

OPEN SPACE

NATURAL AREAS,

PARKS,

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS,

RECREATION,

TOURISM



OPEN SPACE

**OPEN SPACES PROVIDE VALUABLE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
THAT PROTECT WATER RESOURCES**

Recharge groundwater **Provide infiltration** *Transpiration* Enhance resilience

Protect water quality Filter sediment & pollutants *Moderate temperature*

Evaporative cooling Promote tourism *Improve air quality*

Store and sequester carbon **biodiversity** recreational opportunities

Improve physical & mental health Attract investment **Reduce flooding**

OPEN SPACE

**OPEN SPACES PROVIDE VALUABLE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
THAT PROTECT WATER RESOURCES**

Protected Public Open Space – MCCD, IDNR, Hackmatack, Municipal Parks

Protected Private Open Space – TLC, Openlands



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Natural Areas:



Municipalities, in coordination with conservation organizations and the public, should seek out and identify high quality natural habitats on properties owned by the municipality, or located within the municipal boundaries.

Unprotected high quality habitat areas should be assessed for possible acquisition from willing sellers.



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Natural Areas:



Habitat on these properties should be considered for restoration, management and protection to maximize benefits from ecosystem services.



or



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PARKS:

Municipalities, institutions or other organizations with parkland should implement green infrastructure/Low Impact Development (LID) practices, including converting turf-to-native species, raingardens, and bioswales to help reduce flooding and improve water quality treatment.



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PARKS:

SIDEBAR – Crystal Lake Park District “Monarch Butterfly Garden” next to Main Beach



OPEN SPACE PARKS:



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PARKS:



Municipalities, institutions or other organizations that have parkland bordering lakes, ponds, rivers, streams or wetlands should provide buffers of native vegetation along the shoreline to protect water quality, control erosion and provide wildlife habitat.



OPEN SPACE GREENWAYS AND TRAILS:



The County, townships, municipalities, watershed groups, and conservation-based or recreation-based organizations should coordinate to establish greenways that provide connections between natural areas, parks, other open spaces, and communities.



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RECREATION:



SWIMMING - Residents, property owners with water frontage, municipalities, and park districts should manage land use adjacent to swimming areas, and the watersheds around them, to reduce the flow of pathogens, pollutants, and nutrients in waters used for swimming.



or





OPEN SPACE RECREATION:



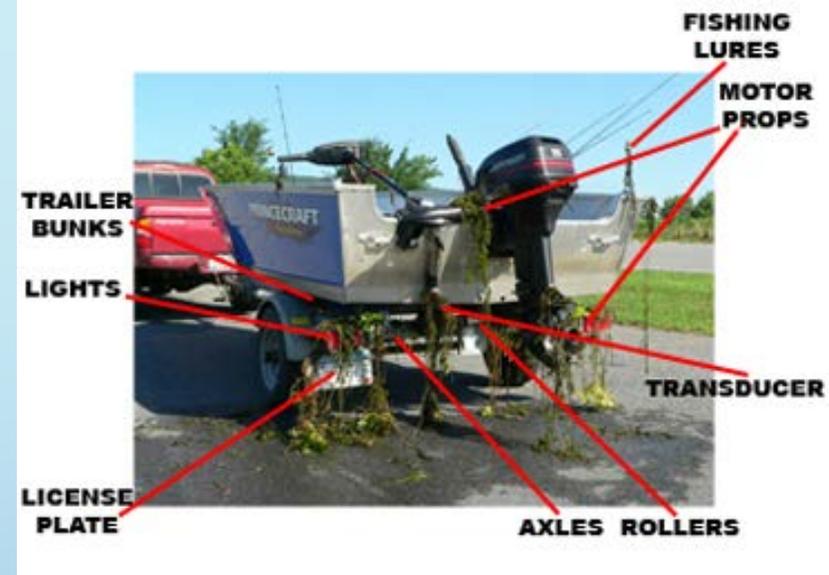
BOATING (Water Pollution)- Residents or visitors who use boats on lakes, rivers, streams, or other water bodies should take actions to avoid or minimize pollution to the waterways.





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RECREATION:



BOATING (Invasive Species) Boaters should take recommended actions to prevent spreading invasive species between water bodies.

- Remove any attached aquatic plants or animals
- Drain all bait buckets, wells, bilges, other compartments
- Drain all water from boats, motors and all equipment
- Dry everything thoroughly
- Let the boat, trailer and gear remain dry for five days
- Never transport live fish between water bodies



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RECREATION:



BOATING (Invasive Species) Marinas, the McHenry County Conservation District, municipalities, park districts, park departments and other open space organizations who manage boat launches should provide proper signage and dedicated inspection areas to help boaters prevent the spread of invasive species from boating activities.

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RECREATION:



FISHING (Fishing Line) - Marinas, the McHenry County Conservation District, municipalities, park districts, parks departments and other open space organizations who manage fishing opportunities should provide and maintain proper collection systems for the disposal and recycling of monofilament fishing line at sites that offer fishing.

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RECREATION:



FISHING - Individuals in the fishing community should voluntarily use lead free fishing sinkers and lures to prevent contaminating or harming fish and wildlife.

HUNTING - To avoid polluting the environment and harming wildlife, hunters should comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 1991 ban on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting and voluntarily choose lead free alternatives for upland game hunting.

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TOURISM:



The County, municipalities, townships, businesses and other organizations should restore, enhance and preserve its open spaces and waterways to attract and support eco-tourism while improving the ecosystem services that the open space and water resources provide.