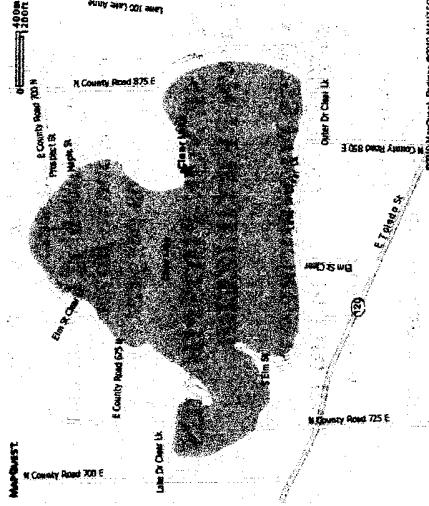


5

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

HELP

KEEP CLEAR LAKE CLEAR



Water Quality Committee
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
5950 Gecowets Drive
Fremont In 46737

CLEAR LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
PART OF
THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP
LAND CONSERVANCY, INC

#1 USE THESE YARD WASTE TIPS

KEEP LEAVES OUT OF THE LAKE:

- Decaying leaves and other yard waste release nutrients into lake water.
- Excess nutrients promote weeds and algae growth.

COMPOST LEAVES AND YARD WASTE:

- Composted leaves and yard waste make great fertilizer.
- Mulched leaves act as a natural mulch for gardens and around trees.
- Using a mulching mower can replace one fertilizer applications per year.

#2 USE NON-PHOSPHORUS LAWN FERTILIZERS

EXCESS PHOSPHORUS IN LAKE WATER IS A PROBLEM:

- Phosphorus promotes growth of weeds and algae.
- 1 lb of phosphorus can result in 10,000 lbs. of weeds and algae.
- It reduces water quality and clarity.
- Affected water can become toxic to fish, animals, and humans.

WHAT TO DO:

- Check label on fertilizer bag to insure the MIDDLE number (phosphorus content) is ZERO.
- Ask your lawn service to apply Phosphorus Free Fertilizer.

#3 UNDERSTANDING WETLANDS AND WATER QUALITY

Wetlands:

- Function as Nature's Kidneys to purify surface and ground water.
- 1 Acre of wetlands holds 1 million gallons of water.
- provide a consistent base flow of Filtered water to Clear Lake.
- Home for specially adapted plants that act as erosion preventers, flood controllers, and provide water filters.

As a Habitat for unique wildlife and vegetation, wetlands:

- Are among the most productive natural ecosystems on earth.
- Produce plants, some that can not live elsewhere.
- Are major breeding grounds for resident and migratory birds.
- Support many invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and mammals that depend on wetlands for survival.

85% of Indiana wetlands have disappeared.

#4 IDENTIFY INVASIVE (NON NATIVE) PLANTS

Purple Loosestrife:

- invades wetlands forming pure stands that choke out native vegetation.
 - eliminates food and cover for many wildlife species, which depend on a divers mixture of native species to survive.
- #### Garlic Mustard
- forms dense stands covering many acres of forest floor.
 - It is a particular threat to spring wildflowers, overtopping and shading them out.
 - Compared to the diversity of plants it eliminates, garlic mustard provides little food for wildlife.
 - It can produce several thousand seeds that can remain viable for seven years or more.

#5 CONSIDER NATURAL SEAWALLS

- Research suggests that the vertical faces of concrete seawalls significantly compromises water quality.
- Glacial stone seawalls provide shoreline stabilization and disperse wave action.
- Glacial stone may be used to resurface existing cement seawalls, lessening their detrimental effects on water quality.
- When it is time to replace or resurface your seawall, consider using glacial rock.