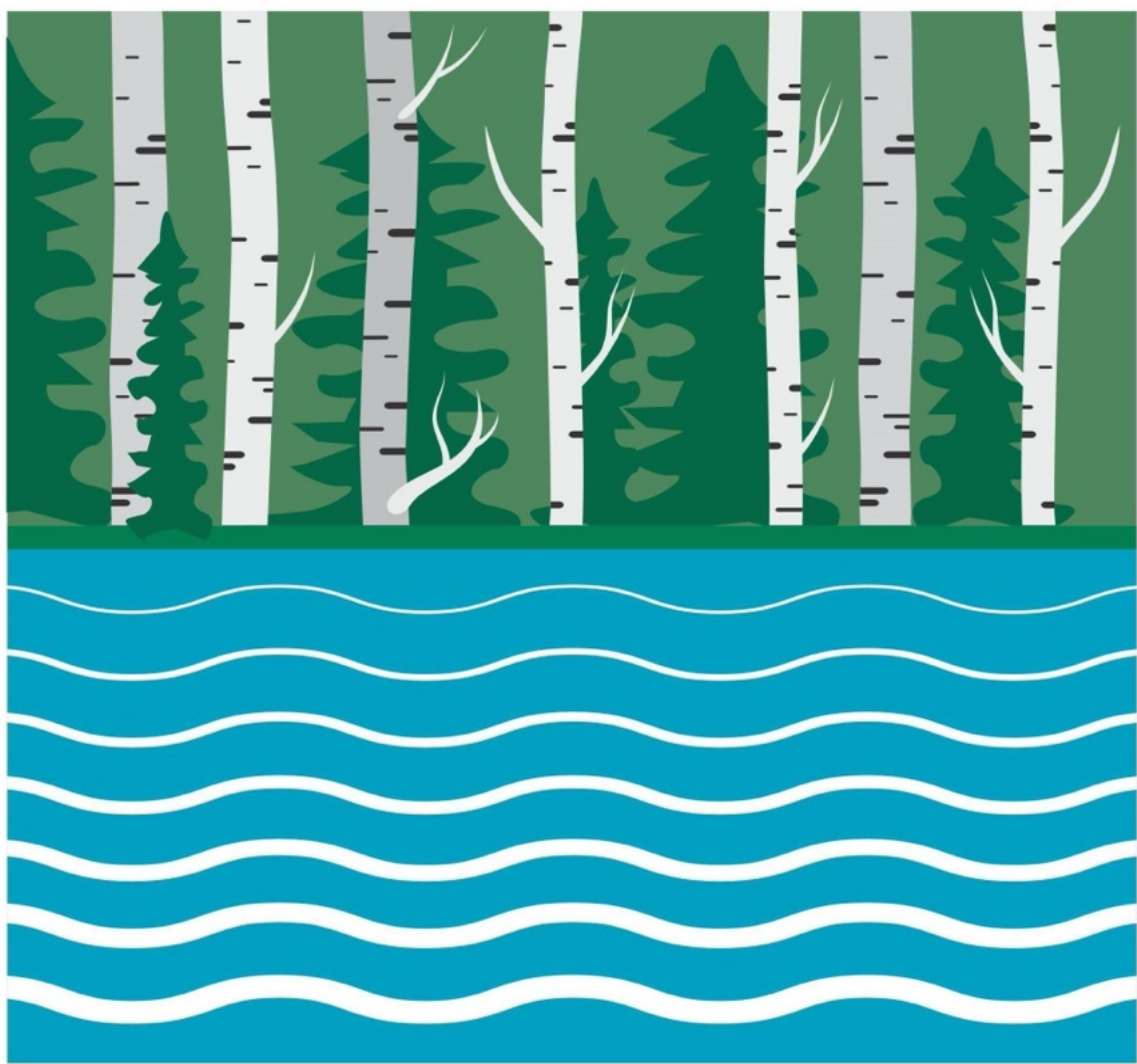


57th Little Traverse Lake Association Annual Meeting

CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP HALL | AUGUST 2, 2025



Agenda:

