



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Shoreline Trends and Best Management Practices: Combatting cumulative impacts through homeowner scale techniques

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WETLANDS, LAKES, AND STREAMS PROGRAM



Natural shorelines provide important functions and values

Stabilize sediments
Reduce turbidity
Absorbs wave energy
Mitigates shoreline erosion

Valuable habitat
Spawning and nursery areas
Refuge
Oxygenate lake

Garrison et al. 2005, Krull 1970, Manis et al. 2015, Newbrey et al. 2005, Savino and Stein 1982, Strayer and Findlay 2010

Flood protection
Erosion protection
Water Quality
Nutrient breakdown

Habitat
Fishing
Snorkeling
Swimming

Shoreline simplification results in a loss of refugia and habitat heterogeneity that can cause negative impacts on littoral fish and wildlife communities

Christiansen et al. 1996, Jennings et al 1999, Garrison et al. 2005, Newbrey et al. 2005, Woodford and Meyer 2003, Radomski et al. 2010, Strayer and Findlay 2010

Physically complex shore zones support richer and more diverse communities

Tonn and Magnuson 1982, Strayer and Findlay 2010

Fish density, body size, and species richness is greater in structurally complex habitats with vegetation and woody structure

Barwick et al. 2004, Madjezack et al. 1998, Jennings et al. 1999, Strayer and Findlay 2010

- 24 amphibian
- 25 reptile
- 87 bird
- 19 mammal

- Algae competition
- Water quality
- Beauty
- Invasion resistance

- Habitat for fish and other animals during all life stages
 - Food
 - Cover
 - Spawning
 - Nursery
- Oxygenate lake

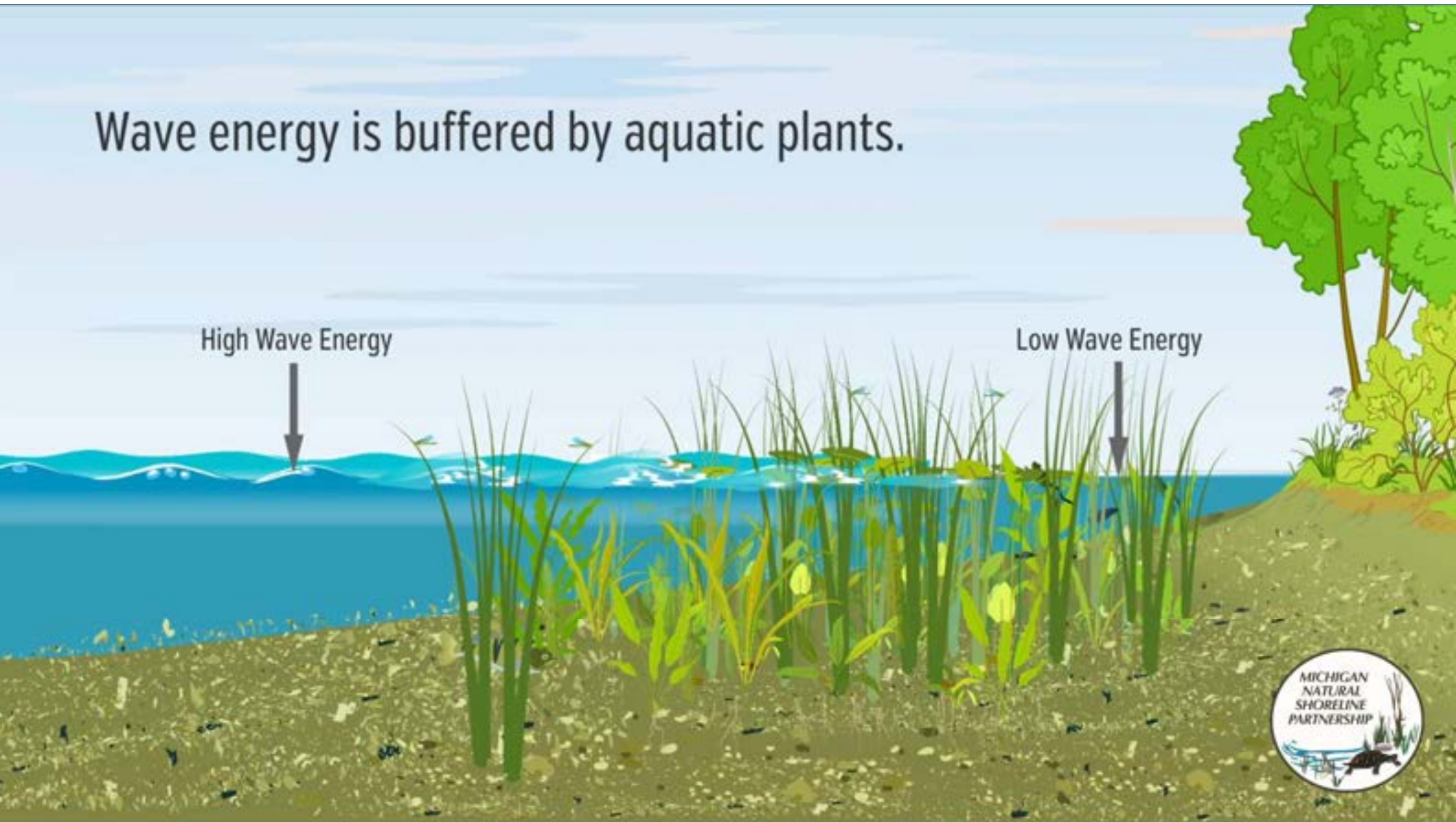
- 65 species of Michigan native fish
- 18 of which are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Michigan Wildlife Action Plan)

Wave energy is buffered by aquatic plants.

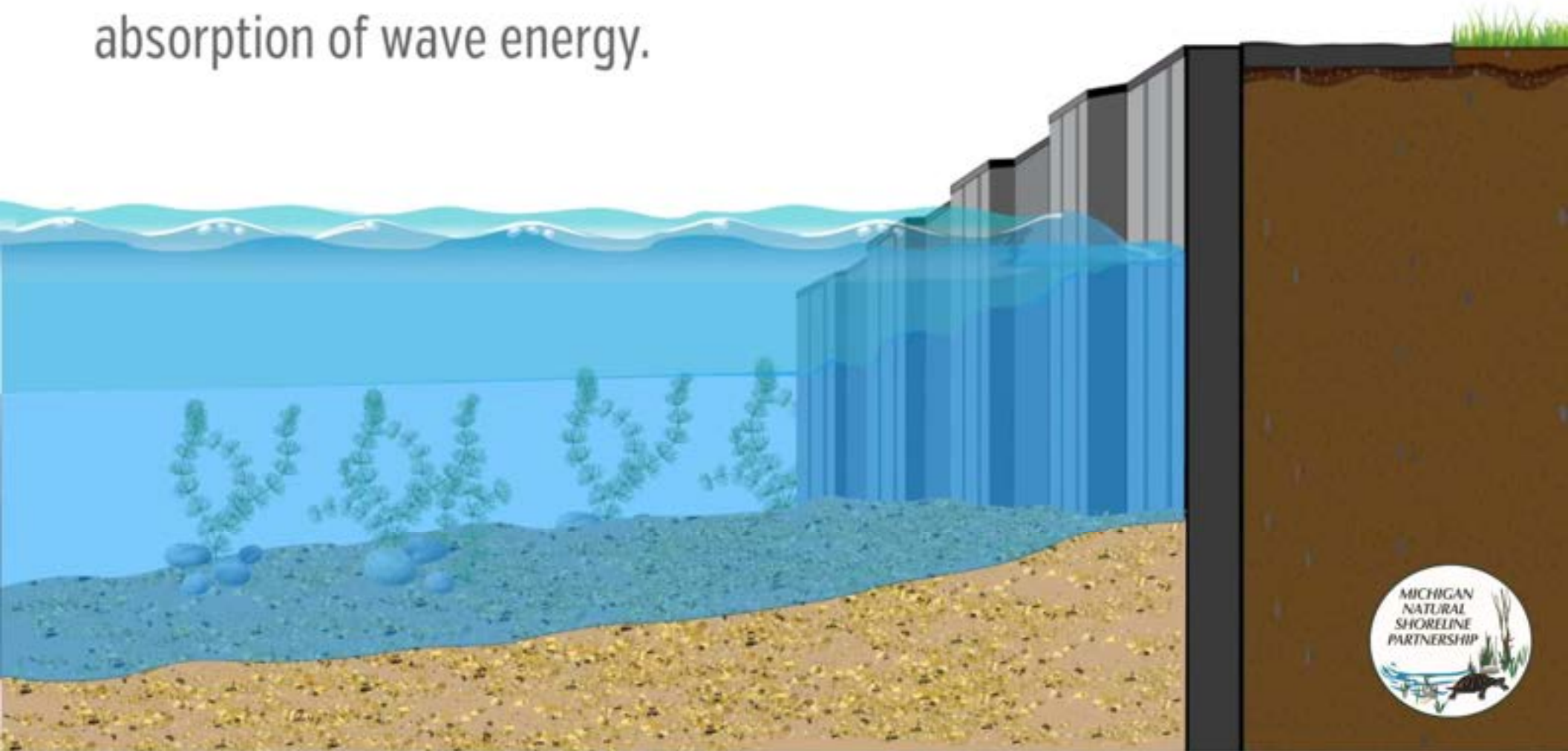
High Wave Energy




Low Wave Energy



Seawalls do not allow for the absorption of wave energy.







Developed lake shorelines have

- LESS WOODY STRUCTURE
- LESS EMERGENT AND FLOATING-LEAF VEGETATION COVER, DENSITY, AND COMPLEXITY THAN UNDEVELOPED SHORELINES (Radomski and Goeman 2001, Elias and Meyer 2003, Jennings et al. 2003, Wherly 2012).

- SCOURING OF THE LAKE BOTTOM AND EROSION OF NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES
- SEDIMENT SUSPENSION, NUTRIENT SUSPENSION LOWERS WATER QUALITY
- DOESN'T SUPPORT AQUATIC PLANT GROWTH AND NATURAL SHORELINE VEGETATION
- NO HABITAT COMPLEXITY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE
- CREATE BARRIER FOR ANIMAL MOVEMENT
- REMOVE NATURAL ENERGY DISSIPATING CAPACITY OF SLOPED SHORELINE AND NATURAL VEGETATION

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Cumulative impacts!

Seawalls deflect waves and cause scouring of the lake bottom.

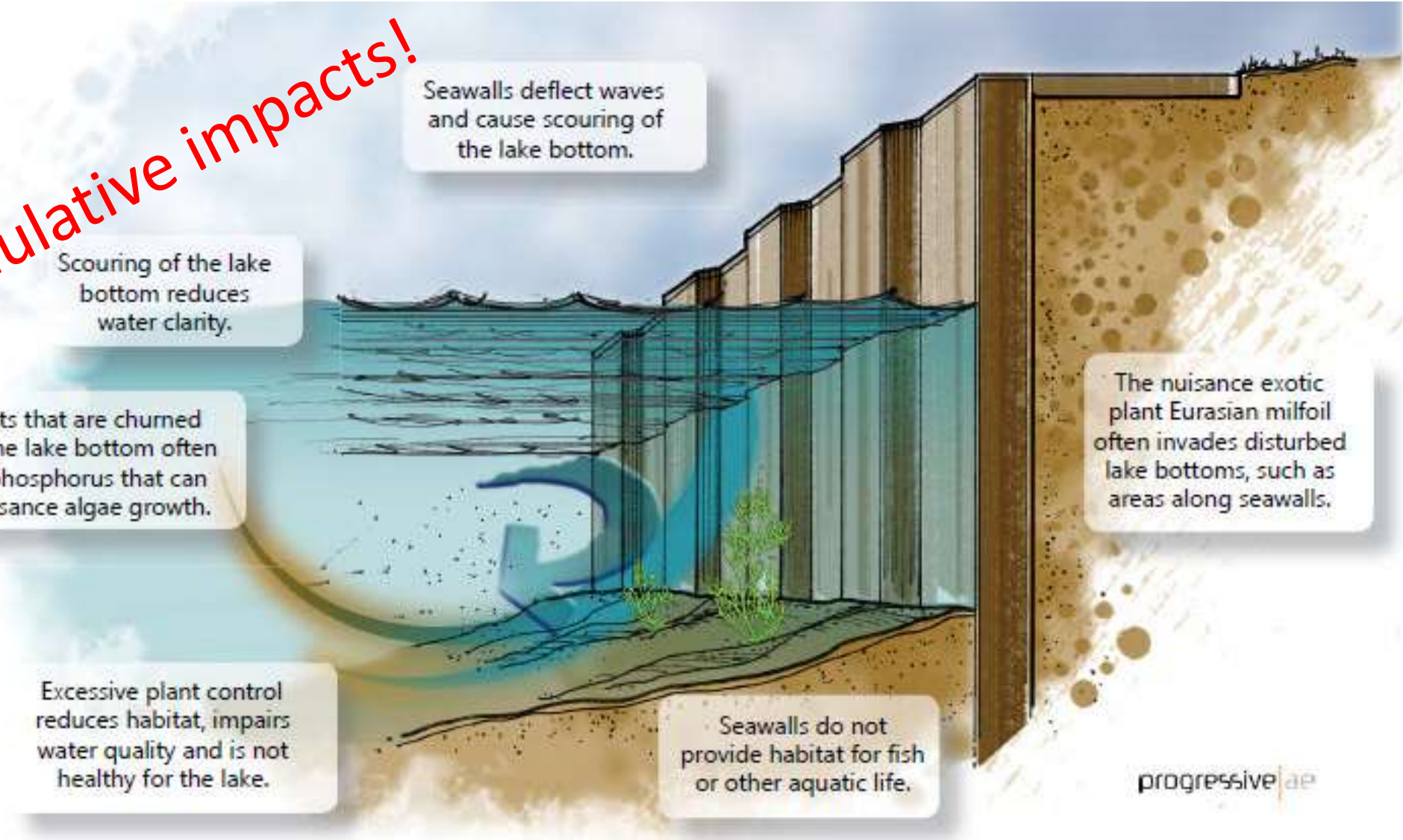
Scouring of the lake bottom reduces water clarity.

