Englewright Lake

A Guidebook for Homeowners

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Englewright Lake Board

Lyman Cole - Chairman/Lake Association Representative/Lakefront Owner

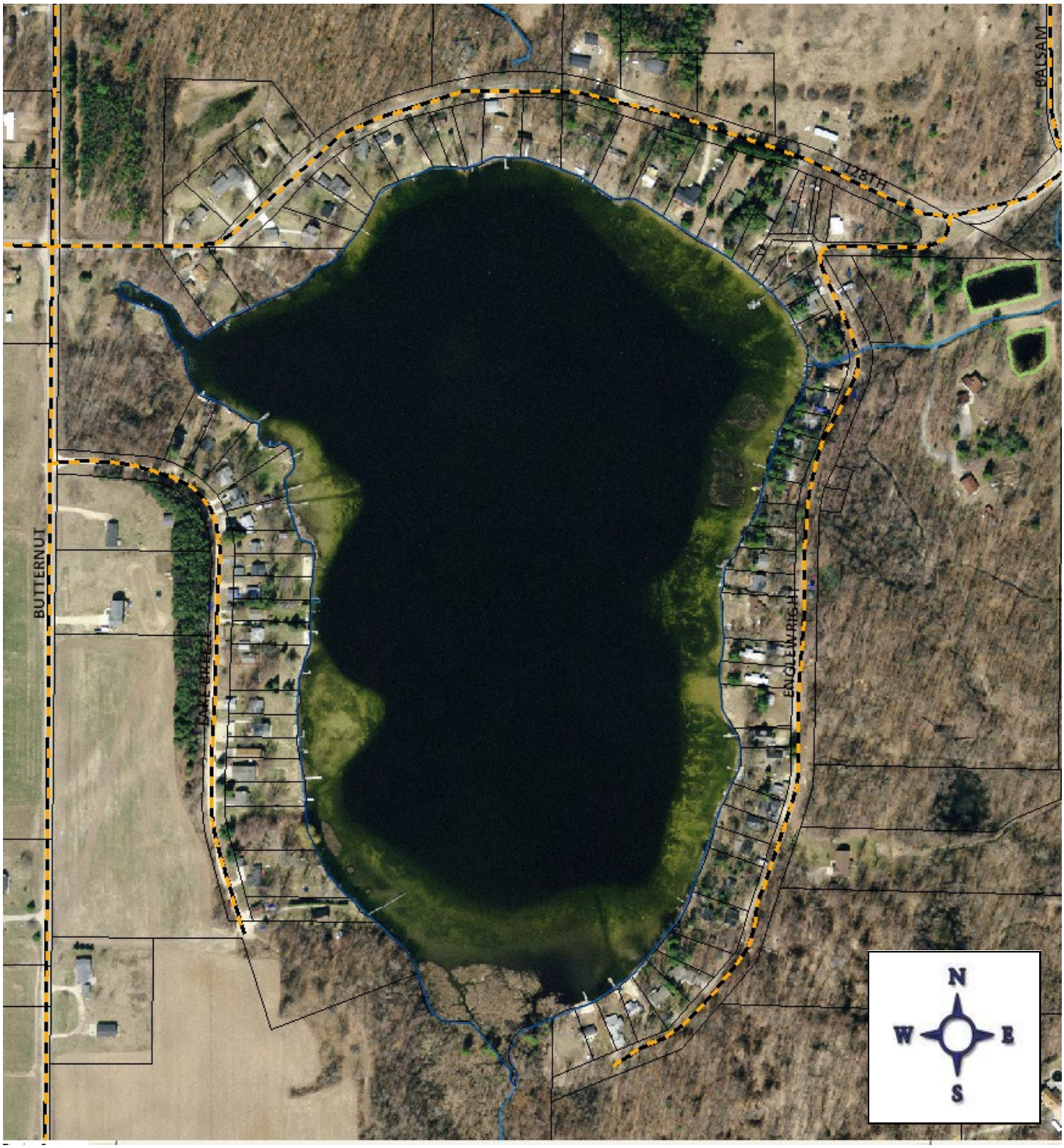
Sandra Byrne - Vice chairperson / Ensley Township Representative / Lakefront Owner

Phillip Starr - Treasurer / Ensley Township Representative

Sam Scholtens - Board of Commissioners / By statute

Pat Baker - Secretary / Drain Commissioner / By Statute Phone # 231-689-7213

Location



Looking back

Englewright Lake is located in Ensley Township of Newaygo County, Michigan.

