



Lake Association News

Newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake and the CLEAR Project

FALL 2013

What your APCL Membership and the APCL means for Clear Lake

Many people and businesses in the area have no idea what the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake (APCL) has done for the lake and the watershed throughout its existence which began in the 1930's. Detailing all the past projects would take more room than we have here, but the short version is that many of the improvement projects Clear Lake has seen over the decades have been spearheaded by the APCL.

The APCL provides a means for concerned citizens to step forward with contributions of time and money to help accomplish important projects for the lake. Without memberships and other monetary contributions, there would be no cost-share monies available for the various projects and programs.

As the end of the year approaches, please remember to renew your membership, and also keep in mind that APCL memberships make great gifts. Members are invited to attend meetings to discuss ongoing and new projects, and also receive this quarterly newsletter. More importantly, members play an important role in the success of our lake progress, and enjoy being a part of this great venture. Thank you!

BMP's for the Clear Lake Watershed

This newsletter focuses on Best Management Practices, or BMP's, that can be implemented to help reduce the arrival of sediment or other contaminants in the lake. Many BMP projects have been implemented over the last year around the shoreline and within the watershed of Clear Lake.

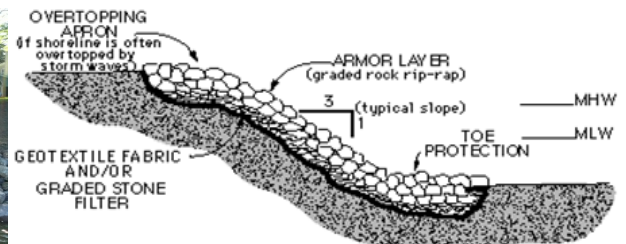
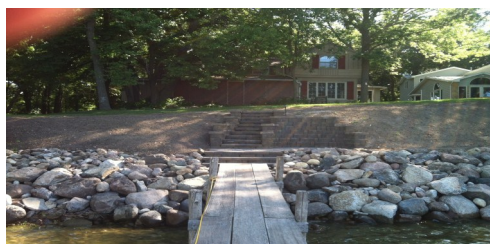
Partial funding for many of these projects has come from grant money available through the CLEAR Project. For 2014, grant monies have already been committed. However, if you are considering a watershed project on your property, contact MaryJo Burkgren, CLEAR Project Coordinator, to learn about available programs and opportunities.

Upper and Lower Shoreline Stabilization

As you boat around Clear Lake and Ventura, you may notice some shoreline stabilization improvements have been made. These are not only attractive, but they serve an important function in protecting against shoreline erosion. Although shoreline erosion is a natural process, sediment going into the lake is considered a pollutant.

Regardless of the natural protection on your shore, additional protection can guard against conditions such as high lake level and wind direction, which can combine to result in severe wave pounding, resulting in soil loss and ultimately, loss of property value. Placement of large rock, usually referred to as rip-rap, is preferred and most common form of shoreline protection. Technical methods are available to determine rock size, placement right combination of conditions (such as high lake level and wind direction) can result in a severe wave pounding, and shoreline soil may need additional protection.

Placement of large rock, usually referred to as rip-rap, is the preferred and most common form of shore protection. Technical methods are available to determine rock size, placement geometry, and elevations to ensure the best protection. All erosion protection projects that alter the lake- or riverbed require a protected waters permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



RAIN GARDENS AND ENHANCED RAIN GARDENS

During the past years, homeowners in the Clear Lake watershed and surrounding area have begun to enhance their yards to not only be more colorful, but also to help protect the lake by creating rain gardens, which are inexpensive and simple to implement.

An important function of rain gardens is to filter runoff pollution to improve lake water quality. Additional benefits include recharging of local groundwater and reducing the potential of home flooding. They also reduce mosquito breeding by removing standing water, increase beneficial insects that eliminate pest insects, and create habitat for birds and butterflies. They can also survive drought seasons, reduce garden maintenance, and enhance sidewalk appeal.

As you notice more rain gardens taking shape around Clear Lake and Ventura in the coming year, you may be inspired to develop one for yourself.



Permeable Pavers, Pervious Concrete and Asphalt And Grass Pervious Pavers

Upcoming Projects and Events for 2014

In the Spring of 2014 and continuing through the summer months, you will notice many projects taking place around the lake. The CLEAR Project will be doing a number of shoreline stabilization projects as well as some larger enhanced rain gardens, permeable paver and grass projects. These projects are being done with cost-share monies that the CLEAR Project has been awarded through the EPA's 319 grant.

The CLEAR Project will also be hosting a tour of watershed projects in the summer to showcase what these projects look like and the simplicity of developing your own project that will help continue the important goal of clearing up Clear Lake and Ventura Marsh.

There will be a Green Expo in April at the Surf as well as the APCL Annual Picnic in August. If you reside in the Clear Lake Watershed and would like more information on cost share monies for these projects please contact MaryJo.



Modular concrete pavers that fit together with funnel-like openings installed over an infiltration storage bed of uniformly graded limestone (below)



Don't forget— if you are looking for a program for your organization or group, please consider the CLEAR Project for a presentation. There is much information to keep current on and different cost-share monies to help with specific projects around Clear Lake and in its watershed. For more information, please call MaryJo Burkgren at 641-832-7246 or email maryjo@osage.net.

These paving practices are so important for storm water runoff around the lake. These allow water to infiltrate into layers of limestone placed below the pavers and then into soil and groundwater below. By infiltrating most of the storm water on-site, the amount of water and pollution flowing into storm sewers and directly to rivers and streams and lakes is greatly reduced.

Interlocking 'cell' pavers are laid on a prepared bedding layer over a sub-base, and the 'cells' filled with the chosen soil and seed. (left)

Porous asphalt or porous concrete installed over an infiltration storage bed of uniformly graded limestone. (below)



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