

Lake Sherwood
Water Quality
Action Plans and Status

as of 10/6/24

Water Quality Committee Members

- Karen Adams*
- Mark Churay*
- Dan Devine – Co-Chair
- T.J. Gurski – Co-Chair
- Bill Kevelin
- Carolyn Kevelin
- Mike Loney*
- Jeff Mauer
- Julie Race
- Mike Schwartz
- Lesley Thomas
- Linda Tucker
- Carol Wilcop

Action Items Completed and On-Going

- Water Quality Committee formed in Fall of 2023
 - Mission is to protect water quality through monitoring, education, stewardship, and using science-guided approaches for lake management
- Added list of actions residents can take to help the lake in 2024 Dues Letters and on LSA Website under *Lake Life* □ *Lake Care*.
- Progressive Companies hired in Fall of 2023 to begin work in 2024
- Paul Hauser from Progressive presented current findings at July 2024 GM Meeting
- Progressive has and will continue to map weed growth in the lake and will provide direction our weed applicator, Aquaweed. (what, when and where to treat).
 - Efforts will focus on reducing invasive plant species and promoting growth of native species.
 - As of July 2024, Phragmites will be identified and added to Aquaweed treatment maps.
 - Reduce the use of Copper Sulfate to treat algae as this is a short term fix and detrimental to the long term health of the lake.
- All treatments and restrictions is communicated in advance via Marthagram & Facebook.

Next Steps Associated with Progressive

- Final report from Progressive expected late Fall of 2024. It will be posted on the website and communicated via Marthagram and Facebook.
 - Encouraging feedback from LSA residents commenting on clearer water along their beaches
- Progressive's Recommendations for 2025 (Pending budget approval)
 - Provide standard aquatic plant control oversight (3 full & 1 partial lake survey between May and August), mapping, information and education, reporting, and attending meetings. This element also includes the recommended coordination and Rule 97 permit acquisition for either Phoslock or Eutrosorb G treatments for control of phosphorus
 - Provide in-lake water quality sampling at the same locations as conducted in 2024.
 - Provide stormwater outfall sampling (12 locations, one high flow and one normal flow).

NOTE: It is anticipated that plant control costs, primarily milfoil and reduced algae, could be less in 2025 following the use of more systemic herbicides this year.

Dr Jude Report Follow-up

LSA Board hired Dr. Jude, limnologist, to conduct a water quality assessment in August of 2023. Dr Jude reviewed results at the July 2024 GM Meeting.

Status/Actions Associated with Recommendations:

1. Plant buffer zones –

- Sample buffer zone created at Driftwood A Lot. Sample includes placards identifying plant type. Buffer zone was created so residents can view and get ideas for their shoreline.
- Started planting buffer zone plants along the shoreline at the Ledgewood A Lot
- Plant recommendation sheets distributed at GMM & perennial exchange and posted on F/B
- Guest speaker presented to membership on buffer zones - 9/10/24 at OVMS
- Plan for 2025 is to reward several residents who create/maintain exemplary buffer zones with permanent, high quality recognition signs (pending budget approval)
- Plan for 2025 includes planting an additional buffer zone either on an island or another A Lot (pending budget approval)
- Buffer zone plant package deals being established with Feral Flora to be offered for sale to residents Spring 2025

Dr Jude Report Follow-up

Status/Actions Associated with Recommendations (Cont.):

2. Urge residents to STOP fertilizing – see Spring 2024 View. Some applicator companies offer a weed control only program.
3. Reduce hard surfaces, promote green space and keep hard surfaces clear of pollutants – listed on 2024 dues send-out and Fall publication of the VIEW
4. No boat or vehicle washing with detergents – listed on 2024 dues send-out

NOTE: *Actions 1-4 also apply to off-water residents. Runoff from neighborhood storm drains have higher concentrations of pollution because so many homes contribute to discharge from a single culvert dumping into our lake.*

5. Continue to draw lake down in Fall to facilitate beach raking. Drawing down slightly more in future years could allow for more removal of decomposing bio matter
6. Continue executing the plan to remove sediment and open the natural flow of the Wildwood River
7. Stop killing so many weeds as it contributes to algae growth – Progressive supports this approach and worked with Aquaweed to maintain more native plants
8. No leaf burning – listed on 2024 dues send-out
9. Support measures to thwart geese as they can cause E.coli
 - Egg destruction and goose round-up occurred in 2024 and will be pursued again in 2025
10. Do not swim or let pets swim in areas that have paint like algae as cyanobacteria was identified in sample – Marthagram sent on 6/16/24

Dr Jude Report Follow-up

Status/Actions Associated with Recommendations (Cont.):

11. Ban Wake Boats

- The Board, on 9/25/24 voted they have no opinion regarding banning any type of watercraft on Lake Sherwood

Other Areas of Action and Investigation

- Install, flip, remove, replace and repeat EutroSORB Bags in above waterline culverts in 2023 and 2024
 - Are these bags helping? Difficult to tell. Effort to measure phosphorous load from a spent bag underway.
 - Tentative plan is to do this same labor intensive effort in 2025, pending bag analysis
- Investigate EutroSORB G, a formulation that eliminates phosphorous being released from the sediment
 - Agreement at 8/7/24 Board Meeting to have bottom sampled to determine amount of phosphorous
- Investigate weed harvesting more thoroughly
 - Milfoil needs to be eliminated with systemic herbicide before harvesting could be pursued
- Continue to evaluate the two competing muck eating devices near the Wildwood River entrance
- With only ~50% of houses in Lake Sherwood hooked to the sewer system and many systems well beyond the average life span of 30 years, continue to promote proper septic maintenance, testing and sewer hook-up.
 - Township has enacted required septic inspection upon sale of any home
 - Current single source contracting to install grinder pumps expires January of 2026
- Leave the grass uncut along the shoreline at all common areas
 - Lawn care contractor will leave ~18” of uncut grass along most shorelines

Conclusion

- Water Quality Committee will continue to protect water quality through monitoring, education, stewardship, and using science-guided approaches for lake management
 - Monitor health of lake through water samplings and lake surveys
 - Educate LSA neighborhood residents so they understand current state of Lake Sherwood and how they can help improve water quality.
 - Stewardship is the responsible planning and management of lake resources. This will be done through consultation with our partner Progressive and support/leadership of the LSA Board.
 - Science-guided approaches involve using data to drive action and leverage all available tools and technologies to improve and protect water quality.

There is not a single, quick-fix to improve water quality overnight.

It requires EVERYONE to do their small part.

*We must remain steadfast in commitment to improve
Lake Sherwood Water Quality.*