On October 18, 1858, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a township. Ben Ensley offered $100.00 to pay all the costs of organization plus an amount to cover the beginning operating expenses of the young township providing that it be named for him. His offer was accepted and Congressional Township 11 North, Range 11 West became, and still is today, Ensley Township.

The Englewright Lake Association treated for weeds and algae through the 1980's and early 1990's.

Petitions to establish Englewright Lake Level were turned over to the Drain Commissioner's office in 1994. The Drain Commissioner, following the law, hired an engineer to conduct a feasibility study. The feasibility study indicated that raising the water level would affect multiple septic systems around the lake, therefore the lake level was not established.

The association, after numerous years of difficulties collecting money to pay for weed and algae treatments, decided to petition for a lake board. Petitions were circulated through 1996 & 1997.

In May of 1997 the Newaygo County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution #05-017-97, establishing the Englewright Lake Board.

The lake board's primary focus has been on weed and algae control. Recently the lake board has researched dredging or other alternatives of muck control, the lake board has found that it is a lengthy and far to expensive project to take on with the small number of parcels that are within the Englewright Lake Board Special Assessment District.

Public Access

Looking Southeast from the Public Access

All of the pictures on this page were taken in October of 2000

Outlet Channel

Lakeside end of road crossing in Outlet Channel

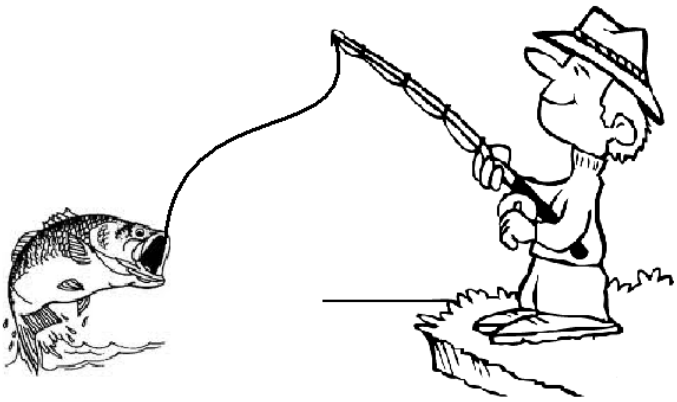
Downstream end of crossing in Outlet Channel

Above is view of the west shoreline during the summer of 2010.
Below is a view of the Southwest corner also during the summer of 2010.

