

# LAKE CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



*Celebrating 100 years of the lake, Lake Barrington*

PREPARED BY

THE LAKE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

LOVE OUR LAKE



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## Life at the Lake – The Heart of Lake Barrington Shores

Discover the beauty of our 96-acre private lake — the centerpiece of Lake Barrington Shores. With resort-style amenities, scenic landscapes, and year-round activities, the lake inspires both relaxation and adventure, all within the privacy of our gated community.

### Lakeside Features

- Exclusive Access – A 96-acre private lake, reserved for residents only.
- Marina & Community Fleet – Kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards, canoes, fishing boats, and pontoon rides available for use.
- Lakefront Beach – A sandy shoreline perfect for swimming, sunbathing, and relaxing.
- Recreation on the Water – Enjoy sailing races, kayaking, canoeing, and fishing lessons led by community instructors.
- Trails & Forest Preserve – A private 3-mile pathway winding around the lake and through a 36-acre forest preserve.
- Wildlife & Habitat – A preserved natural setting with birdwatching, tranquil views, and thriving local ecosystems.
- Well Maintained – Professionally managed shoreline and water quality ensure long-term beauty and health.

### Resident Benefits

- Active Living – Endless opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, and trails for walking, jogging, and biking.
- Year-Round Enjoyment – Beaches and boating in the summer, nature walks and fishing in cooler seasons, too.
- Community Spirit – Lake-centered events, sailing races, outdoor concerts, and clubs bring neighbors together.
- Wellness & Relaxation – Scenic views and a peaceful lakefront setting support both physical activity and mental well-being.
- Eco-Friendly Living – Preserved wildlife habitats enhance sustainability and connect residents with nature.
- Property Value – A private lake community with resort-style amenities enhances desirability and long-term value.
- All-in-One Lifestyle – Recreation, relaxation, and natural beauty wrapped into one exclusive lakeside setting.

### Your Lake. Your Lifestyle.

Lake Barrington Shores offers the perfect balance of active adventure and tranquil retreat—all centered around the natural beauty of our lake. It's more than a feature, it's a lifestyle.





## Creating Lake Barrington

The rolling 510 acres of farmland in southwestern Lake County that is now Lake Barrington Shores was once farmland on which the Miller and Davlin families raised livestock and grew grain.

A creek – fed by water from rains and melted snow – meandered about three miles through this land to the Fox River. In 1925 a member of the Davlin family noticed that the creek and surrounding area formed a natural basin and had the potential of becoming a lake. When he built a dam of willow tree branches and dirt, a lake did indeed form. He called it Indian Lake.

In the 1930s, the land was purchased by C.J. Lord and G.C. Criswell. Criswell then built a concrete dam with a notched opening, creating the spillway on the northwest side of the lake. This dam raised the lake level by five feet. Criswell's initials (G.C.C.), imprinted in the concrete at the time the dam was constructed, are still visible today.

In 1946, realtor Robert Bartlett bought the land and gave the lake a new name: Lake Barrington.

LeRoy Miller, who'd remained to farm the land and raise livestock, began placing boulders around the shoreline, assisted by his daughter, Marianne, and Davlin's grandson, Charlie. These boulders helped to preserve the lake's shoreline and remain in place today.

In 1972, J.S. James Company and Standard Oil Company purchased the land from the Bartlett estate and, in 1973, began building Lake Barrington Shores. The first furnished models were opened in 1974; construction of the rest of the community was completed in the 1990s.

We are fortunate that in developing the property J.S. James emphasized ecological considerations, incorporating Lake Barrington and a 35-acre forest preserve as integral natural features of our community, both of which continue to thrive for enjoyment of all LBS residents.

# The Trees of Lake Barrington Shores

Trees are one of the special features of Lake Barrington Shores. In the development of LBS, the James Brothers took extra care to consider the existing trees in the way the buildings were placed. This was ahead of its time. To this day, developers prefer to have property clear or have it cleared. That is easier and cheaper. By protecting as many of the existing trees as possible, the developments tree canopy looked more mature than normal then and we can enjoy many trees that were here when Lake Barrington was formed a century ago.

