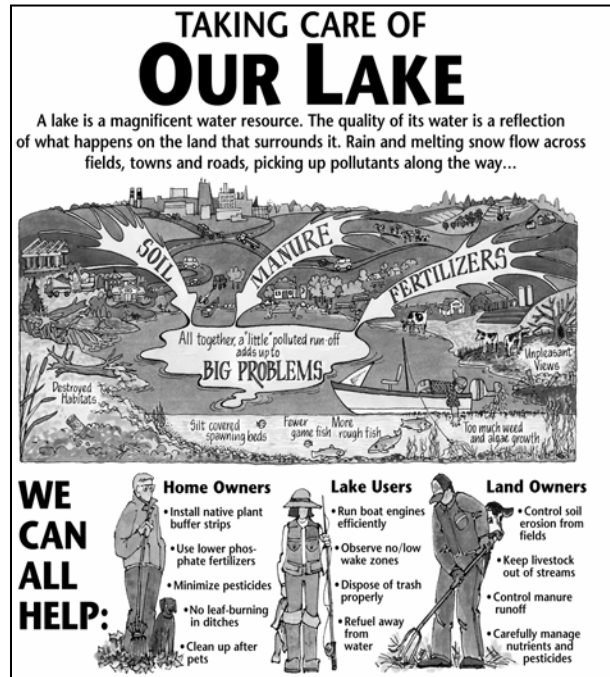


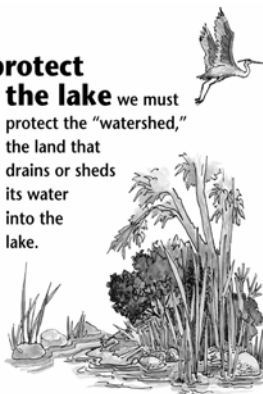
The Lake -Watershed Relationship

A lake is the reflection of its watershed (all the land that drains into the lake) and the everyday actions that take place in the watershed. A lake watershed is a dynamic and unique place. It is a complex web of natural resources-soil, water, air, plants and animals. Yet everyday activities can impair these resources ultimately impacting our well being and economic livelihood.

Land use within a watershed can significantly influence both the quantity and quality of runoff. As the intensity of land use increases, runoff volume increases as does the number of potential sources and types of pollutants. Within a lake watershed, all of the runoff from rainfall, snow melt or excess irrigation drains to a common outlet-the lake. Runoff can carry pollutants directly into a lake. Because most of this pollution comes from many dispersed sources throughout the watershed, it is referred to as nonpoint source or runoff pollution. The importance of the relationship between a lake and its watershed cannot be overemphasized when protecting, managing or restoring a lake.



To protect the lake we must protect the "watershed," the land that drains or sheds its water into the lake.



It is a maxim of watershed science that watershed residents are personally responsible for contributing some of the pollutants that run off their lawns, farms, streets and parking lots. Runoff pollution is the major cause of water quality problems in most urban watersheds. While runoff pollution is not usually sudden or dramatic, it leads to the gradual degradation of a lake. The actions done around our homes and businesses, in our fields and on our farms, at development and construction sites add up to pose a threat to a lake. The cumulative impact of individual behaviors poses a threat to a lake. To be truly effective, runoff pollution prevention must be a collective act, just as pollution is a collective result of our actions.

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