Activities

Annual Association Meeting

Fishing/Boating



Swimming

Annual Ensley Township. Cleanup

Annual Yard sales

4th of July Celebration

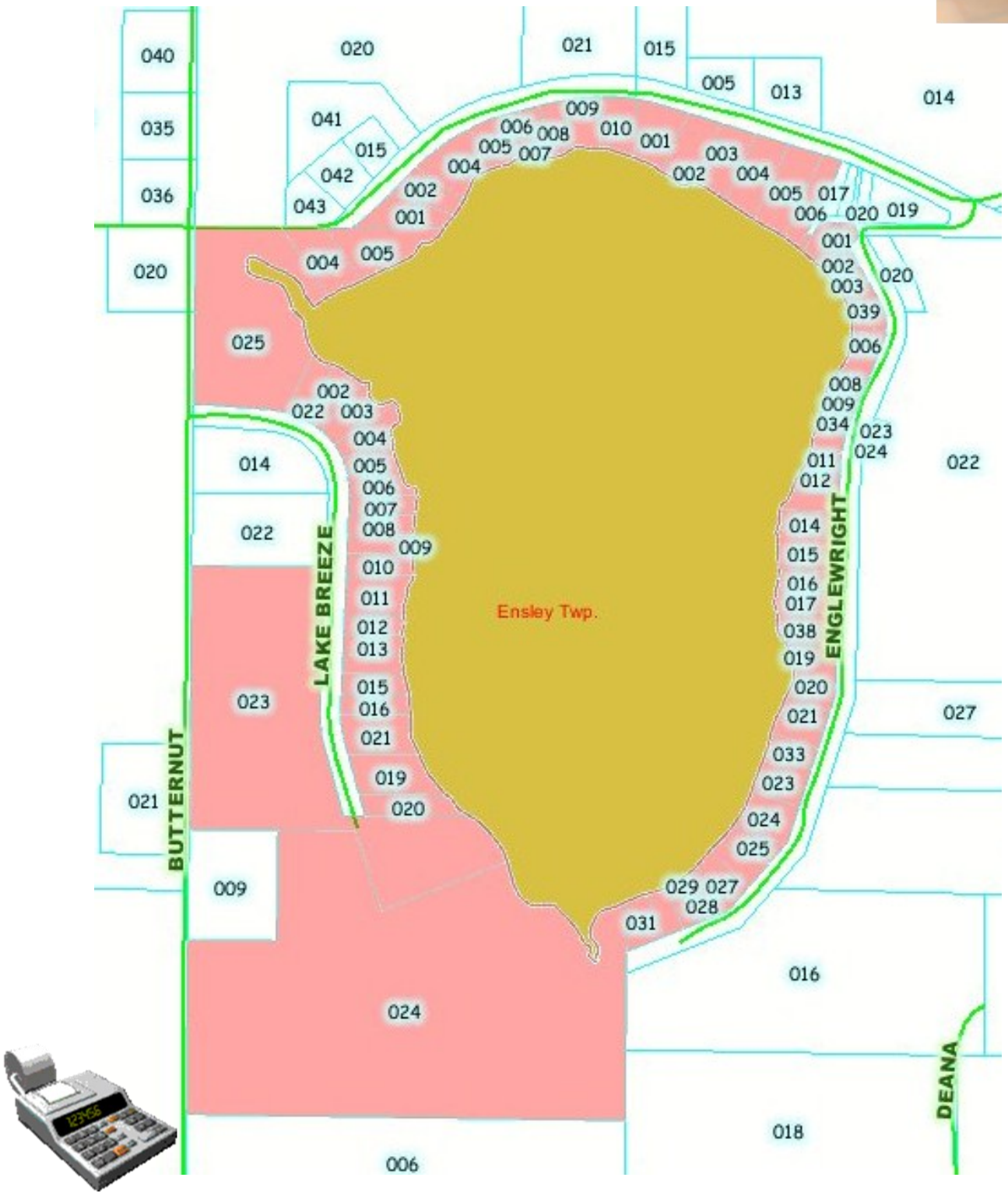
Contour Map & Data

Surface Area	54 Acres
Max. Depth	66 Feet
Average Depth	16.4 Feet
Shoreline length	1.3 Miles
Watershed Area	1,678 Acres

Lake Board Assessments

The assessment District for Englewright Lake Board includes any parcels abutting the lake and those that have deeded access. For the 2010 assessment rolls there were 75 parcels of land.

Below is a visual representation of those parcels.



Aquatic Plants

Emergent- Found in the shallow water and has a large portion of stems and leaves growing above the water surface.

⇒ Interlocking roots anchor sediment and reduce erosion

⇒ Provide great nesting material

Floating- Have leaves that float on top of the water

>Can be rooted (connected to the bottom) or free floating (not attached to the bottom)

>Leaf shape and texture that resists tearing

Submersed- Grow underwater

- Limp out of water
- Little or no cuticle facilitates gas exchange between plant and water
- Submerged leaves often dissected

What are the benefits of Aquatic Plants?