Sediments that are churned up from the lake bottom often contain phosphorus that can cause nuisance algae growth.

Excessive plant control reduces habitat, impairs water quality and is not healthy for the lake.

Seawalls do not provide habitat for fish or other aquatic life.

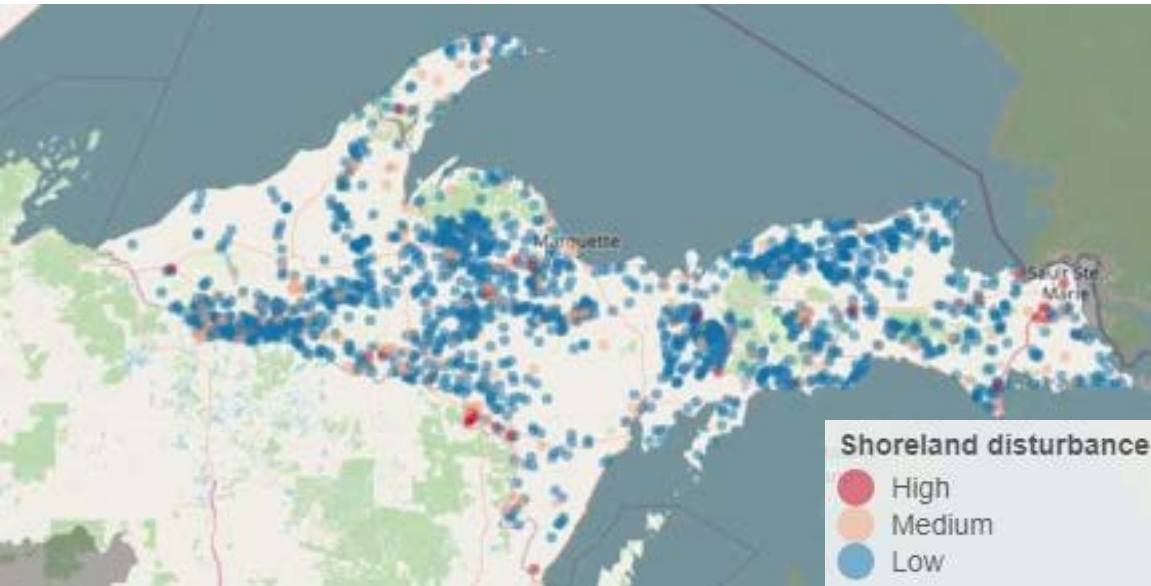
The nuisance exotic plant Eurasian milfoil often invades disturbed lake bottoms, such as areas along seawalls.



Cumulative impacts

SECTION 404(B)1§230.11(G) OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT DEFINES
“CUMULATIVE IMPACTS” AS:

“CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ARE THE CHANGES IN AN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM THAT ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE COLLECTIVE EFFECT OF A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL DISCHARGES OF DREDGED OR FILL MATERIAL. ALTHOUGH THE IMPACT OF A PARTICULAR DISCHARGE MAY CONSTITUTE A MINOR CHANGE IN ITSELF, THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF NUMEROUS SUCH PIECEMEAL CHANGES CAN RESULT IN A MAJOR IMPAIRMENT OF THE WATER RESOURCES AND INTERFERE WITH THE PRODUCTIVITY AND WATER QUALITY OF EXISTING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS.”



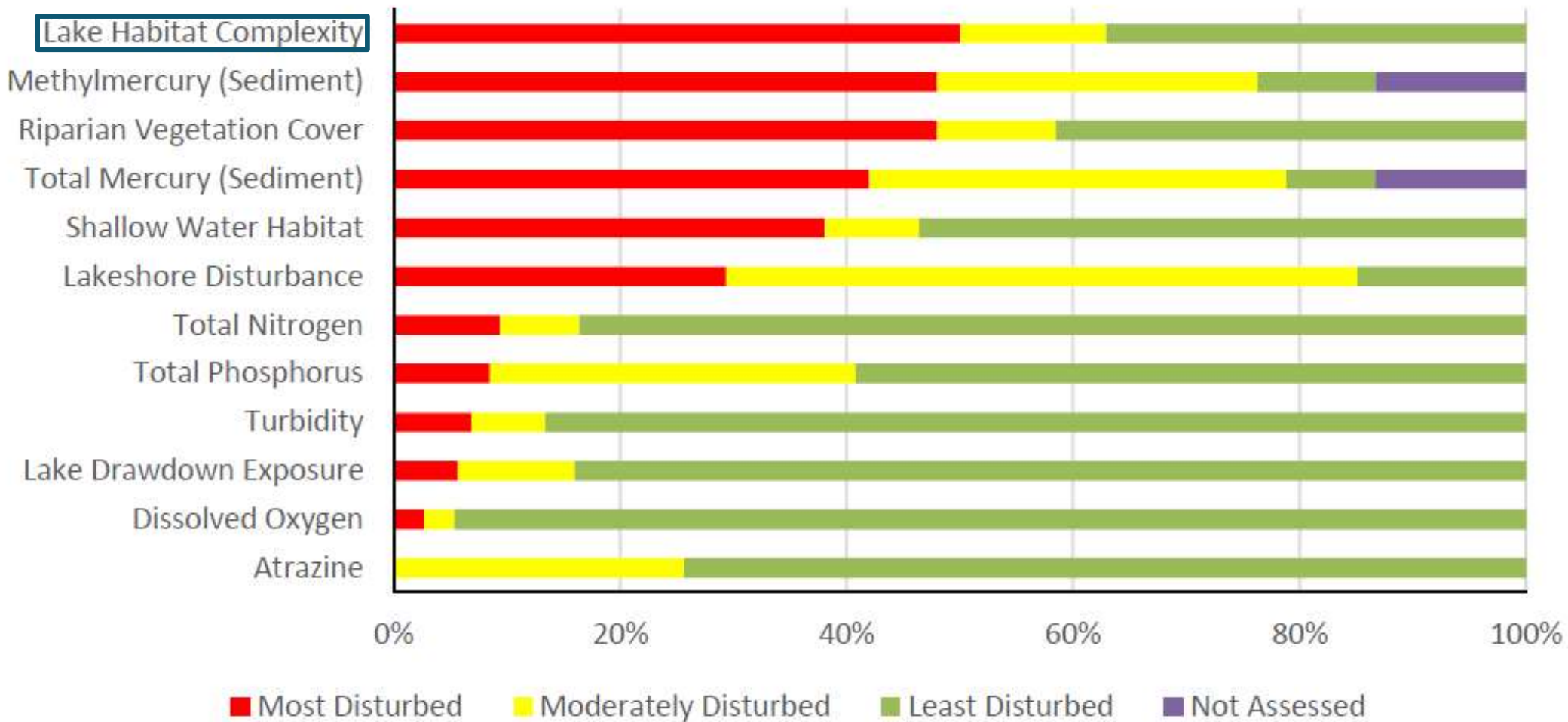
“OUR RESULTS [FROM MICHIGAN] TOGETHER WITH THE FINDINGS FROM [MULTIPLE STUDIES] FROM MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN LAKES, SUGGEST THAT SHORELINE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON LITTORAL HABITATS THAT ARE PERVASIVE AND WIDESPREAD”

WEHRLY ET AL. 2012

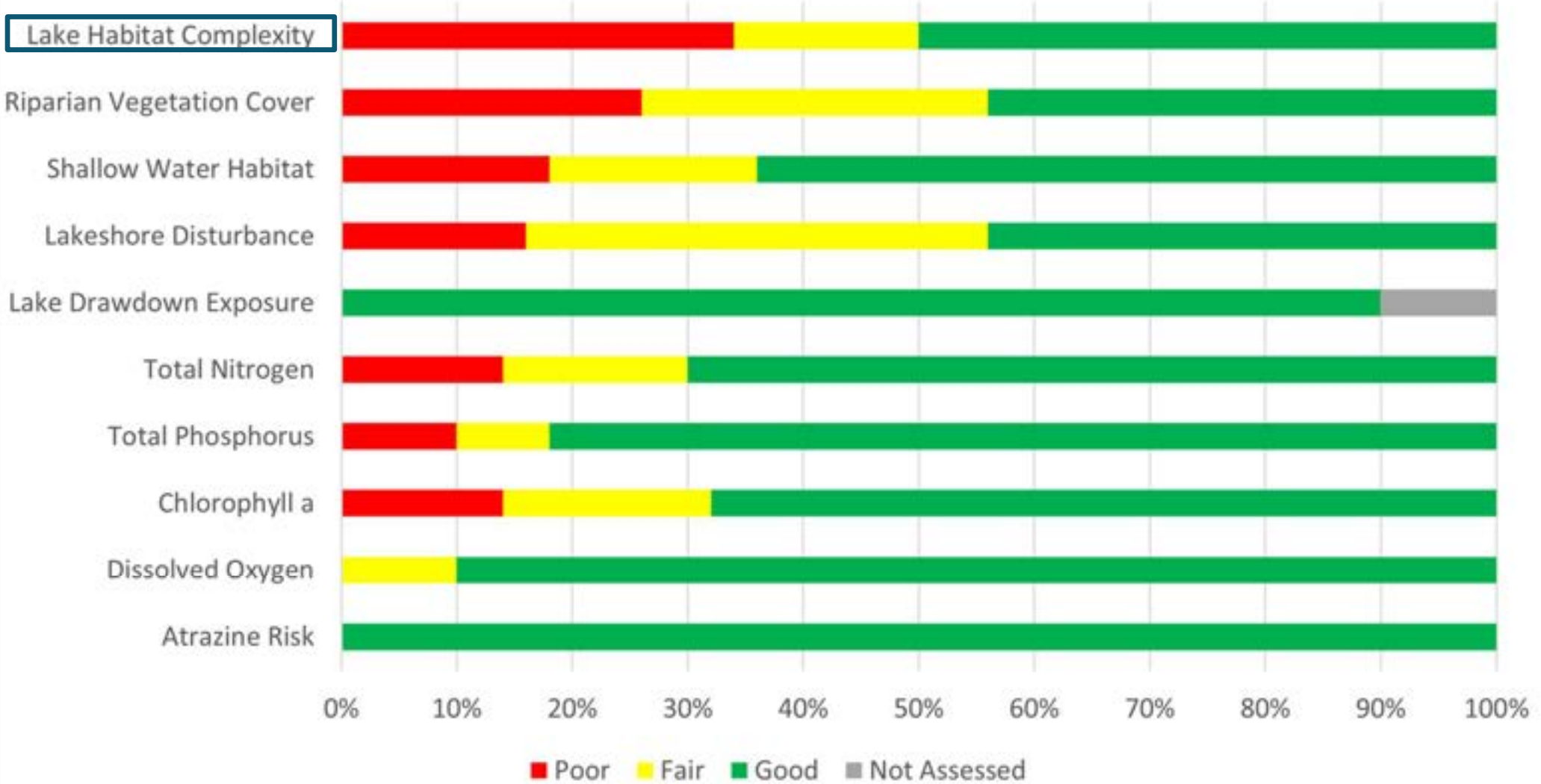


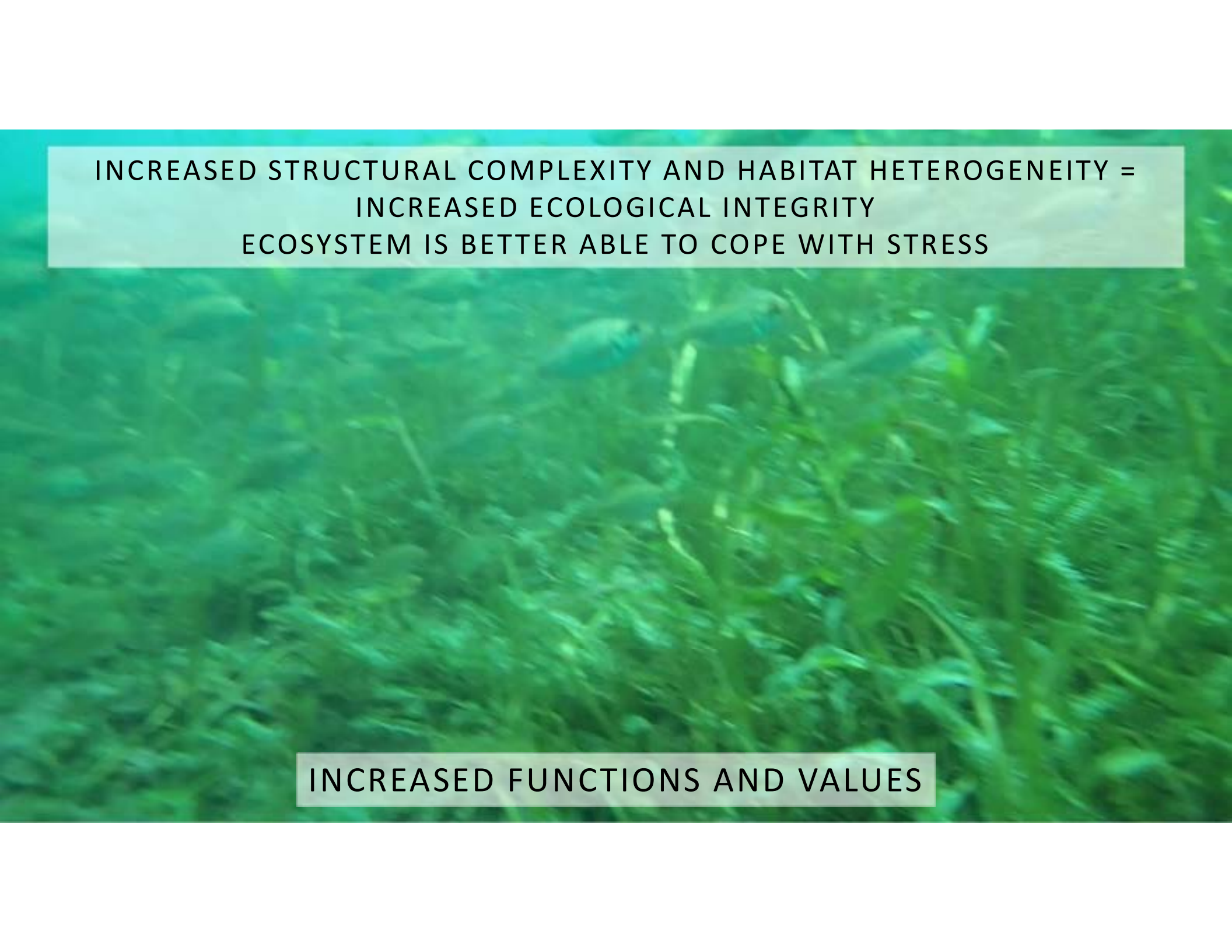
[LINK TO MGLP CONSERVATION PLANNER](#)

