



What to do about...

Lake & Pond Management

A healthy pond or lake can be a wonderful source of beauty, relaxation and recreation. In an urban environment, regular maintenance is needed in order to keep these water bodies looking and functioning well. Managing a pond will be influenced by what the landowner or HOA wants it to be used for, but in general there are 4 main areas to address: erosion, algae & vegetation, wildlife and fish.

Below is information and website links to help you address these issues:

Erosion Control - Erosion can be caused by steep slopes, lack of deep rooted vegetation, wave action from boats on lakes, or adverse effects from wildlife. Where possible, cut back steep slopes to 3:1 or 4:1, plant wide buffer strips of native vegetation*, assign no-wake zones for critical areas and manage wildlife as needed**.

<https://marionswcd.org/streams-ponds/>

<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/html/g1307/build/g1307.htm>

Managing Algae & Aquatic Vegetation - A healthy pond contains vegetation and algae, but in urban ponds they can often spread out of control due to high levels of nutrients coming from fertilized lawns, pet and wildlife manure, and stormwater coming from the streets and surrounding neighborhood. Minimize excess nutrients by planting buffer strips, using soil tests and natural fertilizers for lawn care decisions, properly dispose pet waste, and encourage rain gardens and bioswales in your neighborhood. To control aquatic vegetation it is imperative to identify the plants in order to treat them correctly. Be sure to use chemicals approved for use around water bodies and according to label directions. Here are websites to help:

Check Purdue for their pond management resources:

https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ws/ws_21.pdf

<https://extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/pond-construction-and-maintenance.html>

EPA has information on water bodies and water quality:

<https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics#our-waters>

Here are links for aquatic vegetation I.D. & management:

https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/APM/APM_3_W.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1uOpW9kAw8>

For more information contact the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District

(317) 786-1776

www.marionswcd.org

Managing for Wildlife - Ponds and lakes are important habitats for many forms of wildlife. Providing native plants for food and shelter can encourage wildlife to visit or make your property their home. In some cases wildlife can cause damage and populations become excessive. If you have an overabundance of geese, a wide buffer strip of taller native plants and grasses can discourage them. Never feed the geese – they are better off if they find natural food sources during the summer and follow their natural migration instincts to leave in autumn. Below are resources for wildlife management:

Here are recommendations for improving wildlife habitat from Purdue:

<https://www.extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/wildlife.html>

Here is the DNR website for controlling nuisance geese which includes seeding recommendations for buffer strips:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2996.htm>

Here is the link to IDNR's recommendations for muskrats:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3368.htm>

Here is a link for Nuisance Wild Animal Control Operators:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/9788.htm>

Controlling Mosquitos - This website has some good information and several helpful additional links:

<https://armn.org/2016/02/19/how-to-control-mosquitoes-without-killing-pollinators-and-other-important-wildlife/>

Managing for Fishing – Fish can be an important part of your pond's ecology and also a source of food, recreation and building good memories for children. With proper management and occasional stocking your pond can produce a balanced fish population that will produce good sized, health fish.

Here are links for pond management & fish stocking:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fishmgt.pdf>

www.extension.purdue.edu/pondwildlife/

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V72T5IYIWH4>

Visit our website to find more resources including additional information on native plants and a partial list of local contractors:

<https://marionswcd.org/native-plants/>

<https://marionswcd.org/contractors-service-providers/>