*Provide habitat for fish, bird, insects

*Stabilize sediments

*Slow down water

*Photosynthesize which oxygenates the water

*Absorb nutrients

*Can be aesthetically pleasing

Aquatic Plants

Eurasian Milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant. It was first found in the United States in the 1940's. Although it is non-native it is widespread in the state of Michigan. Eurasian Milfoil can cause many problems with the lake, it can choke out native desirable plant species, destroy fish habitat, and make water nearly impassable by boat. Eurasian Milfoil can grow in deeper water than most native plants and spread rapidly just from pieces broken or chopped off by boats or other water activities.

Eurasian Milfoil

Chara

Chara is typically found growing along the bottom of clear, hard water. If not treated Chara can grow in excess of 4 foot in height in deeper water. Chara is actually a form of algae. It's stems are hollow with leaf like structures in a whorled pattern. It may be found growing with tiny orange fruiting bodies on the branches called akinetes. Thick masses of Chara can form in some areas. Often confused with Coontail or Milfoils, it can be identified by a gritty texture and musky odor when crushed between the fingers. The gritty texture is caused by calcium deposits on the surface of the stems and branches.

The chemicals used to treat aquatic weeds and algae are approved by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), and the MDEQ (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality). Strict-detailed permits are obtained from the MDEQ on an annual basis.

A treatment **NOTICE** is mailed out to all residents on the lake every spring. The **NOTICE** includes any and all restrictions for each chemical that may be used. Before a treatment begins, signs are posted along the shoreline which indicate the chemical(s) to be used along with any restrictions.

Riparian Rights

Riparian rights are property rights which run with the land. Only land which abuts a natural body of water has riparian rights. A riparian property owner has the following property rights:

1. Access to water.
2. Install a dock anchored to his bottomland.
3. Anchor a boat on his bottomland or secure it to his dock.
4. Use water from the lake or stream for domestic purposes.
5. Controls any temporarily or periodically exposed bottomland from the water's edge to the high water mark against trespass.

A PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS REQUIRED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Dedicate any portion of the surface of a lake or stream for commercial use, such as a marina.
2. Build a seawall closer to the water's edge than the high-water mark.
3. Dredge or place fill in a lake or stream.
4. Increase or decrease the size of a lake or stream.
5. Dig a channel to connect a pond to a lake or stream.

A RIPARIAN MAY NOT:

1. Permanently anchor a raft or moor a boat on bottomland that belongs to another riparian property owner.
2. Install a pier an unreasonable length out into a lake or stream.
3. Cannot transfer his riparian rights to another person.
4. Cannot unreasonably restrict the use of the surface of a lake or stream by members of the public.

More information can be found online @ www.mlswa.org or www.mwai.org

How You Can Help

Shorelands Management
What lakefront property owners should know and do

By Progressive AE

Proper shoreland management is vital to protect both water quality and fisheries. During pre-settlement days, much of the shoreland around lakes was forested, wetlands, or grassland. Natural habitat was abundant. Over time, as shorelands were developed, much changed. Shoreland vegetation was removed, and natural areas that allowed rain waters to infiltrate were replaced by rooftops, roads, driveways, and other hard surfaces. Now, rather than infiltrating, storm water runs off these hard surfaces, often carrying fertilizer, oil, and other pollutants to the lake. Problems associated with excessive shoreland development include increased aquatic plant growth, diminished fisheries, and poor water quality. How we manage our shorelands can have a direct and profound impact on the quality of our lakes. Protecting shorelands is straightforward: Maintain or restore as much natural shoreland as possible. That is not to say that you can't—or shouldn't—have an area to swim, moor boats, fish or lounge by the shore. However, manicured lawn to the water's edge and boundless seawalls are not conducive to healthy lakes, nor is large-scale removal of aquatic vegetation. In addition to protecting or restoring natural shoreland, you should also be careful about the application of lawn fertilizers, especially fertilizers containing phosphorus. Phosphorus is the nutrient that most often stimulates excessive growth of aquatic plants and causes premature lake aging. Fertilizers should only be used sparingly near lakes, if at all. If you must use fertilizer, only use a phosphorus-free fertilizer. Once in the lake, a pound of phosphorus can generate hundreds of pounds of aquatic vegetation. This vegetation is most evident in the near-shore areas of the lake where we swim and recreate. Take a look at the following illustrations. Then take a look at your shoreland and see what you can do to help
preserve the natural features of your lake.