Call to Order

Moment of Silence

Board of Director Elections

Treasurer's Report

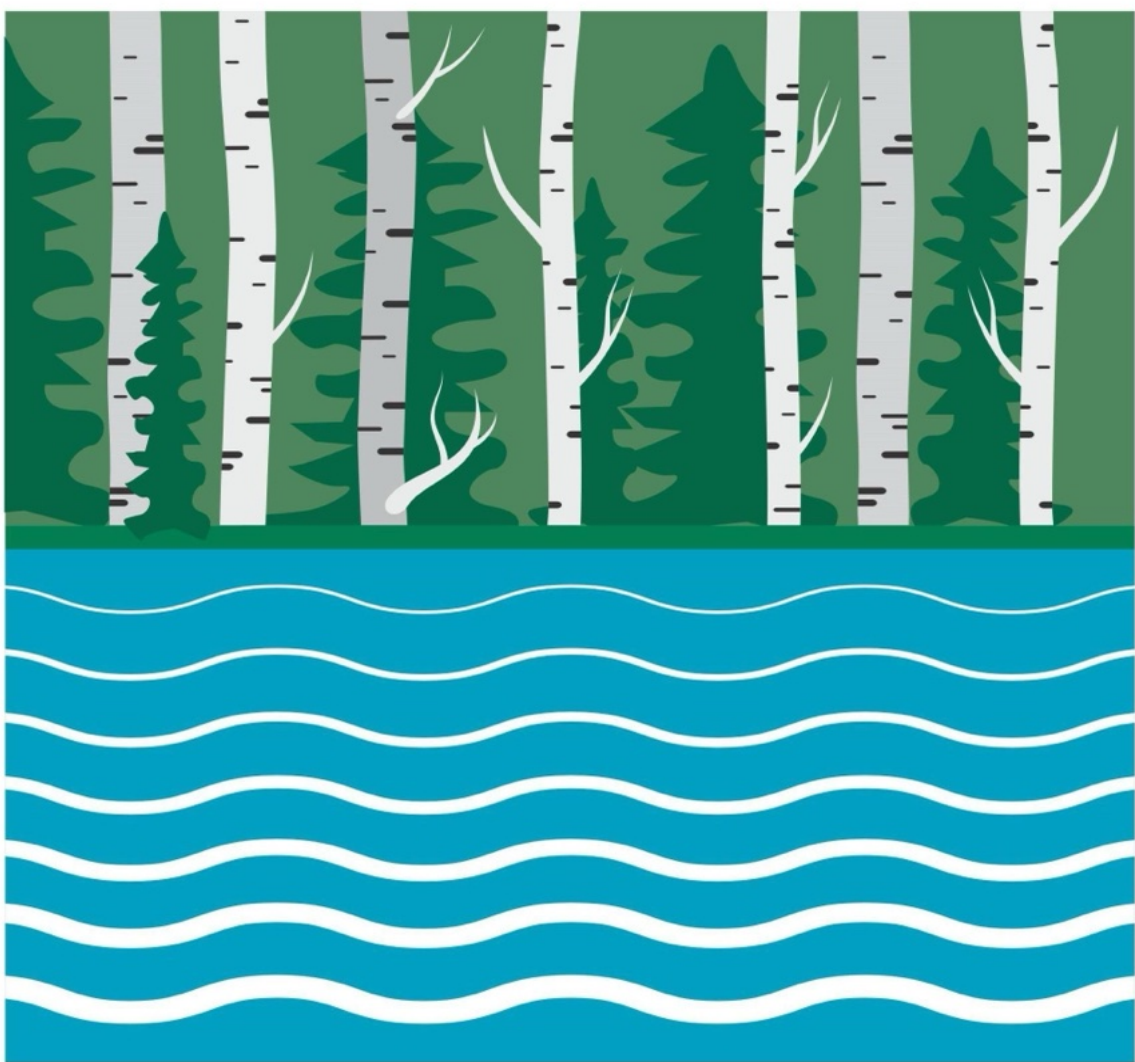
Greenbelt Project

Cleveland Township Commissioner

Committee Updates

- Communications and Engagement
- Invasive Species
- Water Quality
- Traverse Lake Road

Member Comment





Treasurer's Report

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025



Greenbelt / Shoreline Planning

Kelsey Froelich, MSc
Freshwater Solutions

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025

What is a Greenbelt?

- Strip of diverse native vegetation along the shoreline.
- Extends 10 feet back from shore for 75% of your frontage.
- Could include trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers that grow naturally or are planted.





Photo: Mary Blickendorfer







Benefits of Greenbelts



Reduces Runoff

Filters nutrients before they enter the lake.



Prevents Erosion

Root systems stabilize shoreline soil.



Attracts Wildlife

Creates habitat for butterflies, frogs, turtles and other beautiful species.