2012 Michigan NLA Lake Condition and Stressors



2017 Michigan NLA Lake Condition and Stressors





INCREASED STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY AND HABITAT HETEROGENEITY =
INCREASED ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY
ECOSYSTEM IS BETTER ABLE TO COPE WITH STRESS

INCREASED FUNCTIONS AND VALUES

Case Studies

SILVER LAKE, GENESEE COUNTY

LAKE CHARLEVOIX, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

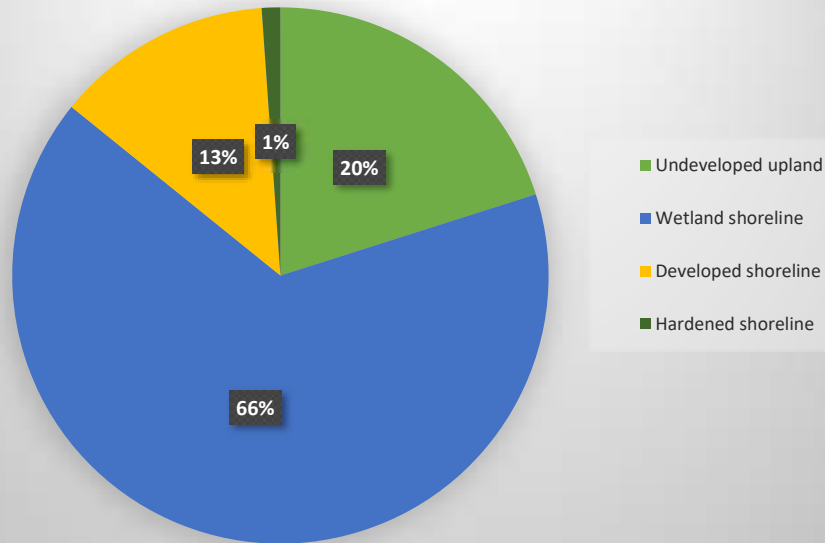
EGLE

SILVER LAKE, GENESEE COUNTY

-  UNDEVELOPED UPLAND SHORELINE – UNDEVELOPED VEGETATED UPLAND AREAS
-  WETLAND SHORELINE – EMERGENT WETLAND VEGETATION
-  DEVELOPED SHORELINE – GRASS TO THE WATERS EDGE, STRUCTURES AND ROADS NEXT TO WATER
-  HARDENED SHORELINE – SEAWALLS, RIPRAP



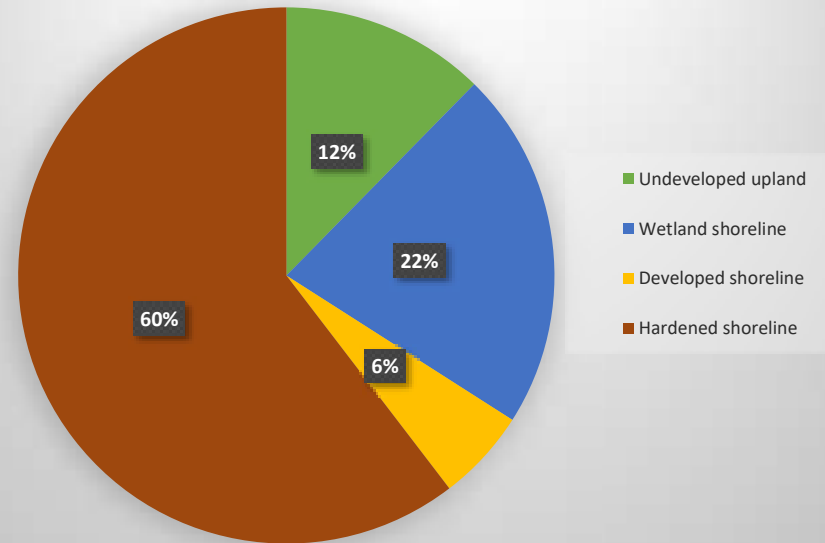
1940 Shoreline Analysis



Shoreline Type	Miles
Undeveloped upland	1.26
Wetland shoreline	4.12
Developed shoreline	.82
Hardened shoreline	.07
Total	6.27

COMBINED 14% HARDENED/ DEVELOPED SHORELINE
 COMBINED 86% UNDEVELOPED UPLAND/WETLAND SHORELINE

2015 Shoreline Analysis



Shoreline Type	Miles
Undeveloped upland	.98
Wetland shoreline	1.72
Developed shoreline	.44
Hardened shoreline	4.79
Total	7.93

COMBINED 66% HARDENED / DEVELOPED SHORELINE
 COMBINED 34% UNDEVELOPED UPLAND AND WETLAND SHORELINE

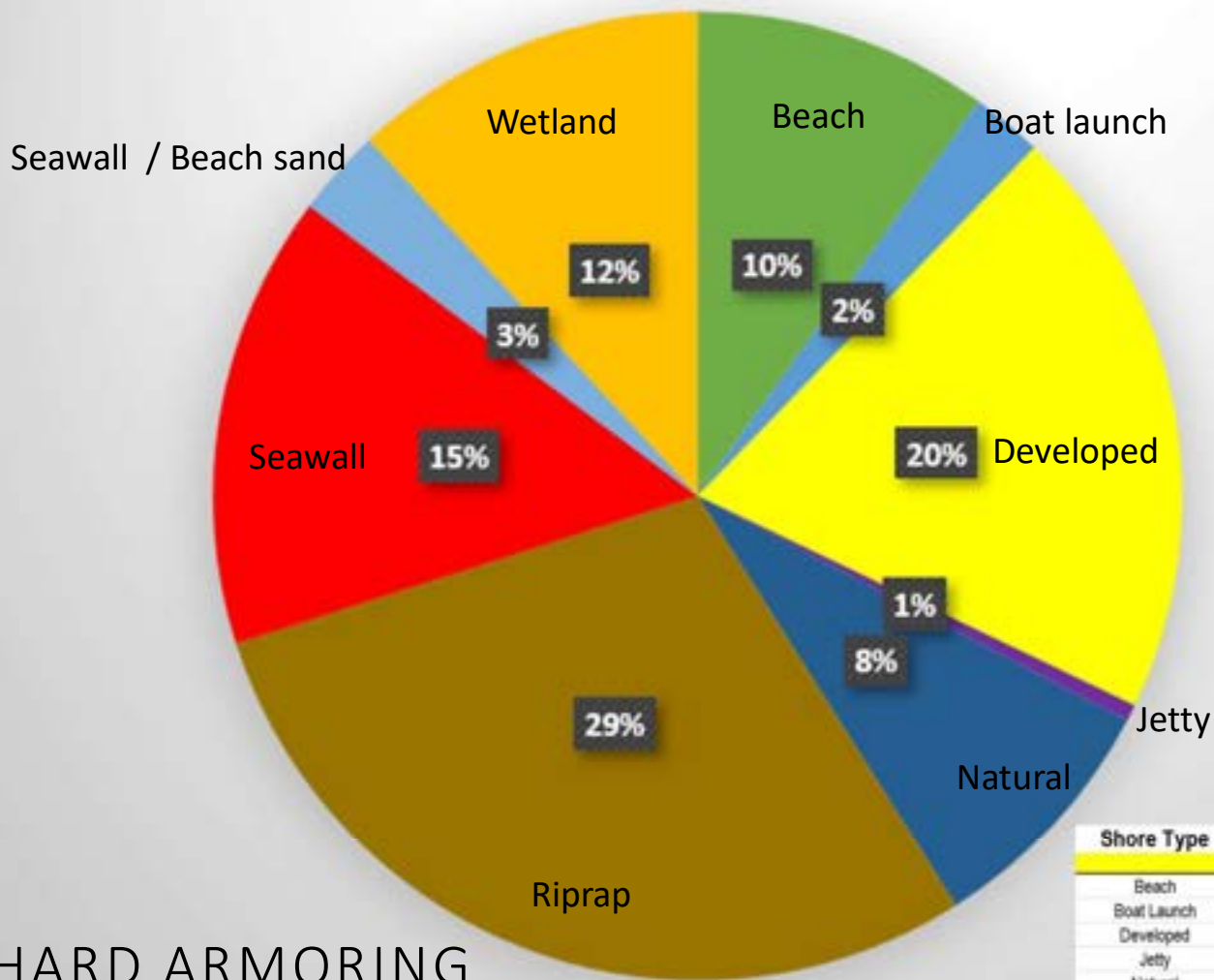
LAKE CHARLEVOIX, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY

2020ShorelineInventory

Shore Type

- Beach
- Boat Launch**
- Developed
- Jetty
- Natural
- Rip Rap
- Seawall
- Seawall/Beachsand
- Wetland





Shore Type	Shore Type Count	Total Length (ft)	Total Length (mi)
Beach	54	22048.5	4.2
Boat Launch	13	2178	0.4
Developed	109	49885.8	9.4
Jetty	3	1272.1	0.2
Natural	46	24184.3	4.6
Rip Rap	159	118888.8	22.5
Seawall	83	85266.4	10.5
Seawall/Beachsand	16	7055.4	1.3
Wetland	65	53853.2	10.2
TOTAL	548	334,432.50	63.34