Establish a greenbelt along your waterfront. A greenbelt will trap pollutants, provide wildlife habitat, and help prevent shoreline erosion.

Caring for Your Shoreland

Your shoreland can be maintained to provide beach and boat access for you while maintaining habitat for fish and wildlife.

Most lakeside soils have more than enough phosphorus to grow lawns, trees, and shrubs. Adding phosphorus fertilizer is usually not necessary, and can cause excessive growth of aquatic plants.

Don't dump into storm drains; pollutants may be piped directly to the lake.

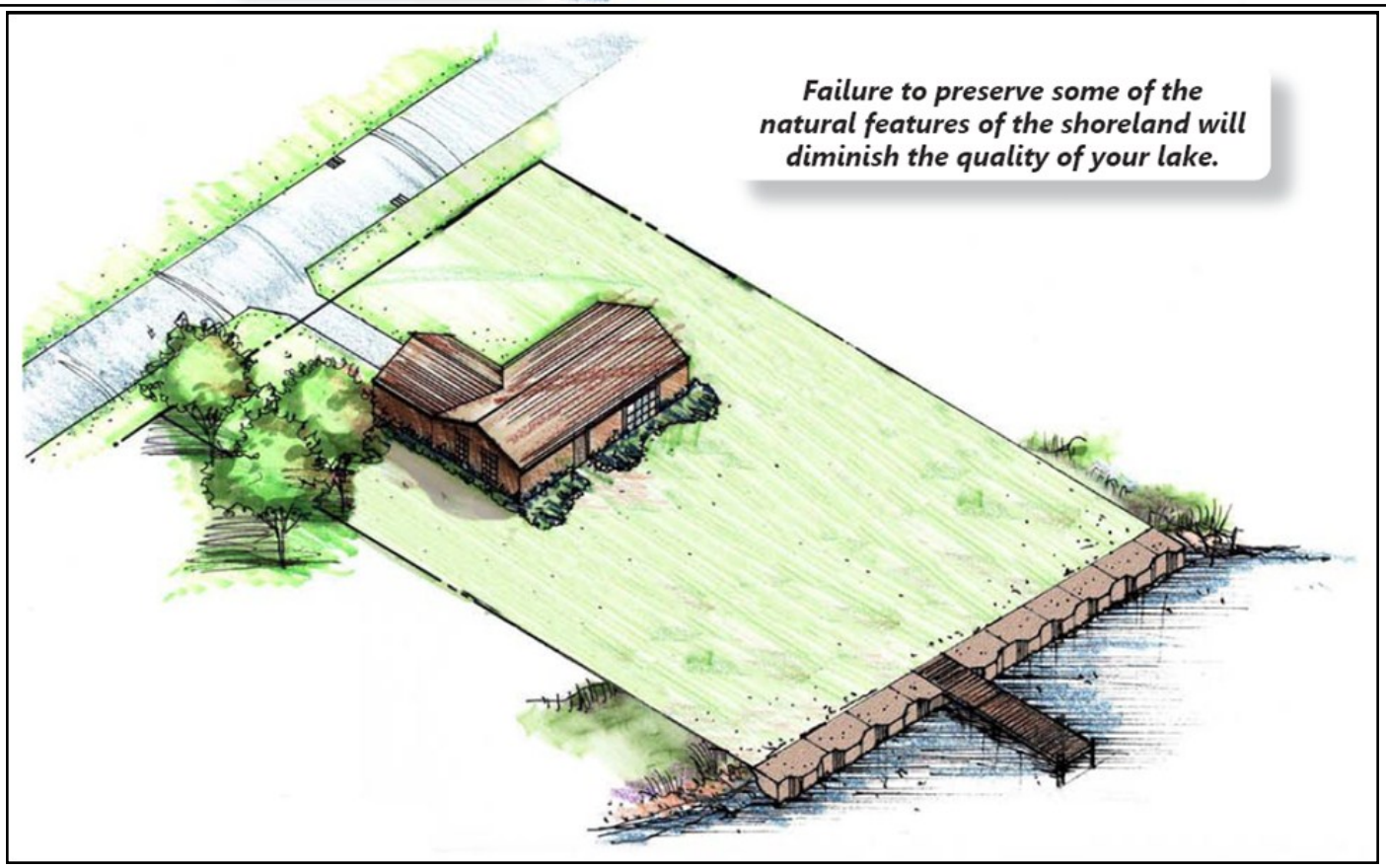
Maintain a greenbelt of trees, shrubs, and ground cover—it's habitat for fish and wildlife, and helps protect water quality too.