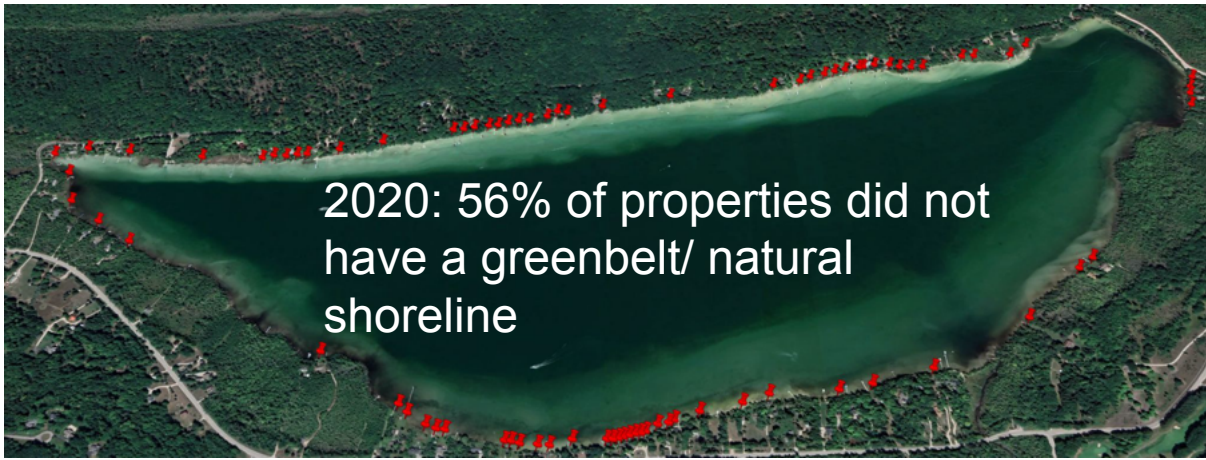
Deters Geese

Keeps waterfowl out of your yard.

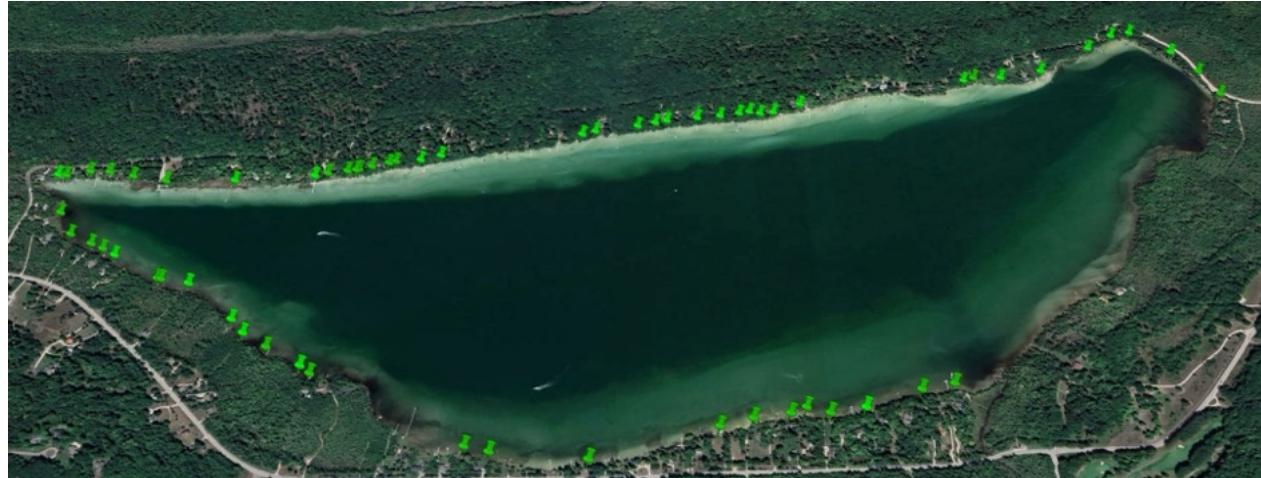
The story of two neighbors...



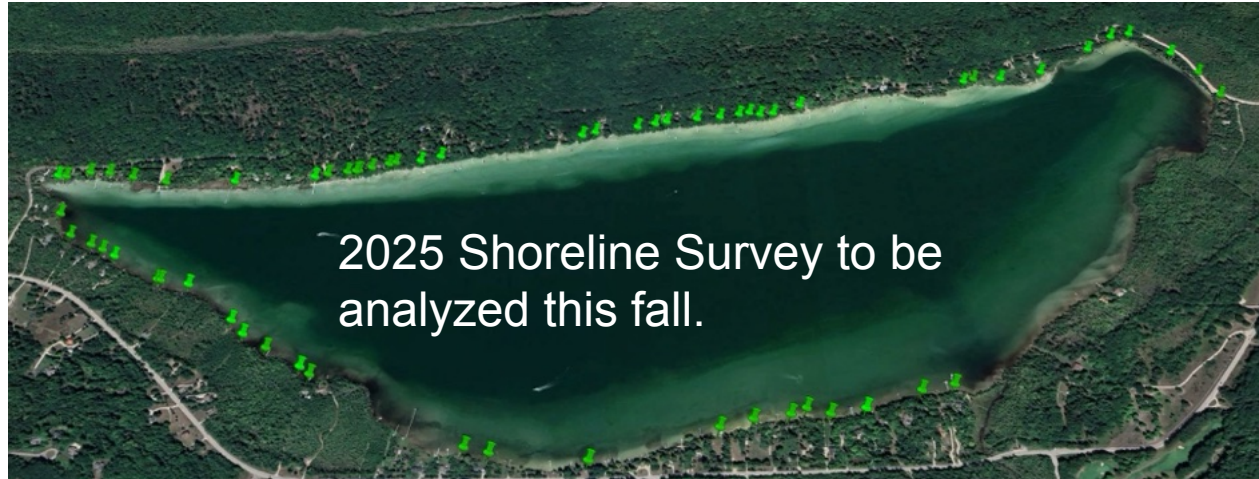
Where are we at?



