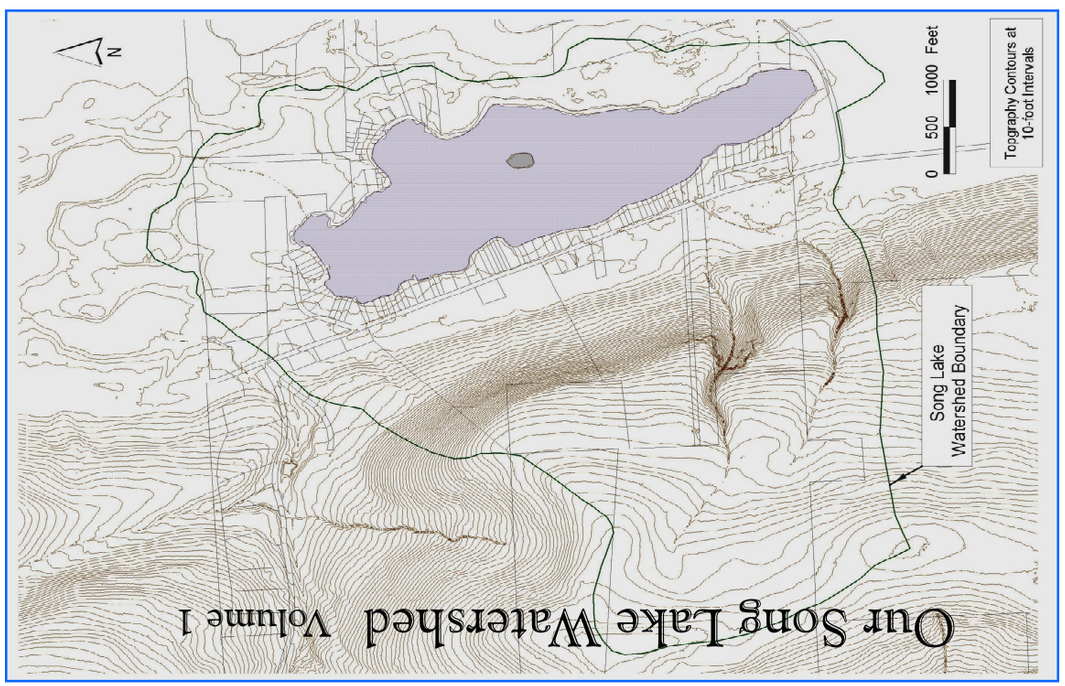
Song Lake



Our Song Lake Watershed Volume 1

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STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Invasive Species — Zebra Mussels

Without a doubt, one of the most pernicious and threatening of invasive species is the zebra mussel. Zebra mussel cause irreversible changes to the lake ecology which result in a reduction in different fish populations. In addition, they have razor-sharp shells and can cause painful cuts to swimmers. Walking or wading in infested waters without foot wear is prohibitive. Although some ducks, drum and carp eat zebra mussel, there is no way to significantly control their spread once introduced.

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are generally under one inch, but may grow up to two inches long, They look like a small, D-shaped clam, with light or dark colored stripes. They are generally found in clusters in shallow (6 to 30 feet) water, and are the only freshwater mollusk that can attach firmly to solid, submerged objects.

Natives of the Caspian Sea in Asia, zebra mussels have found their way to the Great Lakes in the ballast water of ocean going vessels. They were first discovered in 1988 in Lake Saint Claire, and have rapidly spread through waterways in the eastern and central US and Canada since then.

According to Cornell Cooperative Extension, the **spread of this invasive species is directly related to human activities.** Along with the transfer of the adult mussels attached to boats and boating equipment, the microscopic larvae are most suspect in the invasion. The larvae may be carried in live wells and bilge water.

Zebra mussels are in most of our neighboring lakes and threaten Song Lake each time an infected boat, bait or equipment from a neighboring lake is introduced.

For more information, go to these websites:
(http://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/zebramussels/help_stop.html)
(http://www-atlas.usgs.gov/dynamic/an_zm.html)
(http://counties.cce.cornell.edu onondaga/002_environment/001_water_quality/000067.php)

Issues on Song Lake — Geese

Protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Some folks love them, others hate them; either way, there is no denying the impact that geese have on our small lake.