Minimize lawn area to reduce the need for fertilizer.

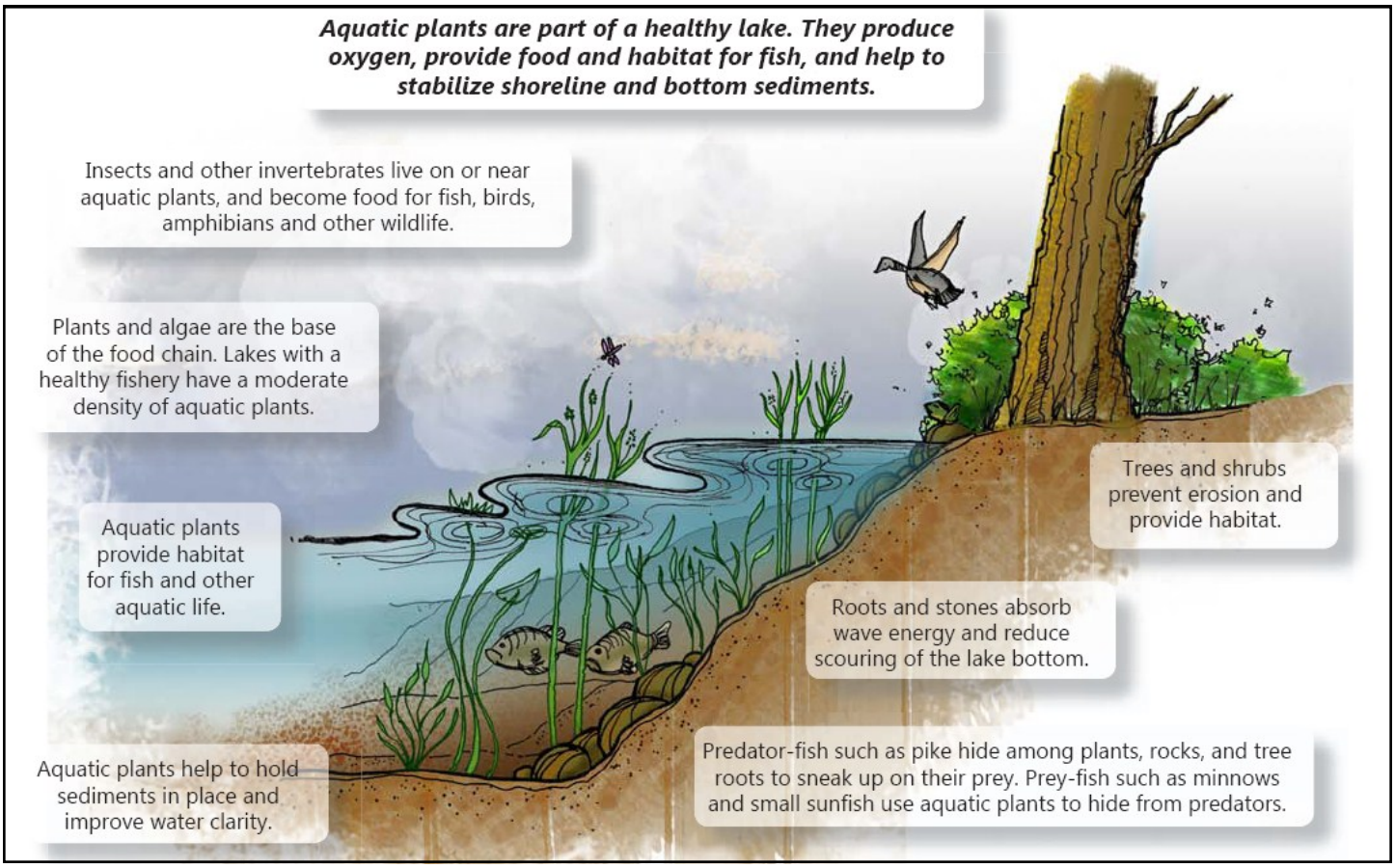
Build a raingarden to infiltrate rain water and reduce runoff into the lake. Visit www.raingardens.org.