The only way to accurately know the age of a tree is to cut it down, but you can estimate the age of many kinds of trees by measuring its circumference at about four feet up the trunk. The big Cottonwood south of the marina is about the same age as the lake. There are many oaks and hickories that are far older. Many dating back from around the time of the first European settlers entered Lake County, in 1834. There is a hollow White Oak tree just south of the marina, which is about 187 years old, making it an acorn in 1838. If you look at both of those trees, you will notice the cottonwood is bigger, but younger. That is because of how fast different kinds of trees grow. Cottonwoods take just two years to grow an inch in diameter. It takes a White Oak five years, or more. Landscape Manager, Mary Albanese, says one oak off Oak Hill is estimated to be 250 years old.

More important to us today, keeping mature trees meant less disruption to the soil during development and they continue to hold soil today. This is particularly important around the lake, where anything that washes into the lake reduces its capacity permanently. Trees also cool the area around them and help reduce winds. The Arbor Day Foundation notes that a mature tree will reduce heating and cooling costs for a homeowner by hundreds of dollars per year.



# Great Grey Grandfather

I miss you on this frozen morning, Your Majesty watching over your realm  
Your silent stare surveying eternity  
Your patient stance still as the tree trunk - waiting

I watched you once, Your slow-motion stride along the shore  
A jaguar slinking through tall grass until you snatched  
Holding it crosswise in your vice motionless as it thrashed  
Futilely flinging itself against your crushing clamp

Another time you waited like a statue then struck  
Suddenly stabbing, a slurp of water to wash it down  
Tossing your head as though swallowing a handful of pills and  
Down it went  
I thought you would choke  
Your pouch expanded like bellows  
Down and down it finally wiggled

Oh Great Grey Grandfather I loved to see you in your regal robes  
A black bolo adorning your long neck and matching yarmulke accenting the tufts  
of the tuxedo of grey with flowing black skirt extending longer than any pictured  
and skimming the ground beneath your belly

I held my breath when you strode the shore with me once gazing  
at your desperately slow measured strut as though stepping on sprouts, careful  
to spare each one  
Your delicate weight not crushing a blade  
You left no tracks behind

Once I thought you were a deer, your height and stalky limbs appearing similar  
then you lifted suddenly your arms and you were an aeroplane, pterodactyl  
gliding away with one giant WOOSH

One hundred miles away and back before dinner!

Now the gold and purple finches come and tell me that you are gone.  
You lived a long time Great Grandfather  
But did not return

I miss you Great Grey Grandfather  
Seeing you was a miracle.  
I will forever find you somehow in the distance,  
on the rock, off the point, on the shore  
gazing into your quiet kingdom

You were indeed a Gift to me Great Grey Grandfather





## Loving Our Lives At Lake Barrington Shores

Softly falls the morning dew, gently swaying trees anew.

A quiet hush, the world's awake, as the sun slowly rises over our lake.

The stars have faded out of sight with morning light a wondrous sight.

The lake stirs fresh and bright, as new day dawns full of delight.  
In this calm and peaceful place, I find my heart and quiet pace.

Awakened by so much more, loving our lives at Lake Barrington Shores.





Sailboats, kayaks and our pontoon boat on Lake Barrington. Photo by Judie Reynolds

## How Did Sailing & Sailboats Become a Part of Lake Barrington?

Dan Brockman contributed to this article.

You may wonder how our lake became a sailing venue for its residents. Since Lake Barrington Shores began in 1974, there have always been activities centered around the Lake. The Marina was included from the first development and early sales brochures show an aerial shot of the marina along with sailboats, canoes, fishing boats and the pontoon boat. It started with the LBS logo. The official logo for Lake Barrington Shores depicts a sail in front of a setting sun. The sales brochures for this new development indicated that there were sailboats and sailing lessons. Most early photographs and advertisements show these type boats on the lake.

It turns out that the developers had to make good on those promotional points. Joe Cragan and Jim Zaremba had become summer workers at the fledging LBS development. One day, they were told a truck would be delivering sailboats to Lake Barrington Shores and they would have to set them up and be prepared to provide free sailing lessons because that's what it said in the sales brochure. Neither had ever sailed before so you can imagine their surprise. In about two hours, they pulled the boats off the truck and set them up. Joe read the instruction book on how to sail. With book in hand he was able to take a boat out and get it back. Within another hour a resident was there for her free sailing lesson. In the early days, sailing was an individual sport. In 1985, a club was formed to organize races and award prizes and trophies. This club was named the Lake Barrington Shores Sailing Association (LBSSA). Carl Orgell organized the sailing association with Peter Weinert.



