

# Aquatic plants are NOT just weeds!

Indiana Clean Lakes Program • Factsheet 13-01

## Six Benefits of Aquatic Plants

### 1. Produce oxygen necessary for aquatic life

Aquatic plants are primary producers, taking up carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen to the water. Aquatic plants supply oxygen to the water that helps fish breath.

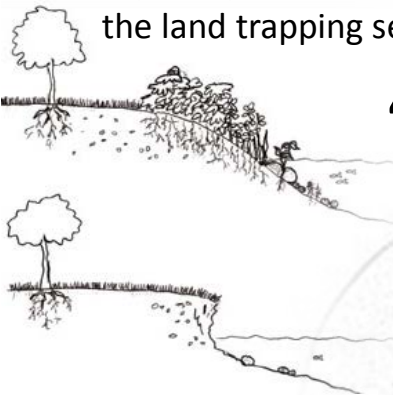


### 2. Provide habitat for aquatic animals

Fish and turtles rely on shelter and insects near aquatic plants. This area is a primary spawning area of the lake. Without vegetation lake fisheries are greatly reduced.

### 3. Improve water clarity

Aquatic plants slow the flow of water into the lake and filter water that runs off the land trapping sediment and improving water clarity.



### 4. Stabilize the shoreline

Rooted plants in the littoral zone prevent erosion of the shoreline by reducing wave action that erodes shorelines. Aquatic plants can provide substantial cost savings through reduced need to redevelop eroded shorelines.

### 5. Reduce nuisance aquatic life

Emergent plants along the shoreline can reduce nuisance species such as Canadian geese as they are deterred from the shoreline if there is vegetation they must cross to get to a lawn.



### 6. Beautify the natural scenery

Plants offer a great barrier to sound that travels on the lake as well as an esthetically pleasing view.



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