2020: 56% of properties did not have a greenbelt/ natural shoreline



Where are we at?



Goal:



- ▶ 3 new greenbelts/ natural shorelines each year for the next three years
- ▶ 10 ft from shore, 75% of frontage



“The National Lakes Assessment findings show that local, state, and national initiatives should center on shoreline habitats, particularly vegetative cover, and nutrient loads to protect the integrity of lakes”
US EPA 2009



Free Service For Lake Association Members: Greenbelt/ Shoreline Consult

\$0

Cost to You*

Consultations are completely free for property owners.

~30

Minutes

Quick consultation that respects your time.

100%

Voluntary

All suggestions are optional.

*Funded by the Little Traverse Lake Association. If you find it beneficial, please tell your neighbors and consider a donation to LTLA!



Sign up today!
Questions?

Kelsey Froelich: 616-293-7525
kelsey.froelich@gmail.com



Cleveland Township Commissioner

Tim Stein, Commissioner

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025



Communications & Engagement Committee

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025

C&E Committee Purpose



Strengthen LTLA communication



Boost Member engagement



Educate on lake issues



Build LTLA community



Establish trusted communication channels

Committee Goals

As approved by the LTLA Board, committee focused on first four goals in 2025.

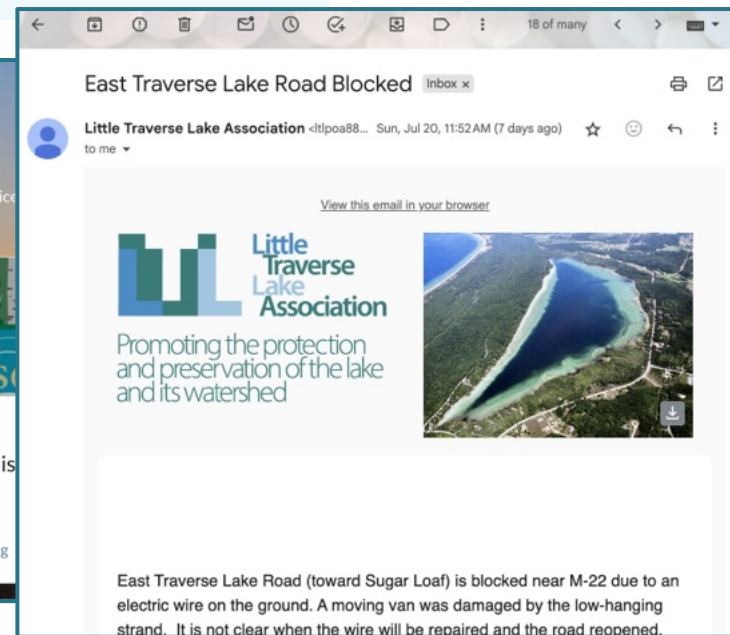
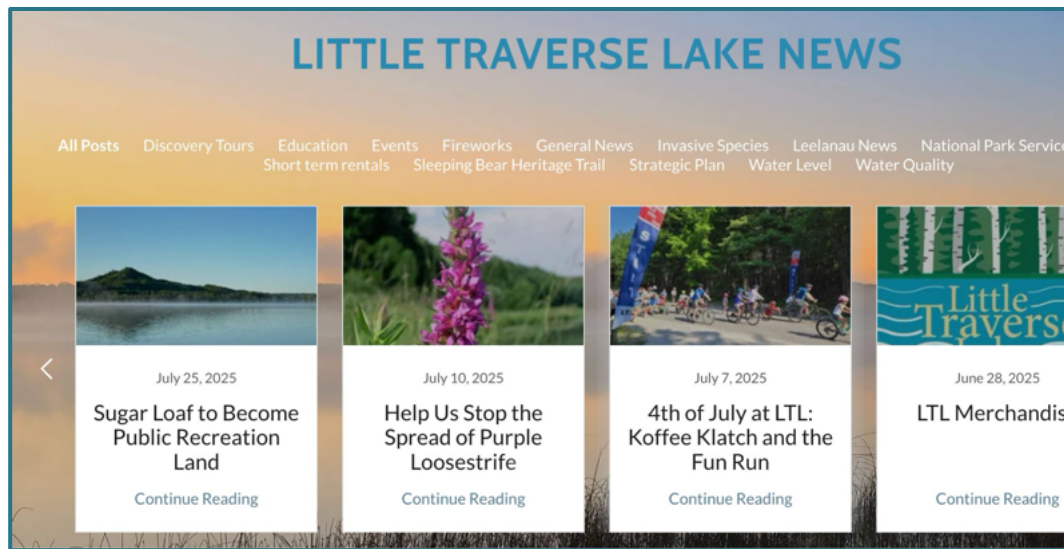