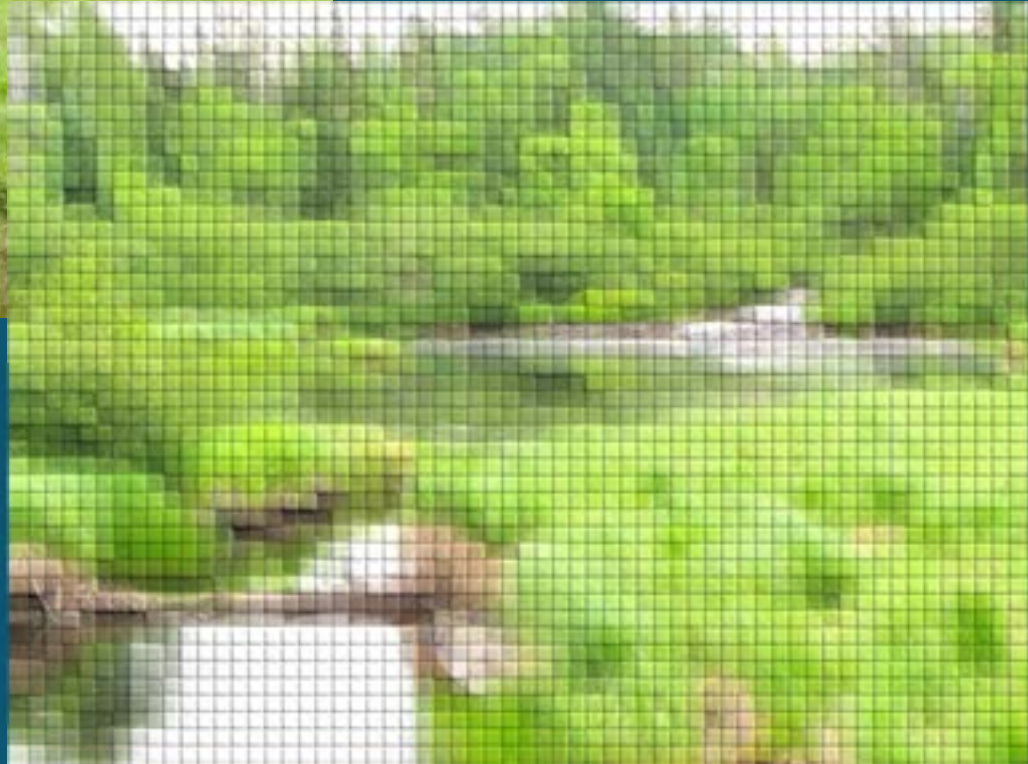
50% HARD ARMORING





CHAD FIZZELL
WETLANDS GIS SPECIALIST
WETLANDS, LAKES, AND STREAMS UNIT

JEREMY JONES
WETLANDS GIS ANALYST
WETLANDS, LAKES, AND STREAMS UNIT



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

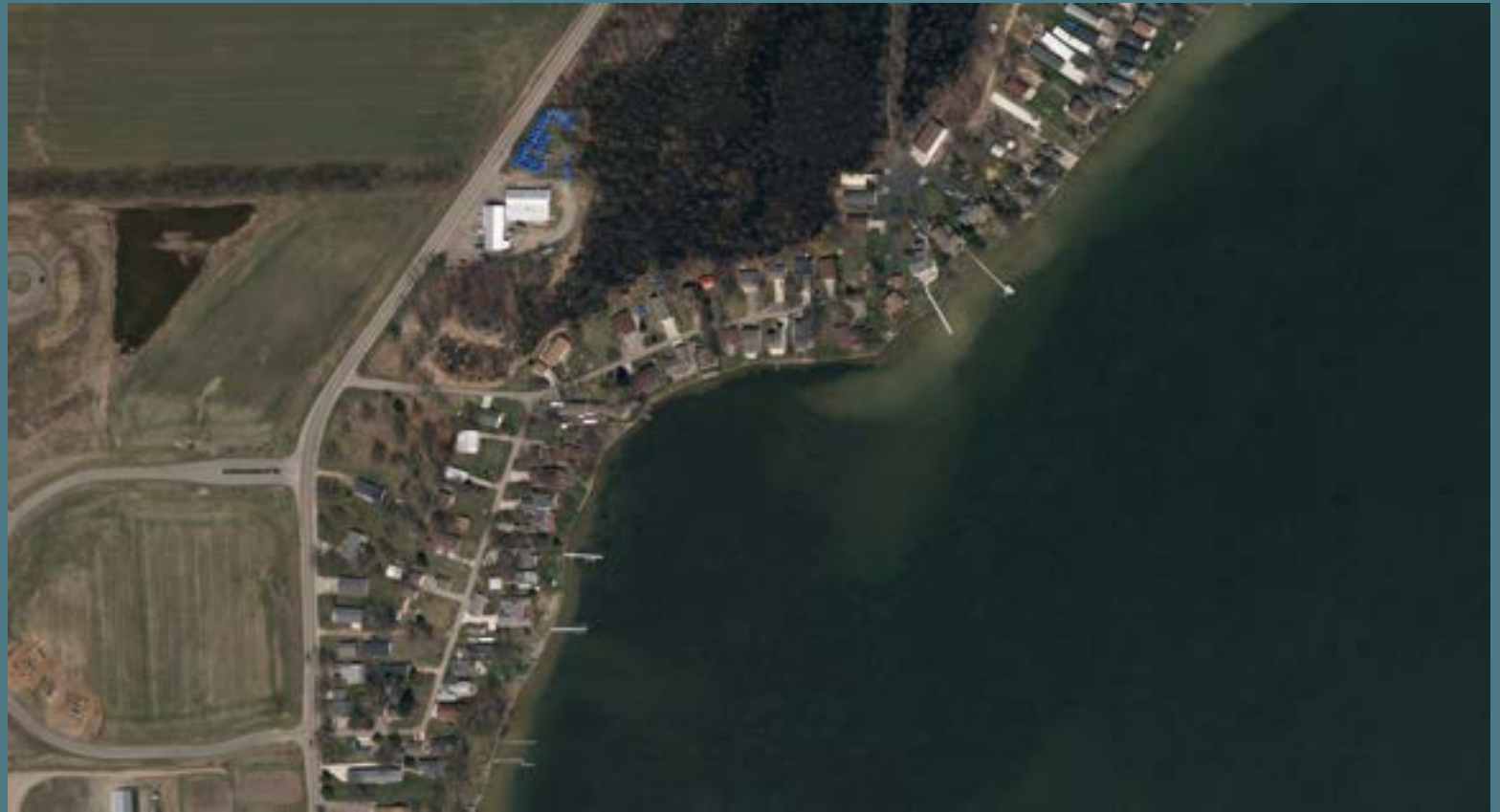
WALLOON LAKE,
EMMET COUNTY

1952
↓
2019



GUN LAKE,
BARRY COUNTY

1938
↓
2014



PORTAGE LAKE,
LIVINGSTON COUNTY

1938



2022



AVOIDING AND
MINIMIZING
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS AT THE
INDIVIDUAL
PROPERTY SCALE
IS IMPORTANT.

THINK
CUMULATIVELY
WHEN DESIGNING
PROJECTS.

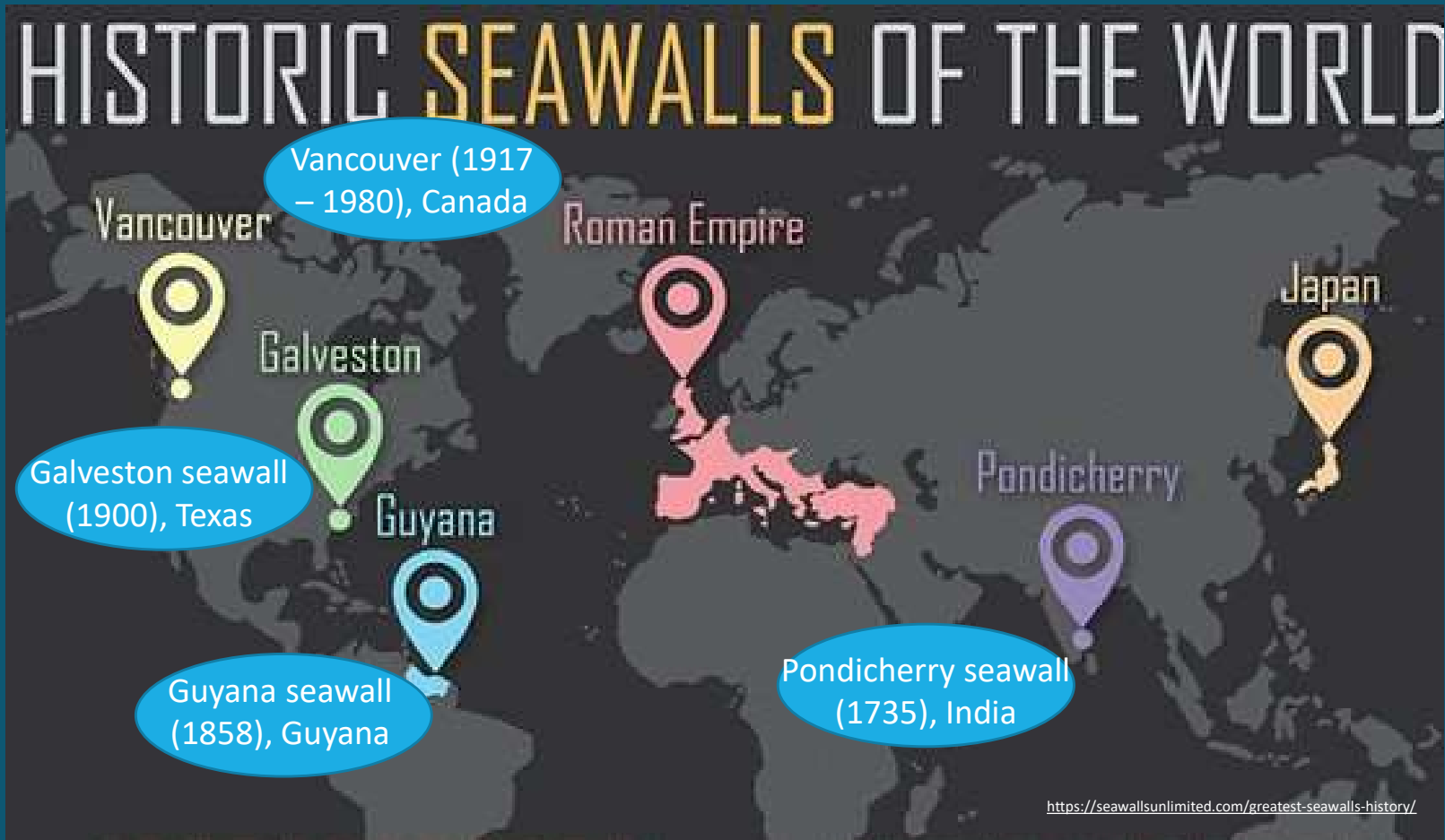
CONSERVING
SMALL HABITAT
FRAGMENTS HAVE
MERIT.

EGLE

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

“Why are people so drawn to walls?”

FOR MANY PEOPLE, SEAWALLS ARE OFTEN THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN THINKING “SHORELINE PROTECTION”





Venice, Italy



Giethoorn, Netherlands



Argentina



Suzhou

<https://i.natgeofe.com/n/6ba5ae9f-61e7-4fce-848>



Stockholm, Sweden

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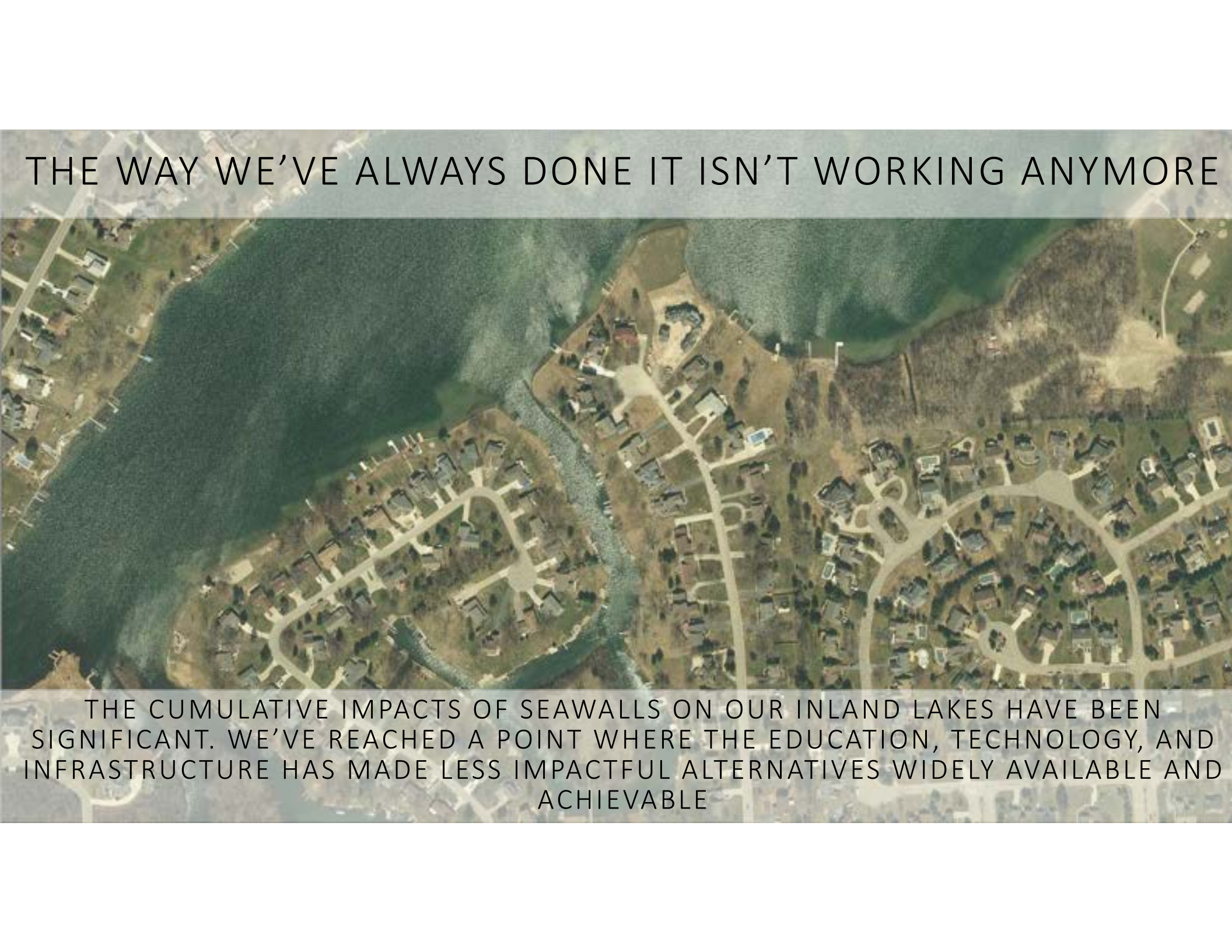
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WALLS ARE IN OUR HISTORY

“We’ve always done it this way”

BECAUSE SEAWALLS ARE SO COMMON, IT IS OFTEN THE FIRST THING PEOPLE THINK OF WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS



An aerial photograph showing a residential development with a large, dark green lake on the left and a winding canal or stream that runs through the center of the property. The houses are arranged in a grid-like pattern with winding streets. The water in the lake and canal appears somewhat murky or greenish. The overall scene is a mix of natural water bodies and human-made infrastructure.

THE WAY WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE

THE CUMULATIVE IMPACTS OF SEAWALLS ON OUR INLAND LAKES HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT. WE'VE REACHED A POINT WHERE THE EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE HAS MADE LESS IMPACTFUL ALTERNATIVES WIDELY AVAILABLE AND ACHIEVABLE

If walls are so bad, why not just make them illegal?

- LARGE SOCIAL CHANGES DO NOT HAPPEN QUICKLY
- EDUCATION IS THE FOUNDATION FOR CHANGE
- THE DEPARTMENT'S STANCE ON SEAWALL PERMITTING HAS EVOLVED BASED UPON DATA AND SCIENCE
- WE'RE NOW AT A POINT WHERE THE SCIENCE DEMONSTRATING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SHORELINE HARDENING AND THE TECHNOLOGY OF EFFECTIVE, LESS-IMPACTFUL ALTERNATIVES CAN BE APPLIED BROADLY AROUND THE STATE



How has EGLE addressed seawalls?



