

Why can't someone just haul the sediments away?

We wish it was that simple. But, remember we said the sediments comes from a variety of sources including farm lands. And, remember we said the sediments have been building up for years and years. Well, in the past, farmers often used chemicals with arsenic on their crops such as grapes and tree fruits. The arsenic particles attached to soil particles and is carried with sediments.

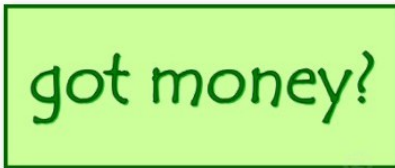
Also, sediments from the soils along the south branch of the river are very fine - really small and light particles. When these travel through water they create an electric charge which attracts the arsenic naturally in the water to attach to the particles. So, now we get sediments with arsenic as well as with nutrients! When the sediment settles out, the arsenic contamination is too high to just dredge and put on open land. State regulations say it must be put in a landfill capable of holding toxic materials.



This is a very expensive proposition. Our last estimate, 4 years ago, to remove 5,000 cubic yards and truck it to a landfill was around \$140,000. Imagine the costs in today's dollars!

Imagine what your lake assessment would be to pay for this!

Aren't there State or Federal Grants that could pay to remove the sediments or eliminate weeds?



State and Federal government agencies considers sediment removal and weed control as a local 'maintenance' issue. So, no, grants monies are rarely available for these 'maintenance' issues. Funds are available to prevent sediment and nutrient loading as well as shoreline stabilization. The Village is pursuing applicable grants to assist with funding.

Spring 2011



Spring 2011

The Trouble With Geese, Swans and Ducks

Riparian Property Owners Can Help!

You may not think you can help control weeds on Maple Lake, but, you can! Let me count the ways:

1. Do not feed ducks, geese or swans. They pass a terrific amount of nutrients into the water. Think of them as fertilizing the lake. It takes just 7 minutes for grass to go from bill to butt!
2. Do not mow your grass right down to the lake. Waterfowl love nothing more than a mowed open lawn. They graze all day in comfort and safety because they can see any predator or person approaching.
3. Plant native vegetation along the shoreline that cleans runoff water, provides natural habitat, and provides cover for those predators waterfowl fear. Even if there are no predators, waterfowl think there are and keep away from your lawn area.
4. Don't fertilize your lawn because if it turns your lawn green it will turn the lake green as well. If you must fertilize, try the organic fertilizer (teas).
5. Visit the website www.mishorelinepartnership.org to find great resources on all the things you can do to help save Maple Lake. [More on Page 3.]

For information on current efforts underway in 2011, please look at the brochure titled "Spring 2011 Update on Lake Saving Efforts."

There is also a brochure titled "The Trouble With Seawalls" that you may wish to look through.



Meet a couple of our regulars. One we want and one we don't !

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SEBASTIAN THE GOOSE SAYS THANK YOU!

Ever wonder why geese seem to gather on your favorite picnic spot, lake front shoreline, or backyard? We sat down and had a one-on-one interview with this freeloading fowl. To watch the video of the interview do a search on Google or YouTube for "Sebastian the Goose". Sebastian the talking Goose was created and released on YouTube to raise awareness on the importance of preserving and restoring environmental shorelines of lakes. Sebastian is able to convey to the audience that by restoring lakefront shorelines, geese will be less of a nuisance for property owners and lake dwellers.



LARRY, THE ALL-AMERICAN BULLFROG!

Another short video clip from the University of Wisconsin Extension program is "Larry, the All-American Bullfrog." In this video, Larry, talks to shoreline property owners about keeping their shorelines natural. Another video you can find by searching the internet.



Both Videos are well worth watching and forwarding to others. The videos were part of a research grant focusing on shoreline preservation headed by Bret Shaw, Environmental Communication Specialist working with the University of Wisconsin-Extension division.

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The Trouble with Geese, Swans and Ducks

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Geese, swans and other water fowl certainly add tremendous amounts of nutrients that help fuel excessive algae and weed growth. The scoop on goose poop:

- The average Canada goose dropping has a dry weight of 1.2 g (~ 0.04 ounces)
- Average droppings per day ~ 82 g/ day (dry weight), that's 2.6 ounces/ day (about 1/3 cup)
- Each dropping contains 76 % carbon, 4.4 % nitrogen, and 1.3 % phosphorus
- Geese can defecate as many as 92 times a day (numbers reported range from 28-92)

(From Sherer, N.M. et al 1995. Phosphorus loadings of an urban lake by bird droppings. Lake and Reservoir Mgmt. 11 (4): 317-327.)

Multiply this by the number of geese you see on maple lake each day and the numbers are staggering. Swans add even more than geese!

What you can do

- **Turn your dog loose.** Larger dogs are great deterrents for geese. Don't sick your smaller dog on the geese, because they may attack it in large numbers and potentially injure your pet.
- **Use decoys.** Placing fake plastic swans around your property will naturally deter geese from hanging about. Because swans are larger and more violent and territorial than geese, the herd of geese avoid any confrontations with swans at all costs.
- Remove any nesting material before they lay eggs. Keep removing it if it is rebuilt.
- Be persistent as the geese and swans.
- Some waterfowl won't cross strings or stay around when lawn sprinklers are on.

THE LAKE IS NOT AN OUTHOUSE!

If you have pets, do not put their poop in the lake! This is bad for a lot of reasons! Seems like an obvious thing not to have to say, but, sadly, we do because some property owners still seem to think it is Okay to put poop in Maple Lake. **IT IS NOT.**

