



Bass Lake Healthy Shoreline Initiative

July 2020 - Update

Background:

Lake water clarity, weeds and a healthy fish population are important issues for our property owners. Representing you, we've continued our work with:

- Bass Lake Conservancy District
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana University Clean Lakes Program
- Local Purdue University Resources
- Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams
- Other lake communities, such as The Watershed Foundation

Your BLPOA continues taking actions for a healthy lake!

Recent Actions Taken by Your BLPOA:

1. *Lake and River Enhancement Grant (LARE)* - In 2019 we submitted a grant request to the Indiana DNR for our glacial stone seawall projects. We had 44 applicants; our grant request totaled \$114,240 to reface 3264 feet of our shoreline. On August 1, 2019 we were awarded \$35,000. This money will be used to provide property owners with a 50% reimbursement of their costs on a first-come, first-served basis.

To date, 5 projects have been approved by the DNR, totaling \$6,475, nearly 20% of the total funding. We have until 12/31/21 to use all of the funds. When the money is utilized, our intent is to apply for additional funding.

2. *Indiana Clean Lakes Program* – This is our third summer in the Indiana University Clean Lakes Program. Using a few BLPOA volunteers Phil Woolery from the Purdue Starke County Extension Office we test and monitor our lake water each month. We measure water clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll (a measurement for algae). This is part of a long-term study that provides us with data that we'll use in future grant applications.

3. *Bass Lake Beach Erosion* – Through continued efforts by Rick Anderson, last week we were given a permit by the DNR to add fill dirt and glacial stone to 299 feet of the Bass Lake Beach. This will stabilize the shoreline and prevent further erosion at the Beach. We will also work with the Purdue Extension office to plant new trees along the shoreline at the Beach to prevent further erosion.

4. *Property Owner Education*- We continue to educate the BLPOA about the problems and the solutions through Catch & Release, the BLPOA website, handouts at BLPOA Membership Events, and as an agenda item at BLPOA meetings. Note the information regarding lawn fertilizing and also several detailed articles from the Lilly Center on www.inbasslake.com.

5. *Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams* - In 2018 we forged a relationship with a wonderful resource, the Lilly Center, located in Kosciusko County. They have significant funding and staffing. Though they focus on the county they are located in, they are happy to help us with education and research; they often do. Last year we participated in a zebra mussel trap provided by the Lilly Center, as part of a research program regarding this issue that is troublesome in other Indiana lakes. We concluded that we do not have a problem with zebra mussels at Bass Lake at this time.

6. *CISMA* – In 2019 a statewide effort to manage invasive species plants expanded to our area with a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA). Representatives of the BLPOA are actively involved in this group and will bring information to our property owners on the efforts to manage invasive species plants in our lake.
7. *Eurasian Milfoil* – We were actively involved in dialogue recently with the BLCD regarding the Eurasian Milfoil (weed) issue in our lake. It is a complicated issue; solutions are regulated by the Indiana DNR. For further information about the recent application of procellaCOR to 157 acres of weeds and future plans, please contact the BLCD.

BLPOA Goal:

Restore our natural shoreline to preserve and enhance our water quality, prevent erosion, and provide healthier and safer habitat for the native creatures and lake life. Our vision to preserve our shoreline includes a better lake for recreational activities such as boating and fishing.

Excellent Resources:

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams - This organization is dedicated to making the lakes in Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe and beautiful. Their website is a rich source of healthy shoreline information, <http://www.lakes.grace.edu>.

The Watershed Foundation - They have been focused on healthy shoreline initiatives for many years. <http://www.watershedfoundation.org>.

The Wawasee Conservancy Foundation - This organization also has a healthy shorelines initiative. Their lake audit was in 2012 and their website now includes informative content for property owners. <https://www.wacf.com>

Questions:

Contact Rick Anderson, barefootrun@mchsi.com or Kathy Carrier, kcarrier@briljent.com