1. Increase participation via new tools
 2. Grow membership
 3. Encourage member involvement
 4. Improve communication technology
5. Raise awareness of environmental issues through education (e.g., water quality, invasive species, shoreline greenbelts)
 6. Implement tools to gather and respond to member input
 7. Increase collaboration and partnership efforts with other local lake associations and water preservation organizations
 8. Preserve LTLA history by implementing a digital archive

Committee Activity - Year 1



- Increase Communication and Transparency
- Educate on Lake Issues and Information



Committee Activity - Year 1

- Strengthen LTLA Website
- Invest in LTLA Organizational Structure



Little
Traverse
Lake
Association

Promoting the protection
and preservation of the
and its watershed

Meeting Minutes

- #2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- Archived Board Meeting Minutes

Committee Files

- #Committee Charters
- Communications and Engagement
- Water Level Committee
- Road Committee
- Water Quality

Project: History of Little Traverse Lake Book



- **Goal:** Member-driven project led by Victoria and Matt Sutherland
- **Purpose:** A collaborative effort to preserve our lake's rich history, including personal narratives and stories.
- **Get Involved:** Members encouraged to share their LTL stories via online and paper methods.
- **Communication:** LTLA C&E committee to support communication efforts, share project information and assist authors in engaging with Members.



Questions?



Paul Skiem	paulskiem@comcast.net
Beth Stephens	mbstephens@gmail.com
Carolyn Tabion	carolyntabion@gmail.com



Invasive Species Committee

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025

Aquatic Invasive Species



Eurasian Watermilfoil



***None at
present***

Starry Stonewort



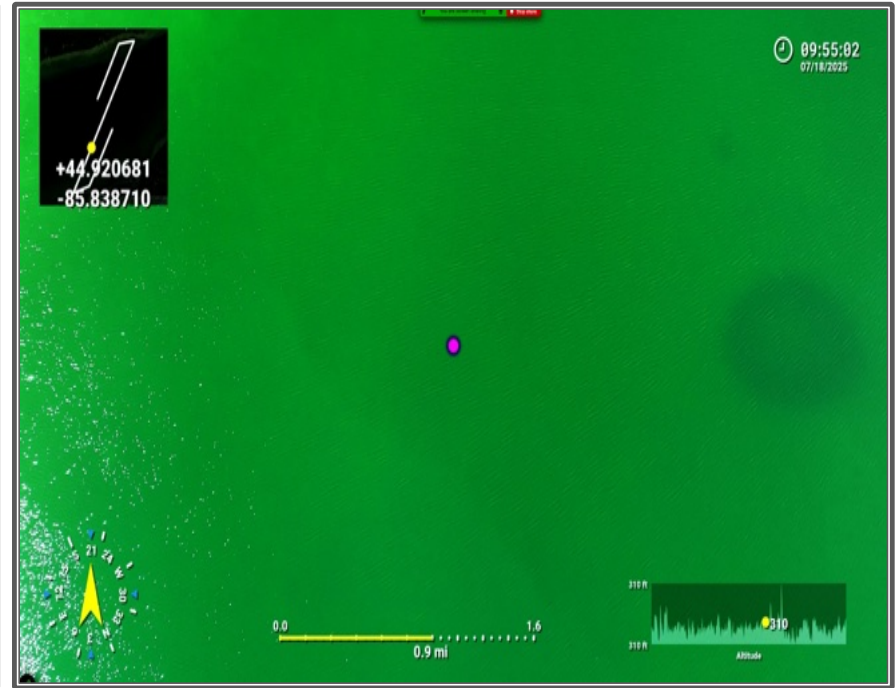
Aquatic Invasive Species



Before Photo Enhancement



After Photo Enhancement



Aquatic Invasive Species

ZEBRA MUSSEL



QUAGGA MUSSEL



***Quagga Mussels
outcompete Zebra Mussels.***

***ZM densities of 899 per
square meter. QM densities
of 7,790 per square meter.***

***QM more efficient at
removing phytoplankton.***



Terrestrial Invasive Species



Purple Loosestrife



Treating 15 properties.