The average migratory Giant Canada Goose is about 12 pounds or more. They return to the same nesting and feeding areas each year and can hatch 4 goslings in 28 days. Geese feed on succulent grasses and small plants.

Common Goose Problems:
Large goose flocks denude lawns of vegetation and create mess with droppings and feather litter. Also, goose droppings in heavy concentrations can over fertilize lawns, **contribute to excessive algae growth in lakes that can result in fish kills,** and potentially contaminate municipal water supplies. Geese can also cause aviation Hazards.

What about those droppings?

The average Canada goose dropping has a dry weight about 0.04 ounces. The average droppings per day equal about 2.6 ounces or 1/3 cup and each dropping contains 76 % carbon, 4.4 % nitrogen, and 1.3 % phosphorus. Geese can defecate from 28-92 times a day.

What goes into a goose generally comes from within the watershed and what comes out also stays in the watershed.

To find out more, go to www.lake.access.com

**Under federal law, state laws may be more restrictive, contact your state wildlife agency for more information.*

Prevention is the Key!

Make your property less attractive to geese

- Don't feed the geese.
- Leave a 20-30 foot barrier strip of tall grass (6 inches or more) adjacent to lakeshore.
- Plant dense hedges or erect fencing near lake shore areas to reduce access to your lawn.
- Check your property frequently for nest building activity in the spring.
- Remove any nesting materials found.
- Harass geese that frequent your property.
- Be as persistent as the geese.
- You might try string about 10-12 inches high along the shoreline. The geese seem to avoid crossing the string and move on.

The Legalities of Goose Control*

What you **CAN** do

- Harass the birds prior to nesting using noisemakers, dogs, brooms or rakes.
- Remove accumulated nesting material **(Prior to nesting!)**
- Erect fences and barriers.

What you **CANNOT** do

- Do Not injure, capture or kill geese *(except under applicable hunting regulations).*
- Do Not disturb geese on an established nest.
- NEVER collect or destroy goose eggs.

HELP PROTECT SONG LAKE!

General prevention procedures for Stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers

We all love to spend time on the water. Protecting these resources is an important part of our overall responsibility. A concern we must all address is the spreading of harmful plants, animals and other organisms from visiting boats entering Song Lake. These aquatic nuisance species can hitch a ride on boats, motors, trailers and any item used in the water. If the conditions are right, these introduced species can become established and create drastic results.

We can work to protect our environment if we know what to do. It is important to follow this general procedure every time a visiting boat enters Song Lake. The following should be preformed far enough away to prevent runoff into the lake.

- **REMOVE ANY VISIBLE PLANTS, FISH OR ANIMALS**
- **REMOVE MUD AND DIRT, EVEN SMALL AMOUNTS SINCE IT MAY CONTAIN A HITCHHIKER**
- **REMOVE EVEN PLANT FRAGMENTS FROM BOAT, MOTOR AND TRAILER**
- **FLUSH MOTORS**
- **ELIMINATE ALL WATER FROM EVERY CONCEIVABLE ITEM, MOTORS, LIVEWELLS, AND BOAT HULLS [REMOVE DRAIN PLUGS]**

Once water is eliminated, follow one of the cleaning instructions below.

Scrub boats, motors and trailers with

- **CHLORINE BLEACH mix, 3 oz to 5 gals water, let stand in boat hull for 1 hr then flush with clean water.**
- **Hot water** and / or use a **high pressure washer.**
- **100% Vinegar** - Wash equipment in for 15 to 20 min, flush with clean water.
- **Iodized Salt solution**-1 cup of salt to 5 gals of water, saturate for 30 min, flush with clean water.
- **Lysol,** undiluted, scrub at least twice, flush with clean water.

Why is this important? Because these hitchhikers can;

- Reduce game fish populations
- Ruin boat engines and jam steering equipment
- Make lakes unusable for boaters and swimmers
- Reduce native species
- Degrade ecosystems
- Affect human health
- Reduce property values

Remember, One Dirty Boat Can Spoil It for All of Us!

The **Song Lake Watershed Management Planning Process** involves all residents in the watershed. If you are interested in participating in this working group, contact Tarki Heath at 696-5262, Deb Brock at 696-5549, Tony George at 696-8045 or Marjie Grillo at 696-5963.