Wes Wolf providing "dry land" sailing instruction in 2010.

Today, the LBS Sailing Association continues the tradition of providing Learn-to-Sail lessons to our residents. If you see a pair of sailors on a sailboat on a Saturday afternoon, you're probably looking at a new sailor graduating from sailing class. And, during the summer, you may see your neighbors participating in a Sailing Regatta on a Sunday afternoon.



# Managing Our Tree Legacy

Trees are an important part of what makes LBS special. The James Brothers took care to incorporate the trees into the placement of condos. Management of trees remains an important consideration in managing LBS today. There are many considerations in how trees and shrubs are maintained and replaced. It isn't as simple as just replacing what was there. For a variety of reasons there may be better alternatives. The decisions that are made will impact on LBS's look and maintenance costs. Some of those decisions are diseases, life span, nuisance factors, and invasiveness. Below are examples of trees around the lake, and elsewhere at LBS.

**Oaks and Hickories** - Oaks are the most critical plants of any kind to our local environment, followed by hickories. They are sturdy and generally require less maintenance, living several hundred years. However, they grow very slowly and dropping nuts can be a problem.

**Weeping Willows** – Weeping willows are very atmospheric. They grow fast, and their branches are eye-catching. However, their rapid growth also means a short lifespan of 50-75 years, meaning replacement sooner. They are fragile, dropping both small and large branches making them expensive to maintain.

**Ash, Elm, Austrian Pine** - Elms and ash are sturdy and long lived but elms are susceptible to Dutch elm disease and ash to emerald ash borer. Many of the tall Austrian Pines on Evergreen Point suffer from blight, which is killing them. There are many legacy trees of these varieties, but LBS is unlikely to put in new ones, knowing the possibility of disease.

**Northern Catalpa** – Catalpa grow quickly. Their giant rounded leaves, long seed pods and profusion of white flowers at the end of spring are eye-catching. However, what catches your eye leaves a mess to be cleaned up. Like willows, catalpas also are fragile and have a short lifespan.

**Black Cherry** – Like other fruit bearing trees, their blooms in the spring feed pollinators and their prolific berries feed the birds. However, dropped berries are a messy nuisance. They spread quickly through bird droppings, resulting in an excessive number in the forest preserve.



## Why I Love the Lake

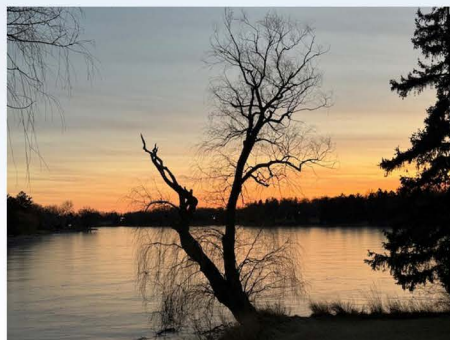
We Love our Lake for so many reasons, don't we? At our recent Summer Concert on the Beach, the Lake Centennial Committee kicked off a campaign to celebrate our beautiful lake, the beating heart of Lake Barrington Shores.

Lake Barrington Shores began as a livestock and grain farm with a meandering 3-mile-long creek. In 1925, this natural basin was impounded with willow tree branches and dirt to create a dam.

During 2025, we celebrate the 100-Year Anniversary of the creation of our lake. The first 18' spillway was built in the 1930's; and the existing dam was built in the late 1940's, raising the lake by 5 feet. Originally named Indian Lake, Robert Bartlett, who owned the property at the time, renamed it Lake Barrington in 1950.

Today, our lake is enjoyed by sailors, anglers, kayakers, canoeists, paddle boarders, swimmers, dog walkers, hikers and pontoon boat passengers as well as others who enjoy the beach and love to gaze at the water.

Mark Saturday, September 13th, on your calendar. We are planning a fun **100th Anniversary Party** on the beach. Keep watch for more details.



# Testimonials

What I love about our lake are the selective panoramic seasonal views featuring the wondrous tranquil and serene beauty and movements with sounds over and surrounding the lake filled with ever-changing flora and fauna throughout the year. Bob L.