Reduced by 90% over the last 3 years.

2-3 million seeds per plant per year.

Seeds remain dormant for 5-20 years.

Continue treatment program.

Terrestrial Invasive Species

Yellow Flag Iris



2025 found on 24 properties.

2025 removed 400 pounds.

Continue annual removal program.

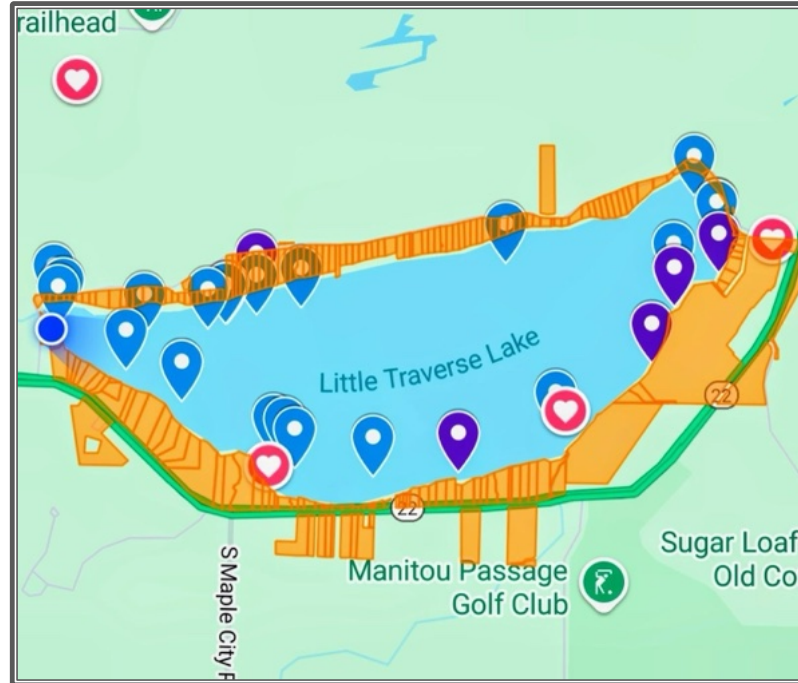
Terrestrial Invasive Species



Lake Leelanau



Little Traverse Lake



**2025
Yellow
Flag Iris
Locations**

Terrestrial Invasive Species



Phragmites



Phragmites Seedhead



***Found 3
spots in
2024.***

***1 new spot
in 2025.***

***2024 spots
eradicated***

Terrestrial Invasive Species



European Marsh Thistle



Shoreline Defense

Aquatic Herbicide for Cattails, Grasses & Phragmites

Effective aquatic herbicide for tough
shoreline weeds in lakes & ponds.

★★★★★ 242 Reviews

✦ [See reviews summary](#)



Airmax Shoreline Defense Aquatic Herbicide for
Cattails, Grasses & Phragmites - 1 Quart

Terrestrial Invasive Species

SEEDS Team



Dave



Dave's Ginormous YFI



Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

QM encrusting a sandy bottom



YFI removal



Removing yellow flag iris



Water Quality Committee

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025

Water Quality Charter



The Charter defines who we are

- Committee name
- Purpose and responsibilities
- Membership and composition
- Leadership and roles
- Meetings and reporting
- Decision making and authority

Water Quality Strategic Plan



The Strategic Plan identifies what we do

- Sampling protocols
- Data sampling time and place
- Scientific interpretation of the data
- Education of lake residents

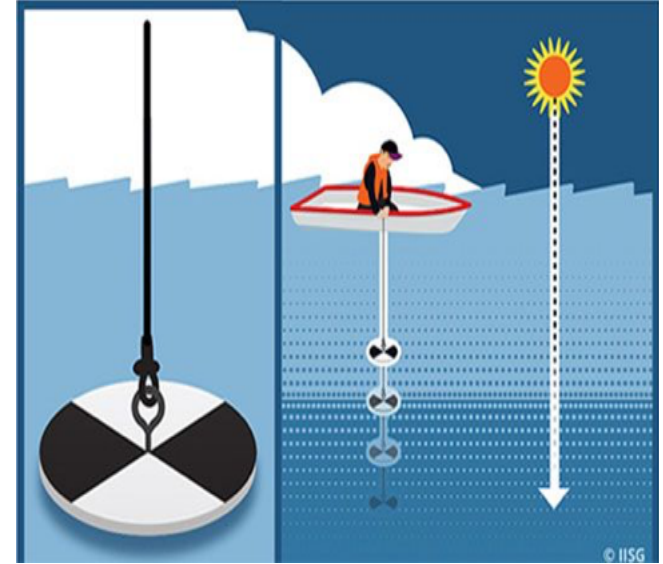


Water Quality Physical Assessments



Water Clarity

- Since zebra mussel invasion (~year 2000) the water is clearer. Visibility from 10 to 15 feet
- This allowed light penetration to go deeper
- Measure with Secchi disk



