

Clark Lake, Lost Lake and Logan Creek Critical Habitat

The Critical Habitat Designation Program was created to identify and provide protection for areas of lakes and streams that provide important fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity protection, navigational routes, and natural scenic beauty. It provides waterfront property owners with information that will help them protect the health of waterways where they live. The identified areas are often locations of valuable fish spawning habitat, diverse aquatic plant communities, springs that provide water flow, and natural shorelines.

Critical habitats of Clark Lake and Logan Creek include:

- **Bulrush beds** provide spawning habitat, cover for fish and protect shores from erosion.
- **White Cedar wetlands** provide winter habitat for deer, turkey, and grouse and reduce runoff from terrestrial sources.
- **Submerged aquatic plants** provide important fish spawning, and foraging habitat.
- **Woody debris** provides excellent fish habitat.
- **Groundwater fed springs**

What does a Critical Habitat Designation mean to land owners?

Critical habitat areas are actually a combination of "sensitive areas" and "public rights features". The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the authority under two separate laws to identify and protect these areas. For ease of explanation, the two will be referred to as "critical habitat areas".

Areas designated as critical habitat affect lake front landowners with critical habitat in front of their shoreline. There are no prohibitions of activities in areas designated as critical habitat. However, the DNR will work with the landowners through a permit process to minimize the impact of activities such as, aquatic plant removal, pier installations, and shore protection. For example if a lake front property owner wants to place a pier within a designated critical habitat area. DNR Staff would work with the property owner to design the pier in a manner that does not adversely impact the area. This may mean the pier extends to a greater depth out past a high quality fish spawning area or the pier is positioned to one side of the property where the impact would be the least.

10 Ways That Landowners Can Protect Their Lake

1. Maintain as much of the naturally fallen woody debris as possible.
2. Restore shoreland buffers and minimize disturbance along the shoreline.
3. Remove hard shoreline structures like seawalls and rock riprap and restore natural shorelines to enhance wildlife and fish species. You may also want to consider planting vegetation in existing rock shorelines to absorb nutrients from the lawn and provide habitat.
4. Minimize your impact by keeping your pier, swim raft, and swimming area in one corridor.
5. Protect vegetation within 75 feet of the shore. Reduce entire tree removal for viewing purposes; try to trim choice limbs.
6. Protect native aquatic plants. Do not remove native aquatic vegetation by physical, mechanical, or chemical means - especially the emergent species.
7. Prevent the spread of Eurasian water-milfoil and other invasive exotic species, by removing plants from boats and trailers and draining livewells, bilges and bait buckets.

8. Obey all slow no-wake areas. Minimize or eliminate boat traffic in sensitive areas.
9. Minimize lawn fertilization to prevent excess nutrient loading to the lake and use a phosphorus free fertilizer
10. Properly maintain your septic systems to protect water quality.

Conclusion

Clark Lake has much of its natural shoreline intact and in good condition. Through the stewardship of landowners and users of the lake we can protect the quality of the water, fish and wildlife in our lakes and streams for future generations.

For a detailed interactive map of your lake go to:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/criticalhabitat/>

Contact The Department of Natural Resources
Northeast Region Headquarters
2984 Shawano Ave., P.O. Box 10448
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54307-0448

920-662-5100

Special Thanks to the
Clark Lake Advancement Association
The Ridges Sanctuary
University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Center for
Watershed Science and Education
Land owners of the Clark Lake/Logan Cr. Watershed