I LOVE OUR LAKE because...it is natural - Joe K C#3

I LOVE OUR LAKE because... it makes LBS a stay-at-home vacation resort - Judie C#10

I LOVE OUR LAKE because... I live on it and love it - Lydia C#3

I LOVE OUR LAKE because ... It's Beautiful !!! - Joyce C#8

I LOVE OUR LAKE because ... of the fish, kayaking, so far still need to do the standing board. The lake is always calm and energizing - Joe S

I LOVE OUR LAKE because... it is nature at its best, a total blessing to have here and experience the beauty of the outdoors and its many species, etc - Kim C#5

I LOVE OUR LAKE because of the ... beautiful sunset and view of the winds and wildflowers - Judy C#3

I LOVE OUR LAKE because it is... so peaceful and beautiful, not too large - Peg C#9

I LOVE OUR LAKE because ... it's as close to heaven (as) I'm going to get - Tim C

I LOVE OUR LAKE because... it's a beautiful sunset and sunrise walk with the dogs, (and) kayak with my daughter - KW C#7

I LOVE OUR LAKE because ... clear, lots of fish and no motor boat!

I LOVE OUR LAKE because ... its has wonderful views and is peaceful - Marcia C#1

LOVE OUR LAKE



Lake Centennial Celebration



# Kayaking



Having a hard day? Problems bothering you? Are you all wound up and can't relax? The solution is right out your window, back door or down the street!

Try kayaking!

Once you get out on beautiful Lake Barrington you will see our community from a new perspective and leave your problems behind.

The water is smooth and the current is gentle. The scenery is stunning and you can enjoy the beautiful gardens around our homes as well as the awesome blooming native plants along the shoreline.



You may see a few blue damselflies hunting mosquitoes, establishing their territory, and mating in mid-air!

You'll probably see close-up the gorgeous king of the shoreline, the Great Blue

Heron, as he silently scouts his prey. Additionally, you may see Kingfishers, deer, bullfrogs, and many more species of wildlife.



One thing you will not see is lots of humans - they're at the pool! But you can bring one along if you like!

Do you think kayaking is hard?

It is about the easiest sport you could imagine. If you can move your arms, you can wield a kayak paddle. It's not heavy, and you can row as much or as little as you like. The seating is quite comfortable. Our new kayaks are easy to get in and out of because there is no "bucket" seat, you just sit on top!

## Kayaking (continued)

Our excellent marina attendants will help push you out onto the water and pull you onto the shore when you come in. They will also give you a crash course on paddling if you like.

Once you are on the water you can stay close to the shore and look for monarchs on the milkweed, or go as far out into the lake as you feel comfortable doing. You can lay back, gaze and let your mind soak it all in washing your cares away.

If you don't swim, don't worry - you will have a life jacket.

Think it's too hot? - Don't worry, you will be cooler out on the lake than anywhere else except the air-conditioning. You will want sunscreen of course, a hat, maybe binoculars or your phone, and water. That's all you need!

If you haven't kayaked our lake yet give it a try! Enjoy and LOVE OUR LAKE up close and personal.



# Birds of Lake Barrington Shores

No matter if they are taditional "waterfowl" or migrants who visit the shore-line to feed, all of these birds were seen at our lake, Lake Barrington. All were photographed here at Lake Barrington Shores.



Common Goldeneye



Green Heron



Spotted Sandpiper



Caspian Tern



Buffleheads



Great Egret



Double-Crested  
Cormorant



American White Pelicans (overflight)



Redhead Duck



Mute Swans (non-native)



Bald Eagle (junvenile)



Lesser Scaup



Hooded Merganser



## Birds of Lake Barrington Shores (continued)



Trumpeter Swans



Mallard Duck



Common Mergansers



Common Loon  
(Spring migrant)



Ruby-Crowned Kinglet  
(lakeside insect hunter)



Golden-Crowned Kinglet  
(lakeside insect hunter)



