# Pond & Lake Restoration

Ponds and lakes are living systems. Excess nutrients, sediment, stagnant zones, shoreline erosion, nuisance vegetation, algae, and poor watershed practices can interact with one another. Restoration works best when the visible problem is connected to its source rather than treated in isolation.

**Successful pond restoration often combines water treatment with shoreline and watershed improvements. Treating only the symptom can allow the problem to return.**

## Common Concerns

- Recurring algae or surface scum.
- Excessive aquatic vegetation or shoreline weeds.
- Murky water, sediment accumulation, or declining clarity.
- Eroding shorelines and bare banks.
- Poor circulation, stagnant areas, or nuisance odors.
- Stormwater and nutrient inputs from the surrounding property.

## Restoration Strategies

- Baseline site inspection and identification of the primary stressors.
- Aquatic vegetation and algae management appropriate to the waterbody and intended use.
- Shoreline stabilization and vegetative buffer recommendations.
- Aeration or circulation considerations where suitable.
- Nutrient-source reduction and watershed maintenance practices.
- Phased restoration for properties where several problems must be addressed in sequence.

## Important Planning Factors

- Waterbody size and depth.
- Intended uses such as stormwater management, aesthetics, fishing, irrigation, or habitat.
- Inlets, outlets, drainage patterns, and surrounding land use.
- Sensitive species, wetlands, permits, and applicable state or local requirements.
- Seasonal water temperature, rainfall, and biological cycles.