

Shoreline Maintenance - Best Practices

(January 2026: T.Klaves and D. Lester)

Advanced Muck Removal and Control Options

Cutting lake weeds and raking away muck to restore a weed-free, firm-sand-bottom lakebed in your shoreline swimming and docking areas is limited to the distance that you can throw a weed cutter or rake from a standing position in chest-deep water. For most of us, this limitation is acceptable. If you want to go deeper or simply get more thorough and sustainable results, there are additional methods available to reduce weed growth and relocate muck and silt.

Muck Digesting Pellets can be used to enzymatically transform plant detritus/muck accumulations into water-soluble nutrients and silt. There are numerous choices for this type of product.

Here is a website link to an article that describes a number of product options and related information:

<https://weedersdigest.com/blog/top-muck-pellet-reviews/?srsltid=AfmBOooB2wRloJmSwJF7v-8CAqQHHzHmfKzFANF9JDaFUVI8QnYgPduMT>

Muck pellets are fairly expensive, and they have both treatment zone (area) and time (duration) limits. How many tablets do you need, and how often will you have to use them? The effectiveness of each product can only be determined by using it.

Wind and waves regularly move sediment (silt and muck) around on the lakebed. Silt and muck will return, and additional work will be needed to clear them out again.

Mechanical Water Thrusters can be employed to blow loose silt and sediment (loosened muck) from the lakebed. There are multiple models available. A simple internet search will show you the options.

The following water thrusters are not recommendations. They are simply examples of what is commercially available:

Higdon ICE Blaster with Large Stand



Higdon ICE Blaster with Large Stand - 3/4 HP - 100' Cord

★★★★☆ 4.0 (5) [Write a review](#)

\$1,399.99

SKU: 2206586

SAVE TODAY! Pay \$1,379.99 with \$20 in CLUB Points upon approval to use on today's order. [Apply today](#) or [see if you're pre-approved](#)

Color: Black



Size: 3/4 HP 100'

1 HP 100'

3/4 HP 100'



J2 Outdoors Ice Ripper 1 HP 115V 100" Cord

SKU: 4210652

\$849.99

SAVE TODAY! Pay \$829.99 with \$20 in CLUB Points upon approval to use on today's order. [Apply today](#) or [see if you're pre-approved](#)

Quantity:

- 1 +

ADD TO CART

ADD TO WISH LIST

 Ship to Address

 Free Pickup in Store

Water thrusters have many free-standing and dock mounting options, including motorized oscillating mounts. It all comes at a cost.

Terry Klaves and his neighbors combined resources and put together a mobile (easily relocatable) water thruster in 2025.



Wheels and removable stakes are used to reposition and secure the unit along the shoreline. Purchasing a thruster with a 50 or 100 foot long power cord is recommended. Using a (weatherproof, hand-held) remote control electrical outlet switch allows the operator to activate the thruster and remain nearby to reposition it.

Equipped as shown:

- Kasco $\frac{3}{4}$ HP thruster w 25' power cord and ring mount (\$1,200.00)
- Menards dolly (\$100.00)
- Extended axle and additional hardware (\$60.00)
- Weatherproof Wireless Remote Control Outlet Plug (\$15.00)

Additional General Information and Lessons Learned:

- Residents on DNR-controlled lakes cannot alter the lake bottom. Water thruster use for moving muck is illegal. Thrusters can be used to move lakebed detritus, silt, and sediment in privately owned lakes, ponds, and licensed fish farms.
- Thruster use on Silver Springs Lake should be limited to removing weeds, algae, and plant detritus without disturbing the hard-packed sand below the soft silt, muck, and sediment.
- Thrust water perpendicular to the shoreline, toward the lake's center, not toward a neighboring property.
- A $\frac{3}{4}$ HP thruster can move weeds and sediment from the shoreline out beyond 25 feet (the end of a standard dock.)
- To minimize the amount of detritus carried out into the lake by the thruster's current, floating weeds and algae dislodged by water thrust should be collected and removed with a rake.
- Within an hour or two, sediment will re-settle further offshore in the calmer and deeper water. Over time, a ridge of muck may form there, running parallel to the shoreline.
- Silt and sediment drift in the direction of prevailing winds. Caution must be exercised to thrust only on days when the wind direction and force will not blow lingering sediment into neighboring properties.
- A thruster equipped with large wheels and moveable stakes can be shared, easily repositioned, and properly secured to thrust sediment in the desired direction.
- Care must be taken to avoid losing control of the thruster - - to avoid disturbing the hard-packed lake bottom or damaging the power cord.
- A remote switch can be used to turn the thruster on and off.
- 'Close supervision' is recommended during water thruster use.
- Wrapping the power cord in a floating tube ("noodle") is recommended to keep it visible and on the water's surface.

The first-time use of a water thruster will clear large amounts of weeds, algae, silt, muck, and sediment. Thereafter, thrusting a few times per year will assure that your lakefront swimming and docking area has a relatively firm sand bottom. Loosened sediment drifts constantly. Silt may return within hours. Periodic raking is needed to whisk away silt accumulation.