Ring-Necked Duck



Pie-Billed Grebe



Greater Scaup



Wood Duck



Solitary Sandpiper



Black-crowned Night Heron



Great Blue Heron



Eastern Kingbird



Canada Geese



Osprey

# What Are We Doing Now to Manage and Protect Our Lake?

- 1) The Lake and Pond Commission has a volunteer lake monitoring team that uses our pontoon boat to inspect the lake monthly from June through September. The team determines water clarity at four locations by lowering a Secchi disk into the water until it becomes invisible. In addition, the team checks to make sure that the five water aerators in North Bay and the three near Mallard Point are operating properly, determines the lake level at a gauge at the spillway dam and looks for any issues of concern.
- 2) EAM, Lake Barrington Shore's contractor for managing submerged weeds and filamentous and microscopic algae, has served us since 2022. The lake and ponds are checked once a week from April 1 to September 30. Invasive weeds are treated with herbicides for control. Spot treatments are made to control the growth of algae. The Lake and Pond Commission has also hired EAM to create a map of lake depth and sediment buildup.
- 3) The Lake County Health Department tests the Lake Barrington Shores Beach 2 times per month. The water samples are tested for E. coli bacteria, which can cause diarrhea and other issues. If water samples come back high for E. coli, LBS is notified and a sign is posted indicating the beach is closed. The Lake County Health Department also evaluates the quality of the lake about every ten years and issues a comprehensive report with recommendations.
- 4) Erosion in the lake watershed causes sediment to enter the lake, adding contaminants and reducing the water depth. LBS has contracted with the Trotter consulting firm to conduct a stormwater management study, which will identify erosion areas. The study will include a map of the existing stormwater system and make recommendations.
- 5) One of the goals of the Lake and Pond Commission is to ensure that soil does not erode into the lake, which could make it shallower and promote weed and algae growth. A Lake & Pond Commission sub-committee is surveying: 1) the lakeshore to identify areas where there is no vegetative buffer zone between the walking trail and the lakeshore and 2) the hillsides adjacent to the lake for areas of bare soils, potentially contributing to soil eroding to the lake. It is important to note that many of these activities rely on the efforts of volunteers at LBS.



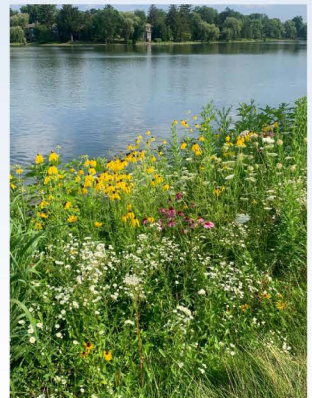


# In Appreciation of Native Plants

Americans love a nice lawn. The even, uniform appearance is considered a top goal for public spaces and private residences. Conversely, many people look at native plants and automatically think of them as weeds. However, we would like to respectfully point to some of the advantages to native plants. Many of these differences help explain why LBS chooses to have so many natural areas, **particularly around the lake.**

- Native plants are, of course, native. They evolved here and are adapted to our climate, and pollinators, birds, and animals evolved to eat them. Most turf grasses are not native. They were imported from northern Europe and Asia.
- The roots of turf grass are as shallow as an inch or two. Native plants send down roots five to 15 feet.
  - Deep roots mean natives resist erosion, which is particularly important around the lake.
  - Shallow roots make turf grass vulnerable to disruption, which then results in erosion. Soil that erodes into the lake permanently reduces its capacity.
  - Deep roots make natives drought tolerant, while turf goes dormant and may even die in hot, dry conditions.
- Turf is treated with fertilizer and herbicides, some of which will wash into the lake, diminishing water quality. Natives do not require regular treatment.
- Native buffer strips capture some of the fertilizer and herbicides before they enter the lake, and they also protect the shoreline from erosion.
- Native plants provide shade that cools the surrounding area and slows the drying of the soil, which is particularly important close to the lake.
- Native plants provide flowers and seeds that feed pollinators, birds and small mammals. Turf grass provides little food for pollinators, birds or mammals.
- LBS spends less per acre on natural areas than on turf. Turf is mowed and maintained weekly. Native areas require more limited maintenance.

Natural areas do receive some maintenance and could receive more. Invasive plants are removed to promote health and diversity. The Conservators spend much of the spring removing undesirable plants in the forest preserve. Our natural area contractor, Blue Stem, undertakes similar efforts in the other LBS natural areas.





# Lake Barrington: A Work in Progress

## Our Lake's Changing Environment

The area surrounding Lake Barrington has undergone significant change in the last 100 years... changes that affect the health and vitality of our lake today and will continue to do so in the years to come.

When Lake Barrington was created in 1925 – it was called Indian Lake at the time – the surrounding area, its watershed, was mostly trees and native grasses and other plants. Much of the rainfall was absorbed by the ground or the deep roots of the vegetation. The runoff that reached the lake contained little plant nutrients, insignificant pollutants, and almost no soil.

