Out*

**A sure sign of spring for many Minnesotans** is the day their local lake or lakes become unlocked from winter's icy grip. Lake ice out is marked by the first day a lake is at least 90% ice free. Average ice-out dates vary across the state. Southern lakes typically open up in the first or second week of April, while northern lakes experience ice-out in mid-April to early May.

Visit a local lake (or pond) on one or more occasions this week. Observe safely from the shoreline. Is there still ice present? Is there open water forming a gap or ring between the ice and the shoreline? What effects do the day and night temperatures have on the appearance of the ice, such as the ice's color and coverage of the lake? Are the spring winds causing the ice to shove up on the shoreline? If so, are the winds pushing the ice a certain direction onto a shoreline?

If ice-out has not occurred by the end of this week, revisit the lake (or pond) and make note of the ice-out date. Make ice-out an annual observation and create a data set for your local lake or lakes. Consider making yearly predictions as to what date you expect your lake to become unlocked from winter's grip.



Melting ice and snow swells Eagle Creek as it runs through the Jeffers property.