Hello

Thomas Lake is a sandpit lake. It was formed when the area was dredged to extract sand and gravel. Whenever sand and gravel was mined below the existing water table of the groundwater a sandpit lake was formed.

The water in Thomas Lake comes almost entirely from groundwater. Other sources of water are precipitation and runoff from areas that drain into the lake. Thomas Lake is not significantly spring fed. If it were spring fed there would be some out-flow of lake water as spring water entered the lake, and this does not occur. The level of the adjacent Platte River directly affects the level of Thomas Lake since there is a strong groundwater connection between the river and the lake.

Removal of accumulated debris in the bottom of the lake through dredging would improve the quality of lake water. Dredging however would not “uncover” springs or change lake level.

UNL has an excellent water website that discusses sandpit lakes at: https://water.unl.edu/article/lakes-ponds-streams/sandpit-lake-basics-where-does-water-come water.unl.edu .

I hope this info is helpful. Contact me if you have questions.

Larry Lindberg