



PROTECT FISH AND WILDLIFE!

Michigan's 11,000 inland lakes provide opportunities for not only fishing and boating, but also vital habitat for fish and wildlife. Now more than ever, practicing good stewardship of our lakes is critical. Habitat loss is causing significant stress to the overall health of Michigan's inland lakes. The 2012 National Lakes Assessment (US Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Environmental Quality) showed that over 50% of Michigan's inland lakes have poor lakeshore habitat conditions.

As shorelines are developed:

- Native plants are replaced with expansive lawns up to the water's edge.
- Natural ground cover is replaced with houses, driveways, and other impervious surfaces.
- Seawalls and lake level control structures are installed.
- Nearshore aquatic plants and woody habitat (trees and branches) are removed.

Overdeveloped lakeshores cannot support fish, wildlife, or clean water.

Who is at risk?

- 24 amphibian species
- 25 reptile species
- 87 bird species
- 19 mammal species



These species spend all or part of their lives in Michigan's inland lake shoreland areas.

The solution is simple:
Protect and restore natural shorelines!



Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program

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Stewarding Michigan's Inland Lakes Through Volunteer Action



How Can You Help Your Lake?

Poor lakeshore habitat is the biggest stressor to Michigan's inland lakes. There are several ways that you can help protect and improve the health of your lake! The following programs will teach you how to better manage your land to protect your lake's health, as well as monitor water quality.



What is the MI Shoreland Stewards Program?

The program allows inland lake property owners to learn about good shoreland stewardship through an online survey.

- The survey includes questions about how you currently take care of your shoreland property. From shoreline vegetation and fertilizing, to septic maintenance and pet waste.

Survey participants receive:

- Valuable tips for stewardship improvement.
- A printable certificate acknowledging good shoreland stewardship based on survey results (gold, silver and bronze levels).
- Printable summary of your survey results.
- The option to purchase a MI Shoreland Stewards sign for display at your shoreline.

Become a MI Shoreland Steward!

Visit the website:

www.mishorelandstewards.org



Interested in helping your lake *beyond* your own good shoreland stewardship?

Become a MI Shoreland Stewards Ambassador!

An ambassador is a volunteer who wants to take the next step as a shoreland steward to protect and preserve the health of their lake.

As an Ambassador, you will:

- Spread the word about the MI Shoreland Stewards program.
- Register your lake or lake association on the MI Shoreland Stewards website.
- Have access to valuable resources that will help educate lake residents about shoreland stewardship practices.
- Assist lake residents with the survey.
- Receive an email notification when a property owner on their lake completes the survey.



Ready to become a MI Shoreland Steward Ambassador?

Visit the website and click on the Ambassador tab to learn more:

www.mishorelandstewards.org



Score the Shore!

What is Score the Shore?

Score the Shore is a shoreline habitat assessment conducted by volunteers through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program. The program engages lake associations, lake residents, and local governments by protecting high quality shorelines and identifying degraded shorelines that need improvement.

How does Score the Shore work?

Using aerial maps and GPS, the shoreline of the lake is divided into 1,000 foot sections. Volunteers cruise the shoreline in a boat to assess each section of the lake for:

- Number of homes and docks;
- Percent of aquatic and terrestrial vegetation;
- Types of erosion control structures.

The response to each question has a point value depending on the condition of the shoreline. Each section is given a score as well as an overall lake score on a 0-100 scale.

Ready to sign up to Score the Shore?

Visit the MiCorps website at:

micorps.net/lake-monitoring/become-a-volunteer/