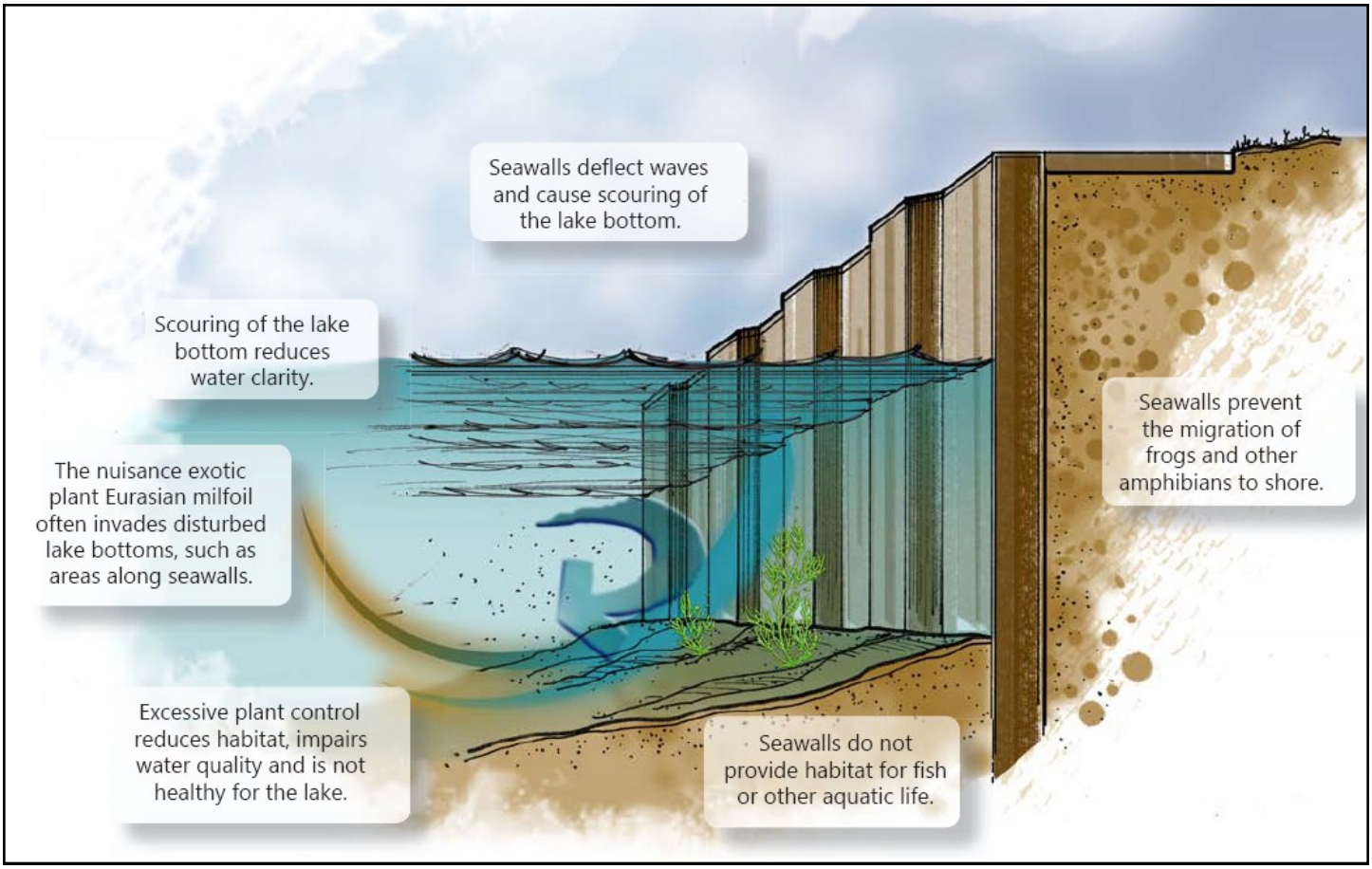
You can maintain a small beach and dock area—it's "habitat" for you!