Water Quality Chemical Assessments



Total Phosphorus and Nitrate Nitrogen concerns

- These are “fertilizers” that promote algae growth
- Little has changed in the past 20 years
- Origins:
 - Poorly operating septic systems
 - Lawn fertilizers



Water Quality Biological Assessments



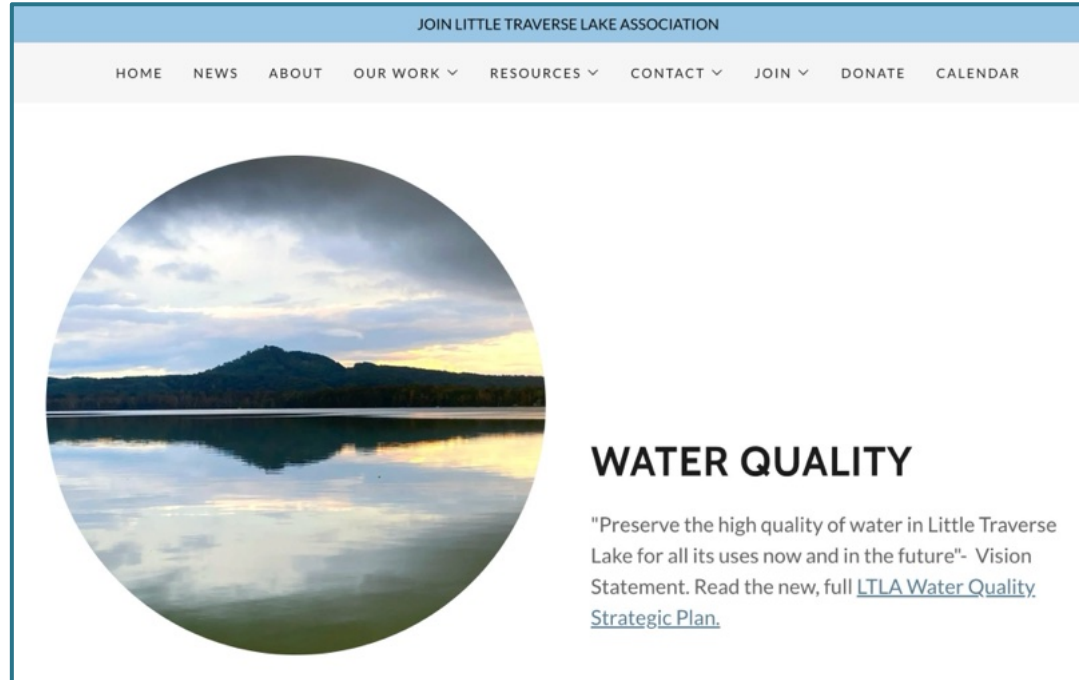
- Bacteria from poorly operating septic systems and wildlife (*E. coli* and *Enterococcus*)
 - Get your system evaluated (Phil Donatelli video in upcoming blog and on web)
- Do not fertilize your lawn - promotes algae growth in the lake.
- Most recent issue is *Microcystis* and the toxin microcystin



Water Quality Education



- Web site has lots of pertinent information including blogs, videos, “limnology” definitions, resource contact information
- Let’s Keep Little Traverse Lake “clean and healthy”!



Water Quality Committee - Want to Join?



Current Members:

Julie Sutfin

Cathy Pringle

Len Allgaier

Phil Donatelli

Tom Lauer, Chair





LTL Merchandise

LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025

GOT YOUR LTL SWAG YET?



Customize your
own look!



ORDER YOUR LTL MERCHANDISE NOW!

www.LittleTraverseLake.org

<https://little-traverse-lake-association.spiritsale!.com/>

Choose your product, your style, your color and your design theme!



Choose Product

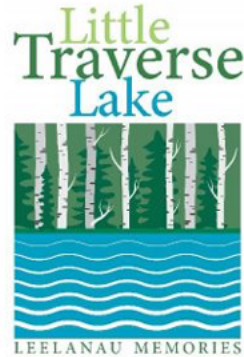
Choose Style

Choose Size

Choose Color

Choose Design

Allow 2 weeks



Improving Safety on Little Traverse Lake Road

- Speed
- Sight Distance
- Driving Behaviors

**LITTLE TRAVERSE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 2, 2025**

2024 Traffic Characterization Study



Motion photo cameras - data characterized 6000 photos

- Two weeks - August & September
- Two locations - eastern and western (both central)

August

September

Non-vehicular daily averages (50 per day)

67 (E) 57 (W)