GRADUAL REGULATORY
CHANGES THROUGH MINOR
PROJECT CATEGORIES

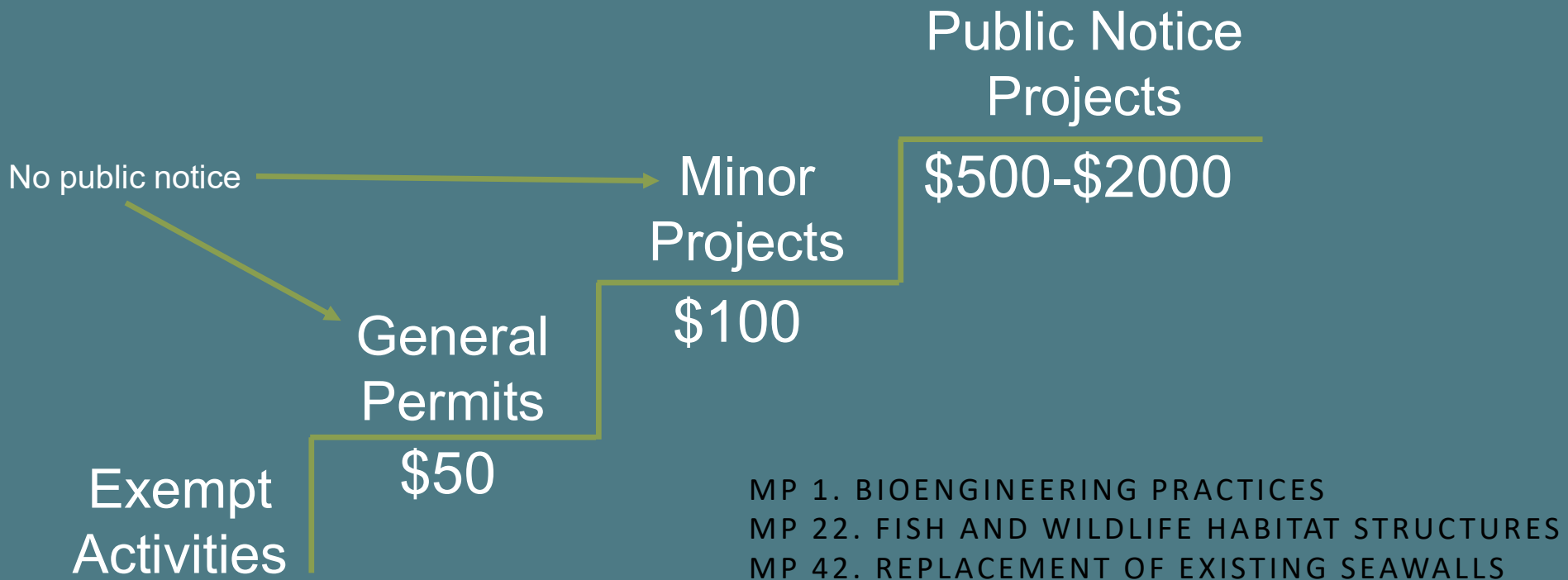


EDUCATION



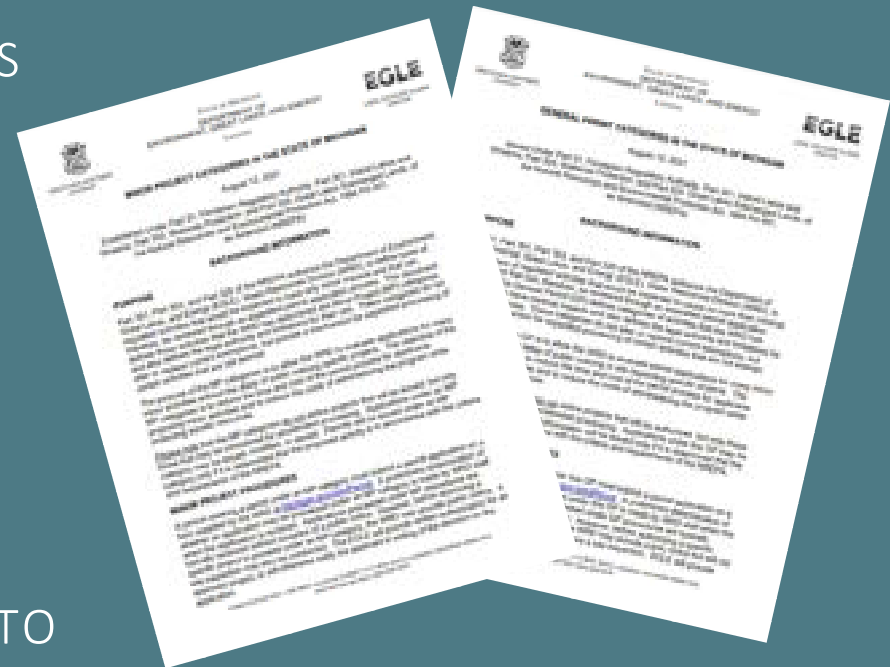
WORKING WITH PARTNERSHIPS

3-Tiered Permitting System



Minor Project Category (MP) Updates

- MPS UPDATED AT LEAST EVERY 5 YEARS
- INCORPORATE
 - NEW TECHNOLOGY
 - NEW SCIENCE
 - NEEDS OF PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS
- PUBLIC NOTICED – JUNE 10 – JULY 23
 - EGLE WEBSITES
 - EMAILED TO ALL RESOURCE CONTACTS
- INCORPORATED CHANGES AND PUT INTO EFFECT ON AUG 12, 2021

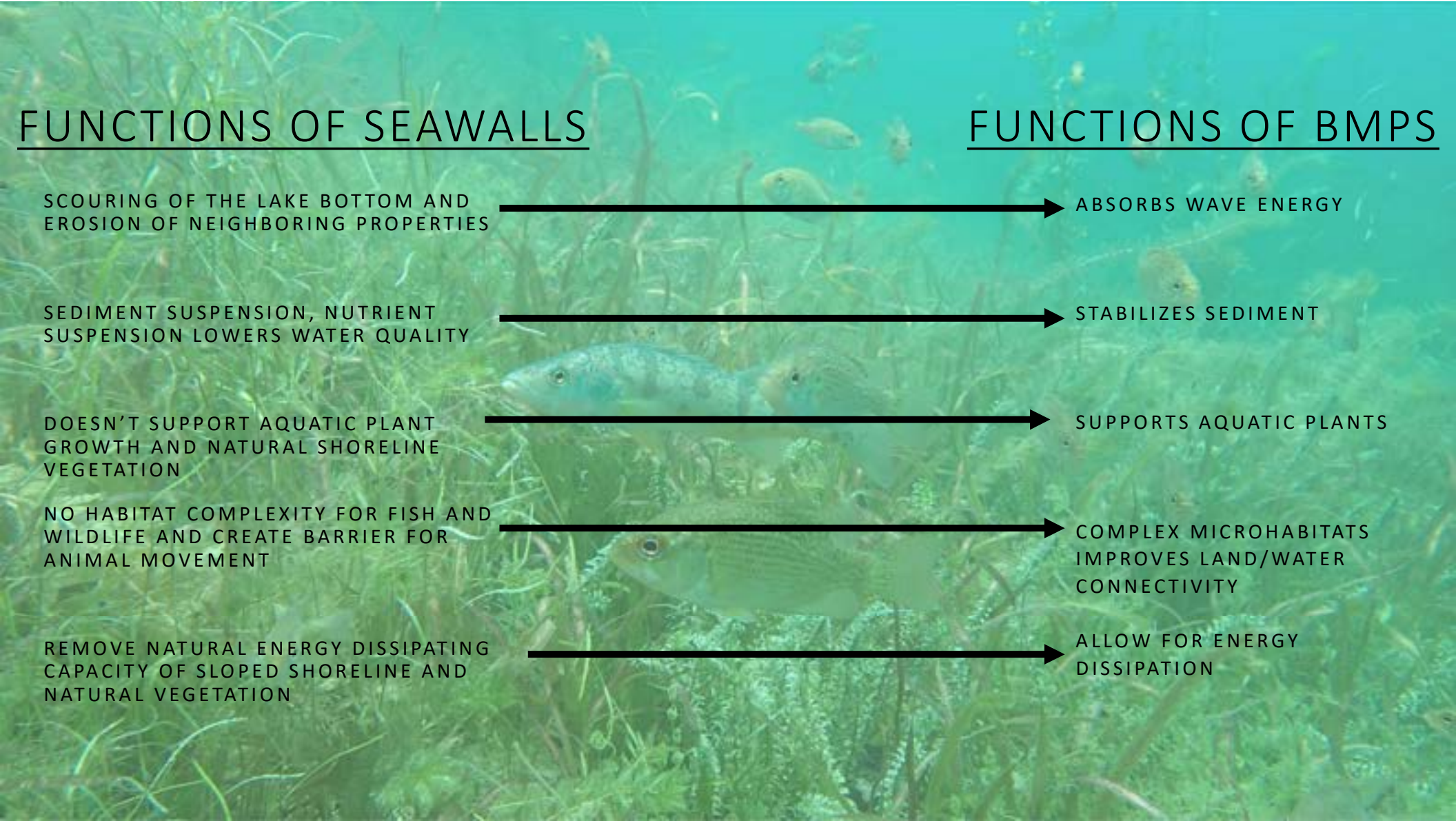


Replacement of Existing Seawalls – 2021 MP changes

- RIPRAP OR COIR LOG/BIOENGINEERING DEPENDING ON ENERGY LEVEL AND SITE CONDITIONS
- RIPRAP
 - ALONG 100% OF LENGTH ON
 - 1:3 OR SHALLOWER, 6FT INTO WATER
 - MAX 18"
 - TOP OF WALL
- **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**
 - **REDUCE SEAWALL LENGTH BY 25% AND USE RIPRAP OR BIOENGINEERING MPS FOR REMAINDER**
 - **COARSE WOODY STRUCTURE**
 - **MAINTAIN 6FT WIDE NO-MOW ZONE OR NATIVE PLANTED BUFFER – MINIMAL BREAKS ACCEPTABLE TO EXERCISE RIPARIAN RIGHTS**
 - **OTHER MEASURES APPROVED BY EGLE**
- NOT IN WETLAND OR PLACED IN A WAY THAT IMPAIRS SURFACE WATER FLOW IN OR OUT OF WETLAND
- ONLY 1 PERMIT MAY BE AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS MP ON THE SAME PARCEL OF PROPERTY

To BMP or not to BMP that is the question

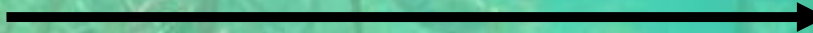
A SEAWALL PROJECT WITH A BMP IS A LESS
IMPACTFUL ALTERNATIVE TO A SEAWALL
PROJECT WITHOUT A BMP



FUNCTIONS OF SEAWALLS

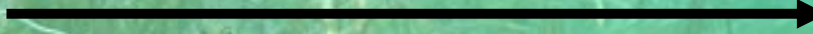
FUNCTIONS OF BMPS

SCOURING OF THE LAKE BOTTOM AND EROSION OF NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES



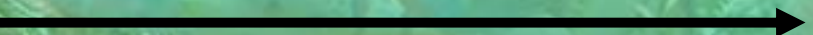
ABSORBS WAVE ENERGY

SEDIMENT SUSPENSION, NUTRIENT SUSPENSION LOWERS WATER QUALITY



STABILIZES SEDIMENT

DOESN'T SUPPORT AQUATIC PLANT GROWTH AND NATURAL SHORELINE VEGETATION



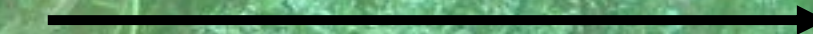
SUPPORTS AQUATIC PLANTS

NO HABITAT COMPLEXITY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE AND CREATE BARRIER FOR ANIMAL MOVEMENT



COMPLEX MICROHABITATS IMPROVES LAND/WATER CONNECTIVITY

REMOVE NATURAL ENERGY DISSIPATING CAPACITY OF SLOPED SHORELINE AND NATURAL VEGETATION



ALLOW FOR ENERGY DISSIPATION



6FT WIDE BUFFER ALONG ENTIRE SEAWALL LENGTH

SHORELINE WOODY STRUCTURE

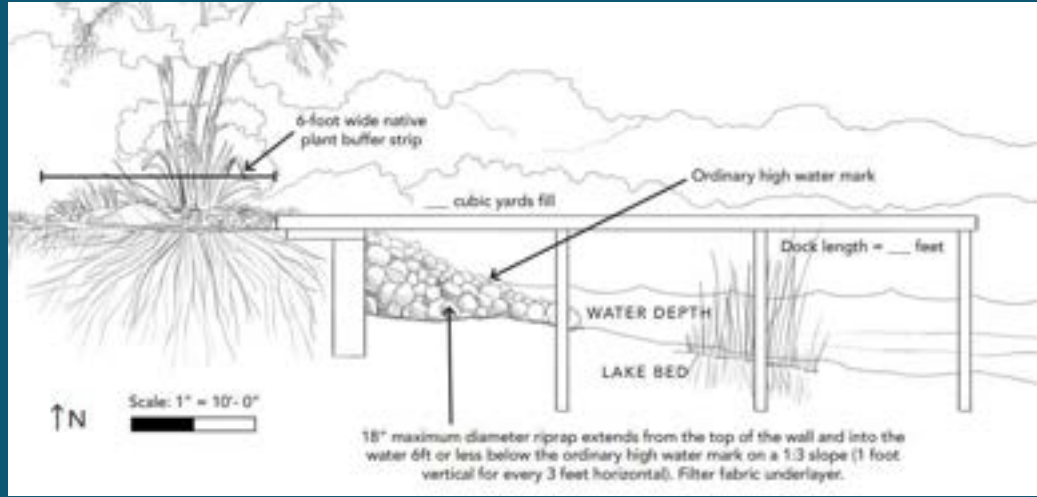
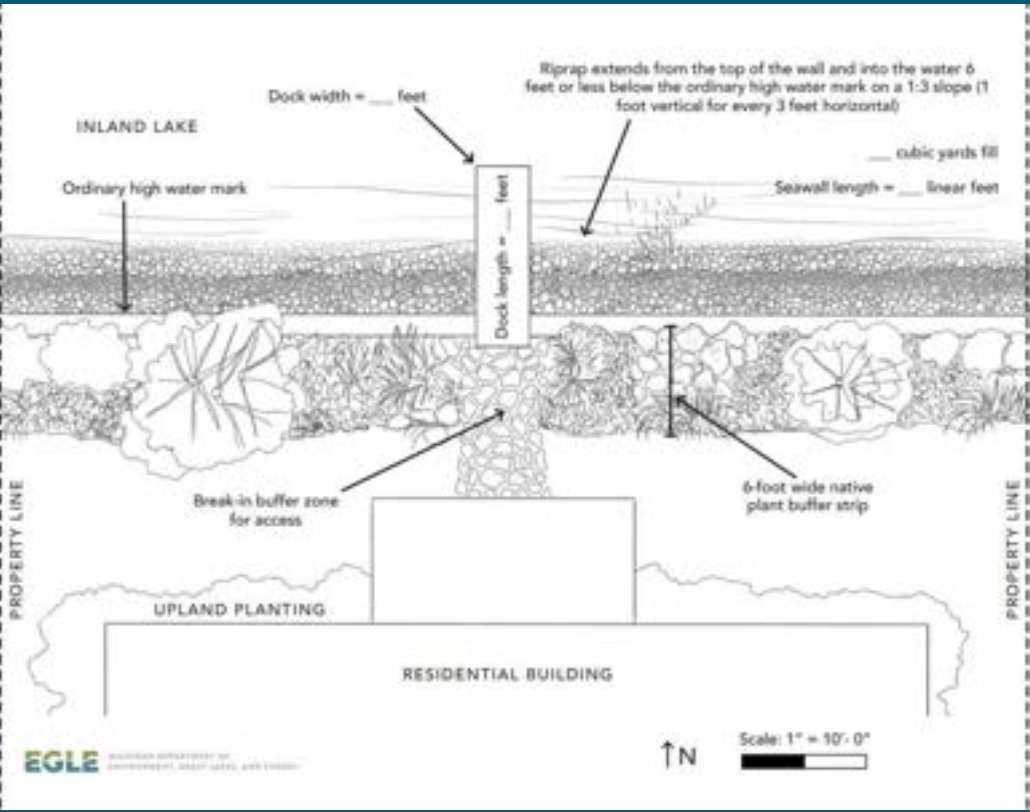
REDUCE SEAWALL LENGTH BY AT LEAST 25% AND USE RIPRAP OR BIOENGINEERING FOR THE REMAINDER