Construction of our community, which began in the early 70s, disturbed these stable, healthy conditions. Rainfall and snow melt washed soil into the lake. The roads and buildings of Lake Barrington Shores did not absorb the water, causing much more to enter the lake. The newly built storm sewers collected only a part of this water; the remainder formed streams during heavy rains, eroding the soil protected only by the thin short roots of the turf grass. Heavy rains also washed sand from the new beach into the lake, reducing the water depth.

Most significantly, the runoff of plant nutrients from the soil caused a significant increase in submerged plant growth. For homeowners to be able to use the pontoon boat and sailboats on the lake, harvesting equipment had to be brought in to remove enough plant mass. This harvesting could take several weeks to remove debris equivalent to 100 or more dump trucks each year at a cost of about \$50,000.

Meanwhile, the new Lake Barrington Shores golf course – a centerpiece of our community – required significant water for irrigation during dry years, so a pumping station was built to supply water from the lake, which reduces the already low lake level during dry summers, endangering the fish and exacerbating the algae problem.

## Rescuing Our Lake

The increased demands placed on Lake Barrington by construction of houses and infrastructure caused a serious decline in its water quality, prompting the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission to deem our lake's water quality among the poorest in the county.

Our lake needed help to survive. Fortunately, help was on the way!

When LBS homeowners took over responsibility for management of the community, the Lake and Ponds Commission was formed to manage our water resources. This group of volunteers knew action was needed and went to work.

- A floating harvester was hired each year to remove much of the curlyleaf pondweed that was choking the water.

- A consultant was hired to manage the lake in a less expensive way.
- Native plants such as lily pads were introduced to provide shade, keeping the water cooler and reducing algae growth.
- A contractor was hired to apply herbicides and other chemicals.

In time, the quality of our lake's water improved and the routine use of the harvester could be phased out. Today, Lake Barrington's water quality ranks among the best in the county!

While the urgent issues have been successfully resolved, more work is needed to sustain our lake's quality, beauty, and function:

- Plant nutrients can cause a bloom of blue-green algae, which sometimes creates a powerful toxin. While the nutrient level in the water was reduced by alum treatment, which carried plant nutrients to the lake bottom, it is only a temporary solution.
- Storms carry sediment into the lake, reducing its depth. The area known as Swans Marsh received so much sediment that it is typically dry by mid-summer, when the water level in the lake declines.
- Most of the lake shoreline is unprotected from erosion. Erosion damages the water quality, appearance, and adds to the sedimentation problem.

### Making Our Lake Sustainable

The lake is one of the jewels of our community. It deserves to be treated accordingly.

The first step is underway. LBS has hired a contractor to study our stormwater facilities and recommend improvements.

At present, we know sources of sediment that must be addressed are:

- The stream entering LBS from the east side of Route 59
- The stream from Bullfrog Pond to the beach
- The poor quality of the turf grass in shady areas, and
- Bare soil in poorly maintained areas.

The shoreline needs to be reinforced with proper vegetation and, in some areas, regrading and new structures may be necessary.



## Wake-Up Call

We have all had this happen.

It's that day you wake up, (thankfully), and for some unknown reason you realize you have been doing \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ in correctly.

A light bulb illuminates a new appreciation for what you have.

From this awareness an urgency evolves. What sustainable action will make it X right?

For Lake Barrington Shores community the "Wake Up" coincides with the Lake's 100-year anniversary / celebration.

Even though the Lake's shore is lined with homes valuing their views, we as residents have been blind to the long-term sustainability of those views.

Yes, we have employed lake management and pond services to "treat" various aesthetic symptoms.

But as we now realize on this 100th anniversary we have not been addressing the symptoms causes.

So, while this 100th anniversary is a great occasion for celebration it is also the perfect time to step up and truly embrace the Lake's entire ecosystems to ensure the Lake's long-term health over the next 100 years!

This is an opportunity to further educate ourselves along with supporting our existing commissions, (Lake & Ponds, Public Works, and Landscaping), so they may work together on an evolving initiative for a long-term plan in support of the Lakes ecosystem.

Beyond work with our community, we will also need to initiate supportive action with Lake County and our surrounding communities for a unified system plan that addresses the Lake's longevity.

Last and not least, our community awareness should include understanding the proper lake habitats needed for the wildlife we should be attracting to support the Lakes best health.

In the end whatever we were doing incorrectly we can correct. Nature is forgiving. But, without more education on all fronts along with a unified community / area plan the Lake cannot thrive and survive.

It is up to US.





## Contributors

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