57 (E) 45 (W)

Approximately 28% are cyclists



Vehicular daily averages (100 per day)

124 (E) 138 (W)

72 (E) 90 (W)

Approximately 17% are commercial trips



For every 2 cars, there is 1 non-vehicular user 0.53)

Sight Distance Requirements For Safety

Quick Charts for Stopping Sight Distance

Two factors:

Speed

Stopping Distance

Road Limitations

Curves

Vegetation

Design Speed (mph)	Stopping Sight Distance (ft)	Rate of Vertical Curvature, K*	
		Calculated	Design
15	80	3.0	3
20	115	6.1	7
25	155	11.1	12
30	200	18.5	19
35	250	29.0	29
40	305	43.1	44
45	360	60.1	61
50	425	83.7	84
55	495	113.5	114
60	570	150.6	151
65	645	192.8	193
70	730	246.9	247
75	820	311.6	312
80	910	383.7	384

What can WE do?



- **Check for lower hanging branches**
- **Check for small trees and brush**
- **Avoid landscaping in the Right of Way**
- **LCRC has right to clear ROW (33' centerline)**

Efforts taken

- Engineering analysis of sight distance and obstacles along road
- Work with LCRC to improve sight distance and clear obstacles

Improving Sight Distance



Improving Sight Distance



Improving Sight Distance



Before



After

Improving Sight Distance



Before



After

Improving Sight Distance



Before



After



Improving Sight Distance



Before



After

Improving Sight Distance



Before



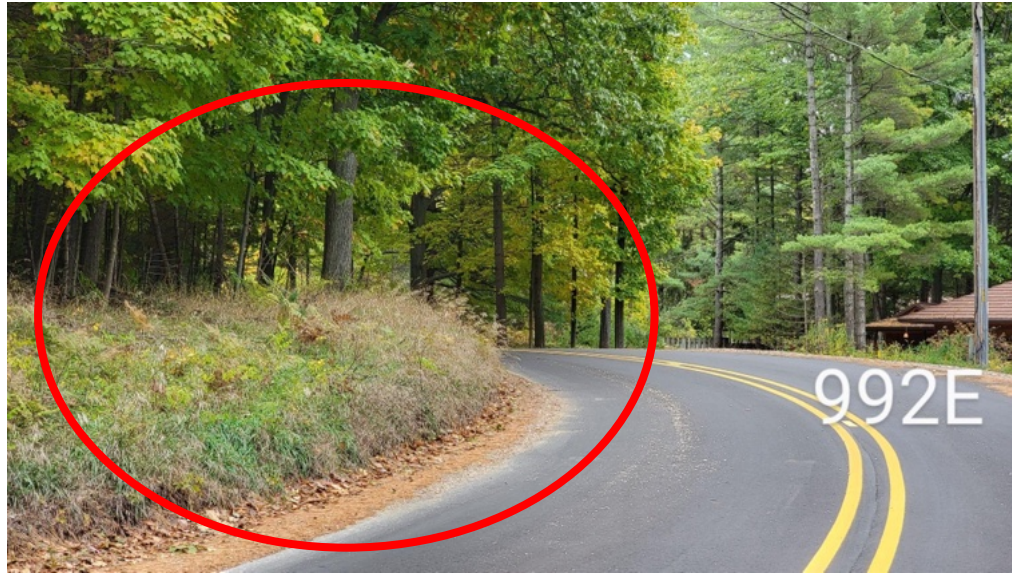
After

Improving Opportunity #1



Replace landscaping with lower height species (flowers)

Improving Opportunity #2

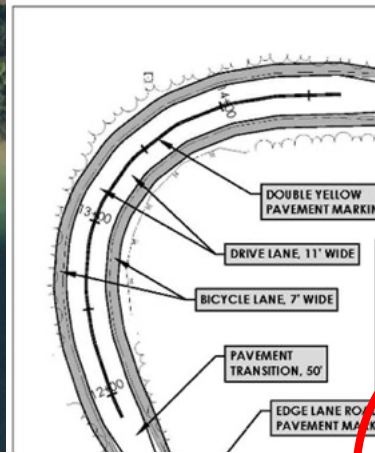


LCRC Berm Removal



Frequent crossing by families

Improving Opportunity #3



Keep vegetation clear & add safety lanes

County Road Right of Way



- 33' from centerline
- No signs
- Can clear **ALL** vegetation
Without landowner permission

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Help trim branches and brush
- Avoid landscaping in ROW



Changing Driving Behaviors



WE are responsible!

Be aware

Slow down

Give space

Swing wide

Enjoy the drive!

**LET'S
LOWER
ROAD SPEED**

Drive Friendly!

Little Traverse Lake Association Member Comment

CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP HALL | AUGUST 2, 2025