OTHER MEASURES APPROVED BY EGLE

6ft Buffer along entire seawall length



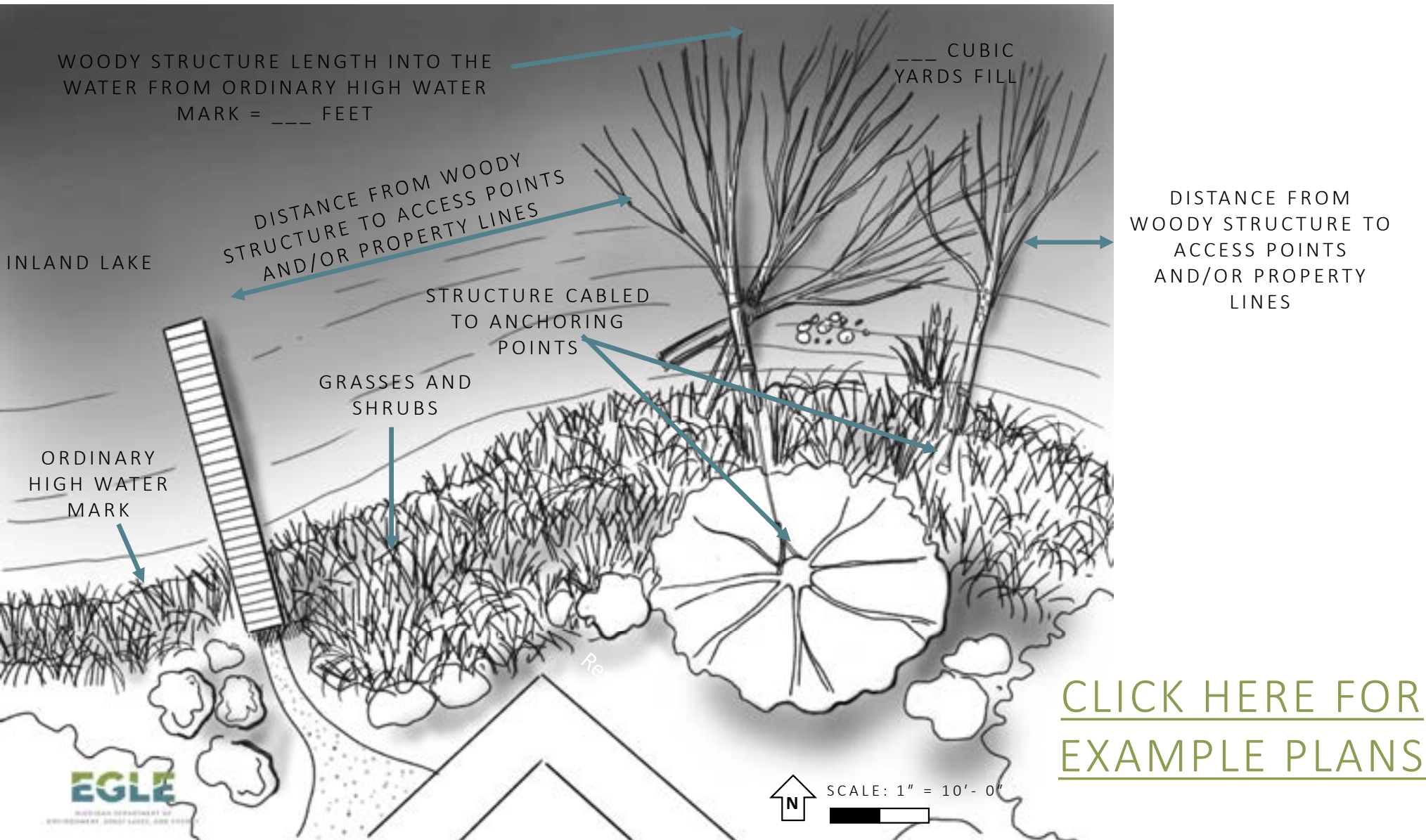
- DIFFERENT BUFFER ORIENTATIONS ARE OKAY IF DIRECTLY BEHIND THE FULL LENGTH OF THE WALL IS NOT POSSIBLE
 - MUST PROVIDE A CLEAR AND DIRECT BENEFIT
 - SWALE OR DISCHARGE AREAS
- PLANTING OR SEEDING IS ACCEPTABLE
- PLANTING PLAN AND SPECIES LIST

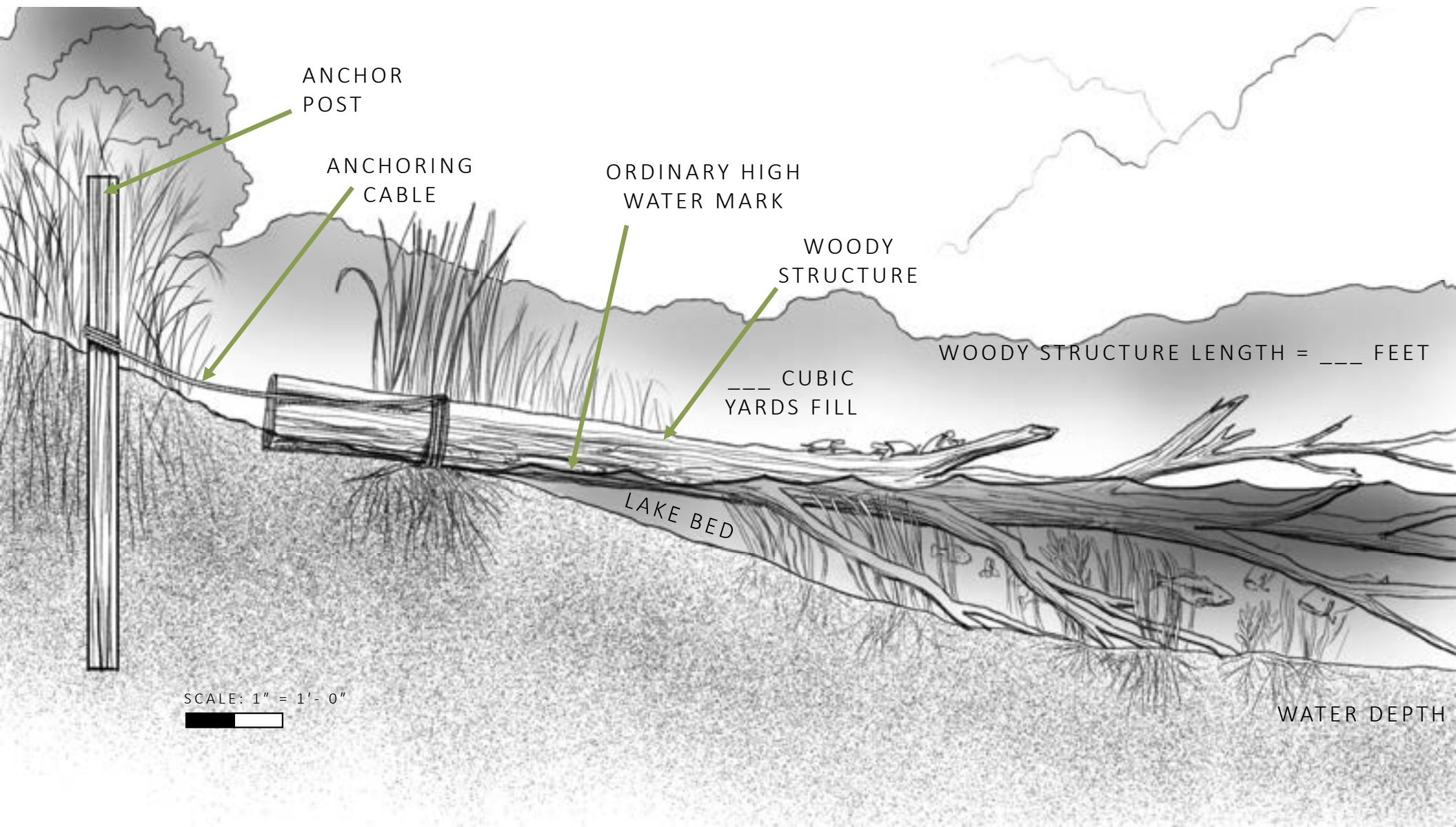


Shoreline woody structure



- PROJECT DESIGNS THAT MIMIC NATURAL PROCESSES
- IN GENERAL – 1 SINGLE TREE PER 25FT OF SEAWALL SINGLE OR CLUSTERED
- ACCEPTABLE TYPES
 - FISH STICK CLUSTER
 - SINGLE FISH STICK
 - TURTLE LOGS
- NOT IMPEDING NAVIGATION
- ANCHORED SECURELY





ANCHOR
POST

ANCHORING
CABLE

ORDINARY HIGH
WATER MARK

WOODY
STRUCTURE

___ CUBIC
YARDS FILL

WOODY STRUCTURE LENGTH = ___ FEET

LAKE BED

SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"



WATER DEPTH

Example designs – Fish Sticks cluster





Freshly cut trees (within 3mo)

3-5 trees, 12"-16" diameter at base

Attached securely together and to shoreline/bottomland

Do not use trees that are currently along the shoreline!

Example designs – Single Fish Stick series





Freshly cut trees (within 3mo)

1 tree, 12"-16" diameter at base

Attached securely together and to shoreline/bottomland

Do not use trees that are currently along the shoreline!

Example designs – Turtle Log series



Example designs – Turtle Log series



1 tree, 12"-16" diameter at base

Freshly cut logs (within 3mo)

Attached securely together and to shoreline/bottomland

Do not use trees that are currently along the shoreline!



Sat Jul 23 2022

Imagery © 2022 Nearmap, Inc.