Establish a greenbelt to filter runoff and discourage nuisance geese.



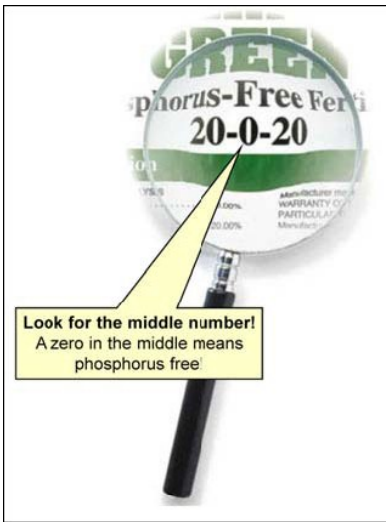
Failure to preserve some of the natural features of the shoreland will diminish the quality of your lake.


Aquatic plants are part of a healthy lake. They produce oxygen, provide food and habitat for fish, and help to stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments.
Insects and other invertebrates live on or near aquatic plants, and become food for fish, birds, amphibians and other wildlife.
Plants and algae are the base of the food chain. Lakes with a healthy fishery have a moderate density of aquatic plants.
Aquatic plants provide habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
Trees and shrubs prevent erosion and provide habitat.
Roots and stones absorb wave energy and reduce scouring of the lake bottom.
Predator-fish such as pike hide among plants, rocks, and tree roots to sneak up on their prey. Prey-fish such as minnows and small sunfish use aquatic plants to hide from predators.
Aquatic plants help to hold sediments in place and improve water clarity.


Seawalls deflect waves and cause scouring of the lake bottom.
Scouring of the lake bottom reduces water clarity.
The nuisance exotic plant Eurasian milfoil often invades disturbed lake bottoms, such as areas along seawalls.
Seawalls prevent the migration of frogs and other amphibians to shore.
Excessive plant control reduces habitat, impairs water quality and is not healthy for the lake.
Seawalls do not provide habitat for fish or other aquatic life.

10 Ways to Protect Your Lake

1. **Do not use fertilizer that contains phosphorous.**



2. **Use the minimum amount of fertilizer recommended on the label.**

3. **Water the lawn sparingly to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake.**

4. **Do not feed ducks and geese near the lake. Waterfowl droppings are high in nutrients and may cause swimmers itch.**

5. **Do not burn leaves and grass clippings near the shoreline. The highly nutrient ash can easily wash into the lake.**

6. **Do not mow to the water's edge. Instead leave or plant a strip of natural vegetation, this will trap pollutants and sediments, and absorb nutrients.**

7. **Do not dump anything in wetland areas. Wetlands are natural purifiers/filters.**

8. **If you have a septic system get your tank pumped every 2-3 years.**

9. **If you trailer your boat from lake to lake, wash your boat before launching it back into the lake.**

10. Don't be complacent! Our actions can make or break the lake!