nearmap

STAKING TREES INTO BOTTOMLAND
AND SHORELINE



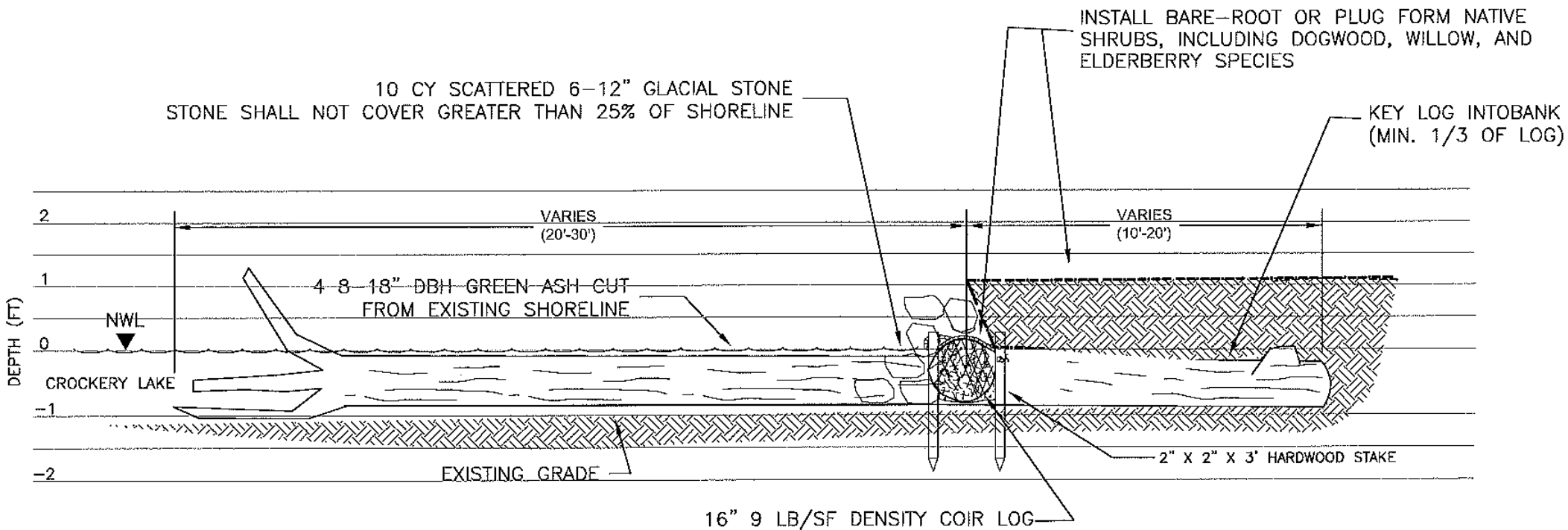


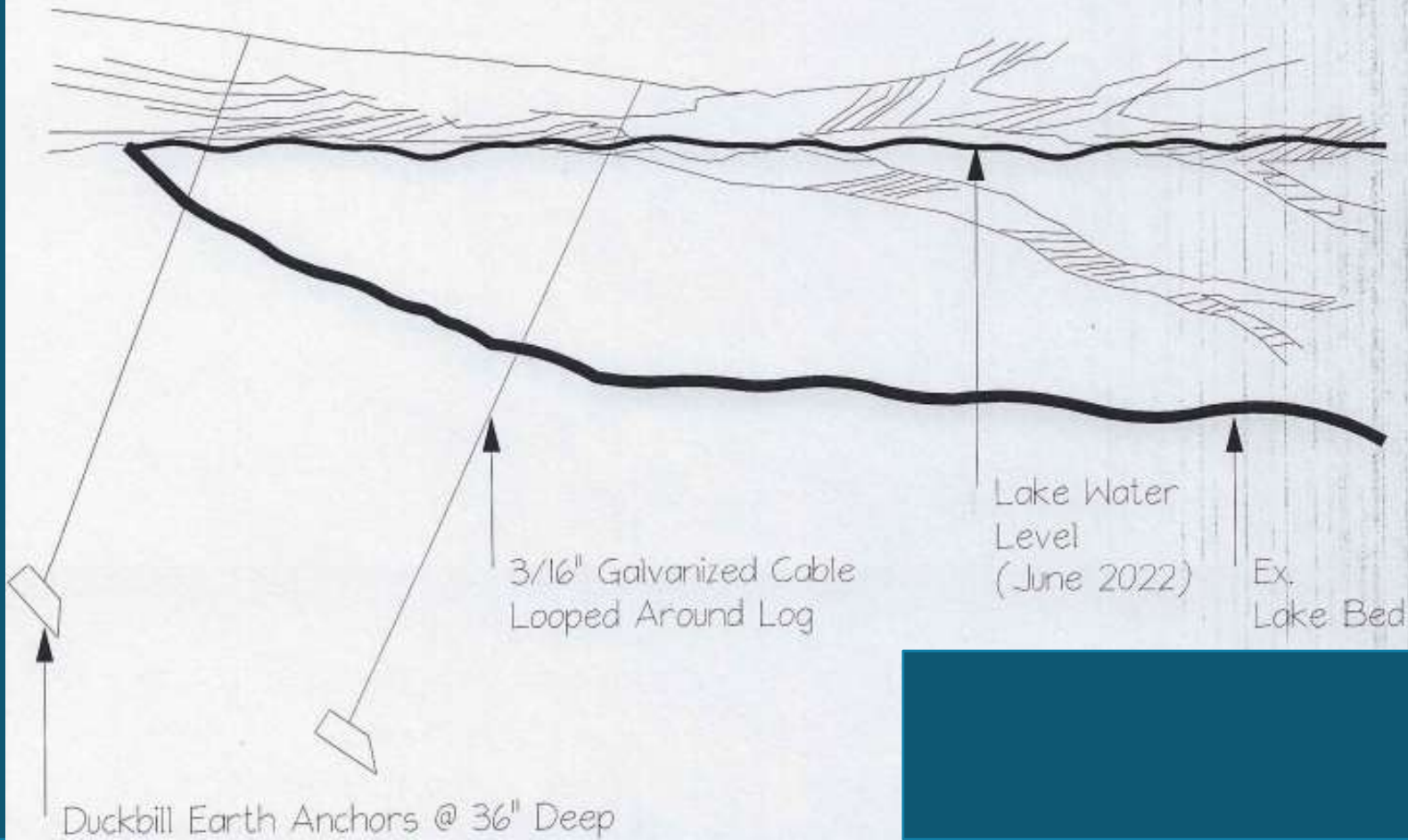
CABLING TREES INTO SECURE ANCHOR-
POINT ON SHORE



TREES KEYED-IN TO SHORELINE

HIGHER-ENERGY DESIGN



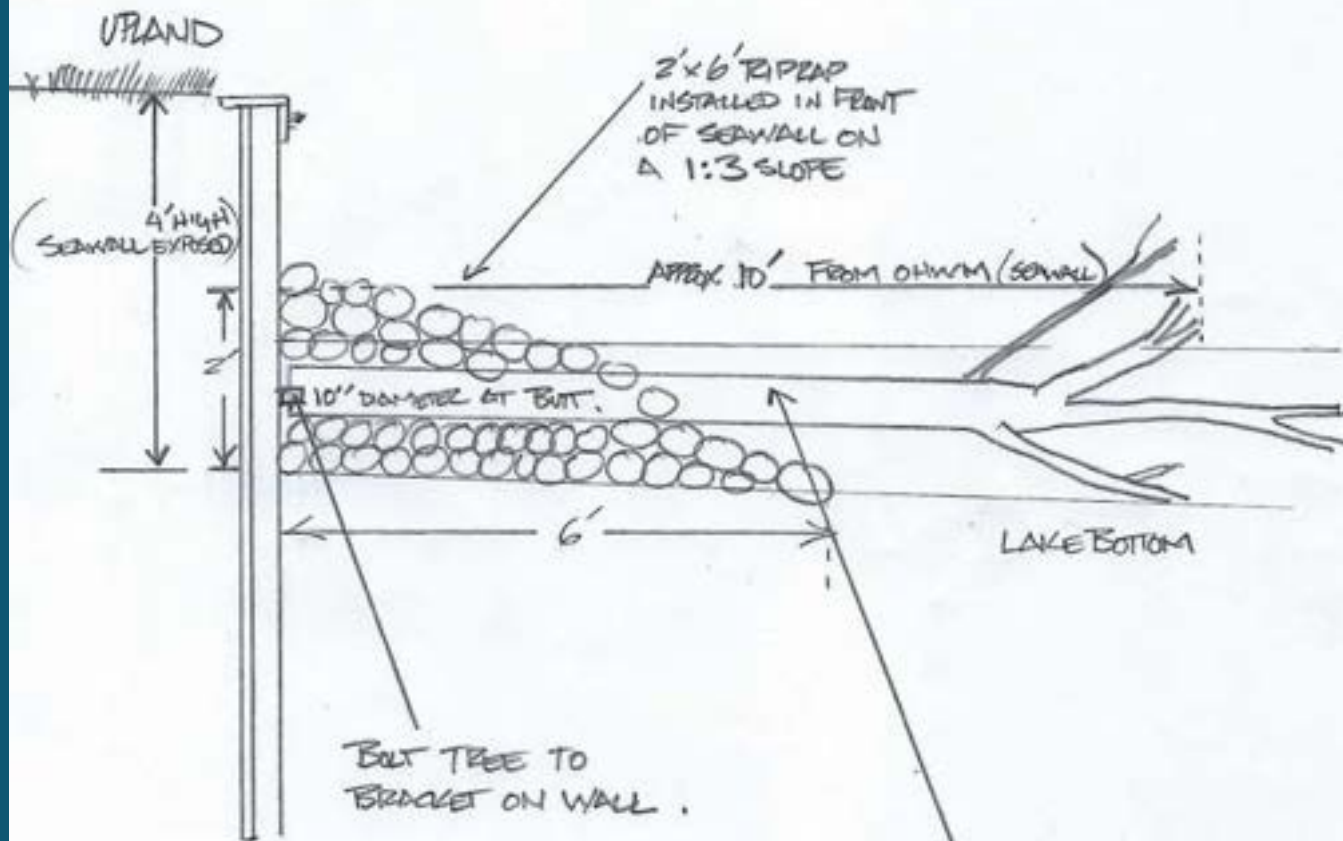


3/16" Galvanized Cable
Looped Around Log

Lake Water
Level
(June 2022)

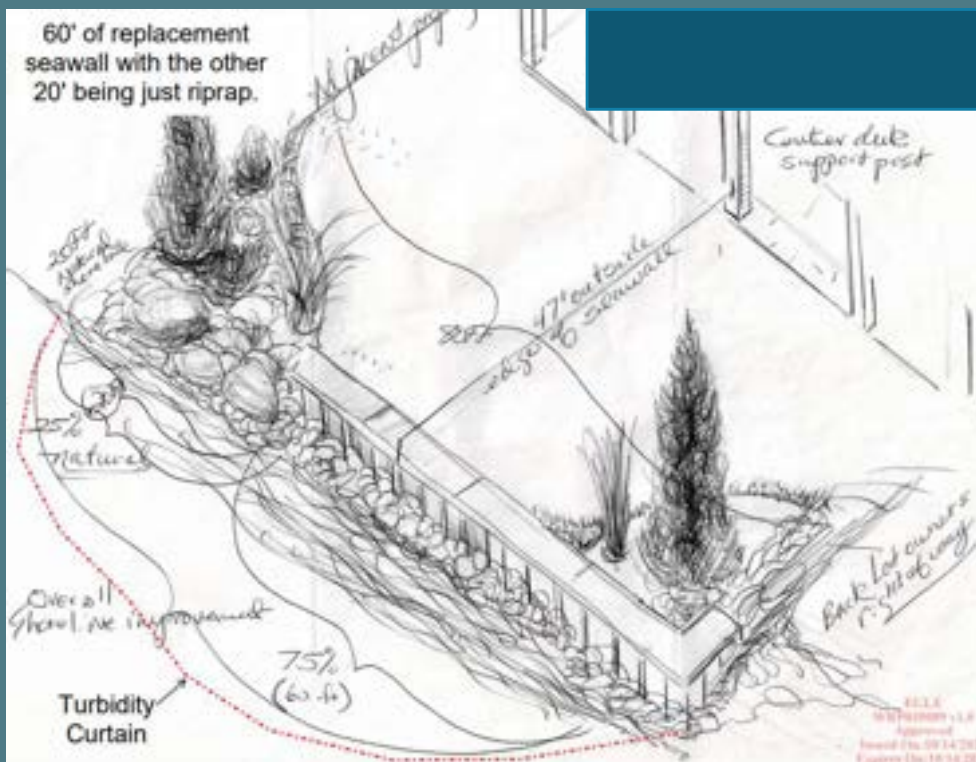
Ex.
Lake Bed

Duckbill Earth Anchors @ 36" Deep



INSTALL WOODY STRUCTURE
 TO SATISFY BMP REQUIREMENT
 ≈ 10' DIA. LOG X 10' LONG ANCHORED
 INTO SEAWALL AND 16 TONS
 OF RIPRAP.

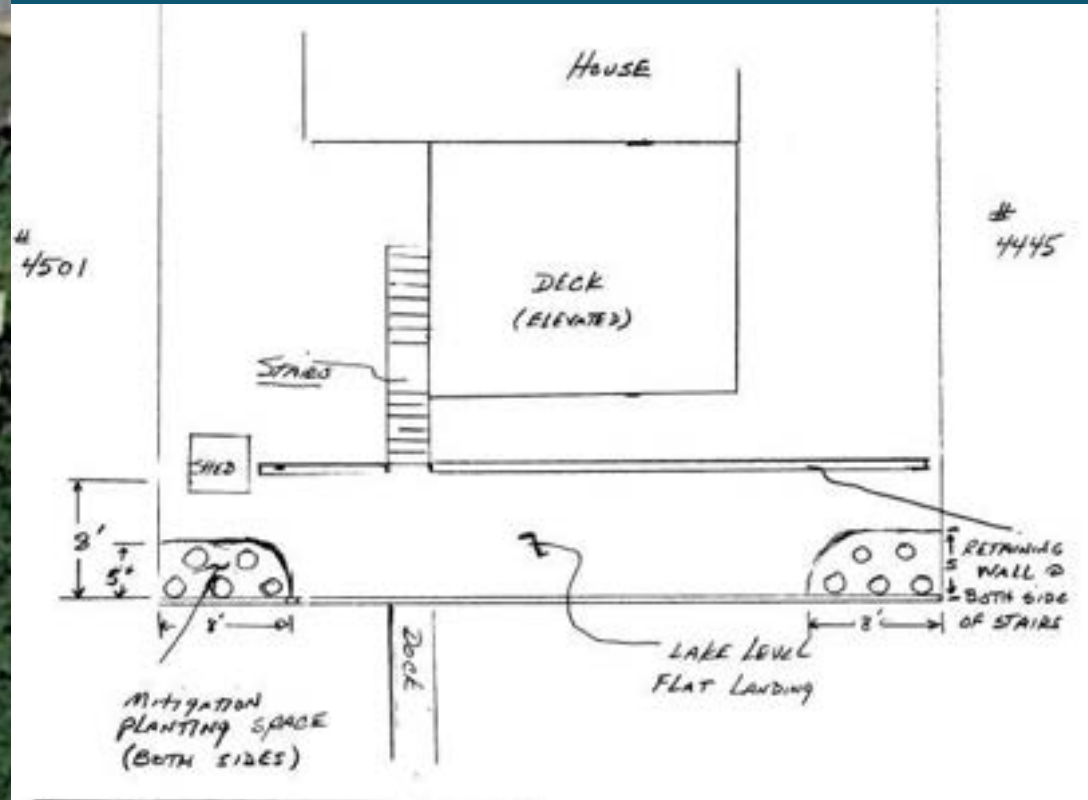
Wall reduction and other methods



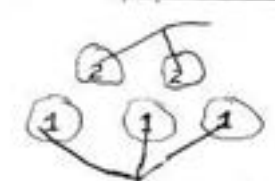
- WALL REDUCTION
 - REDUCED AREA SHOULD FOLLOW RIPRAP OR BIOENGINEERING MPS
 - SHORELINE CAN BE PULLED BACK
- OTHER METHODS CAN INCLUDE
 - DESIGNS TO ACCOMMODATE PROPERTY-SPECIFIC ISSUES AND WANTS/NEEDS OF THE PROPERTY OWNER
 - OTHER BMPS NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED THAT HAVE A CLEAR AND DIRECT BENEFIT TO THE LAKE
 - WATER QUALITY
 - HABITAT
 - LAND/WATER CONNECTIVITY



EVERY PROPERTY CAN DO SOMETHING



PLANTING VIEW DETAIL/LEGEND



- Item 1 : MONARDA FISTULOSA OR CORCORIS LANCEOLATA BARR
 - Item 2 : SPIRAEA ALBA D. ROY OR CAREX HYSTERICINA
- NOT TO SCALE
- DIMENSIONS LISTED
- PREVIOUS ATTACHMENTS REMAIN UNCHANGED
- Approved
- Issued On: 12/09/2022
- Expires On: 12/09/2027



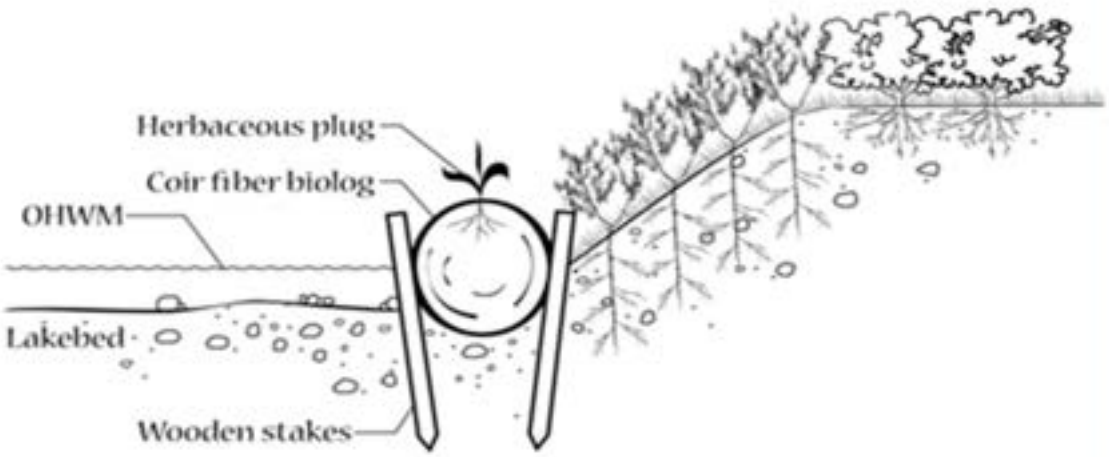
Bioengineering

EGLE

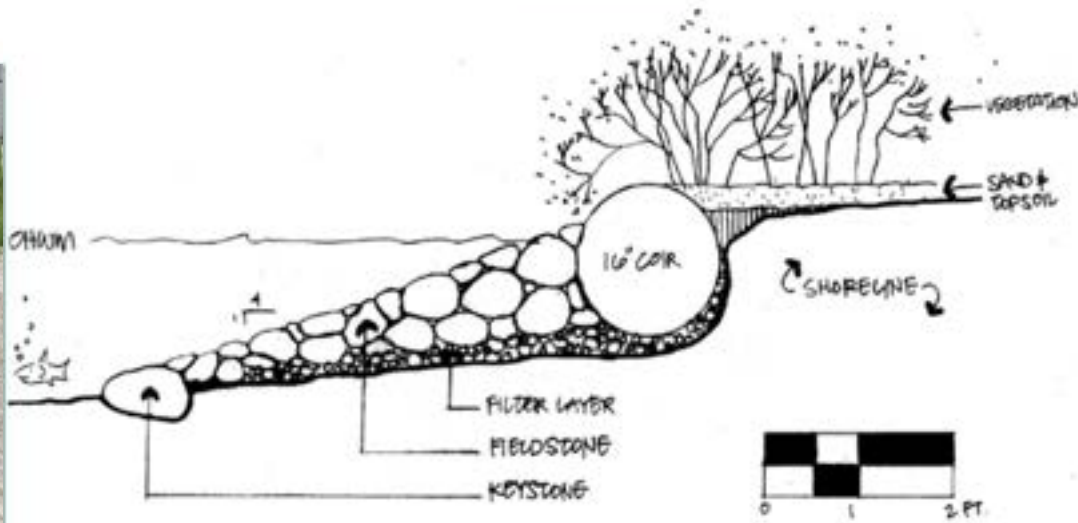
Lower vs Higher Energy Sites (See MP category document for details)

**Applicant must provide documentation of higher energy site conditions

- ≤ 1 MILE MAXIMUM FETCH
 - NOT ADJACENT TO A HEAVILY USED BOATING ACCESS POINT OR MARINA
 - NOT LOCATED ON A UNPROTECTED POINT, HEADLAND, OR ISLAND WHERE EROSION FORCES ARE HIGH
 - SITE-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WARRANT BIOENGINEERING – MUST BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT OR CONTROL EROSION
- >1 MILE MAXIMUM FETCH
 - ADJACENT TO A HEAVILY USED BOATING ACCESS POINT OR MARINA
 - LOCATED ON AN UNPROTECTED POINT, HEADLAND, OR ISLAND WHERE EROSION FORCES ARE HIGH
 - EVIDENCE OF ONGOING EROSION OR IS WHERE AN EXISTING SEAWALL IS BEING REPLACED WITH BIOENGINEERING



BIOG PLACEMENT AT BANK TOE








07/19/2013











THE SHORELINE IS NOT JUST PROPERTY!

- TRANSITION AREA THAT PROVIDES HABITAT AND CONTRIBUTES TO HEALTHY LAKE ECOSYSTEM
- SHORELINE DESIGN SHOULD 'GIVE BACK' AND INCORPORATE LANDOWNERS USE
- PERCEPTION SHIFT / CULTURAL CHANGE --- NORMALIZE NATIVE PLANTS AND WOODY STRUCTURE

Resources

DOCUMENTS AND WHERE TO GO FOR SUPPORT

EGLE



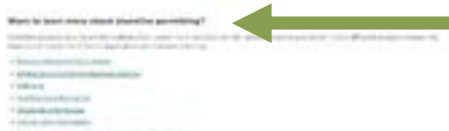
BIOENGINEERING STORYMAP



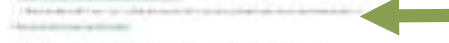
BMP FACT SHEETS



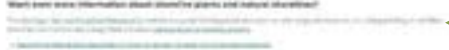
ILLUSTRATION / PLAN FACT SHEETS



PERMITTING AND PROGRAM INFO



PRE-APPLICATION MEETING INFO



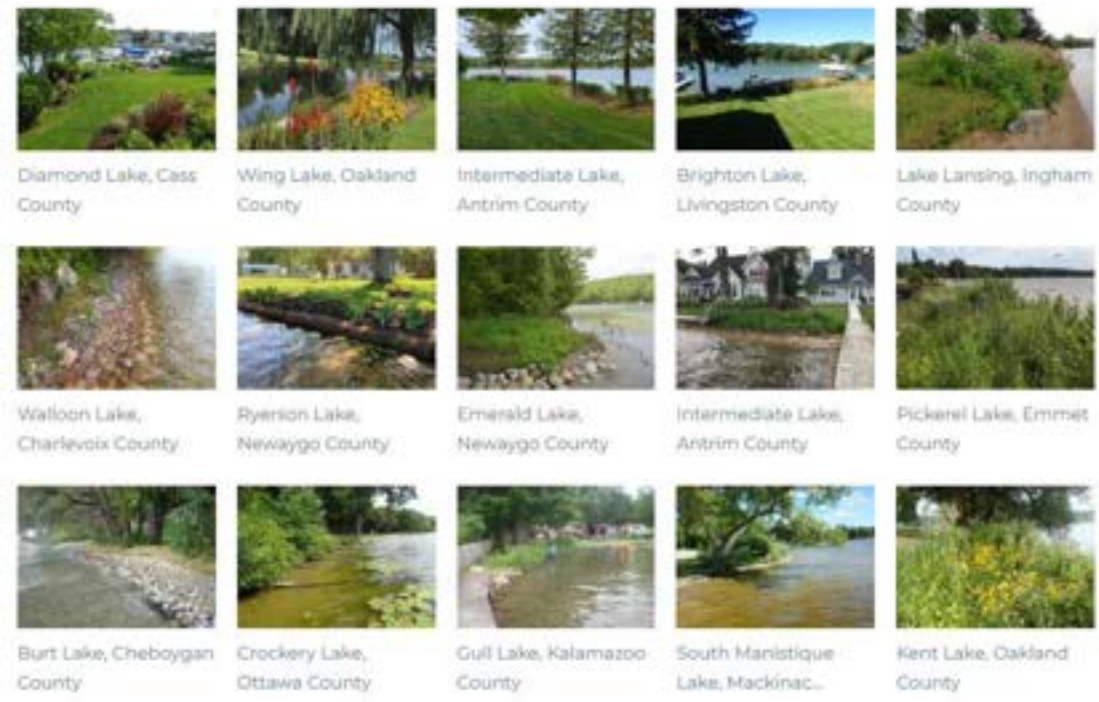
MICHIGAN NATURAL SHORELINE PARTNERSHIP



WOODY STRUCTURE AND PLANT INFO

LINK:
EGLE SHORELINE
PROTECTION





[Link to Bioengineered Shoreline Protection Storymap](#)



Diamond Lake, Cass County

Picture Description: The first and second pictures show the installed bioengineering project in 2021. The third image is the plans submitted with the permit application. The last picture shows this shoreline in 2017 before bioengineering was installed.

Design: Bioengineering

Installation date: 2017

Fetch and boating activity: Maximum fetch = 0.24 miles. Average depth across maximum fetch line = 1.6 feet. Maximum wave height = 0.47 feet. Site is near the inside of a smaller bay that is connected to a larger lake. Boat speeds are generally low and dominant watercraft consist mainly of pontoon boats, smaller vessels, and fishing boats.

Consultant/Contractor: Upstream Waters Landscape, then North Star Landscape Design & Installation

Installation cost: ~\$277 per linear foot. Included in that cost was the demolition and removal of the existing concrete seawall

Plant list: *Carex bricknelli*, various sedges, lilies, and vegetated coir mats, in addition to mixed upland plantings of native and hybrid plants.

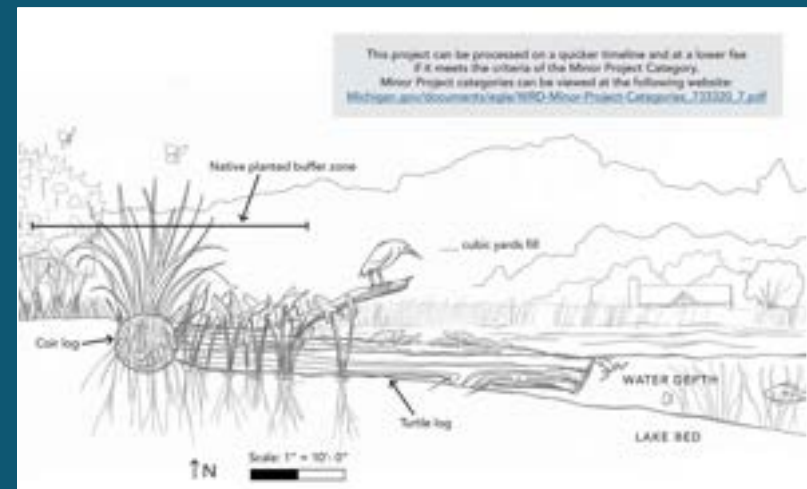
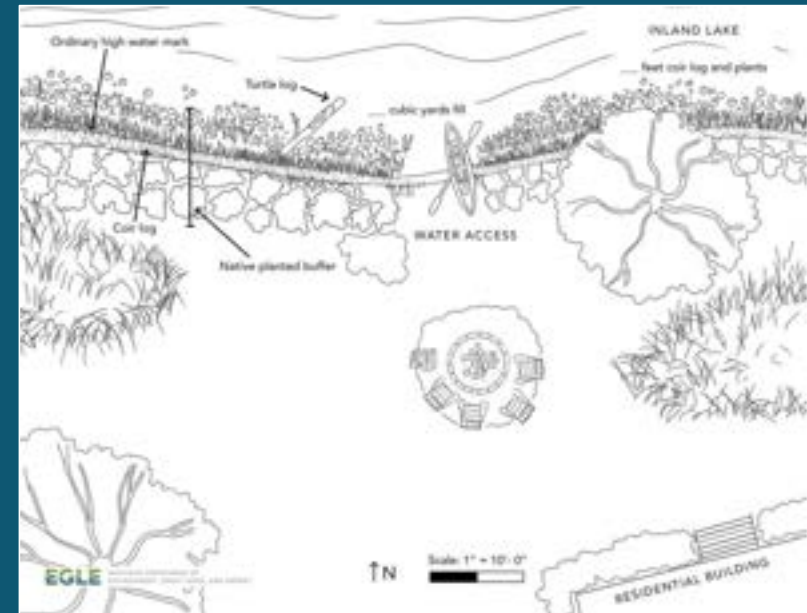
Yearly maintenance activity: Weeding and plant trimming

Yearly maintenance cost: Approximately \$1,500



LOWER ENERGY BIOENGINEERING

EGLE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY



EGLE

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

ERIC CALABRO | CALABROE@MICHIGAN.GOV

