

Fact Sheet: Issues and Solutions for Grand Lake St. Marys

As the largest inland lake in Ohio and one of the state's greatest resources, Grand Lake St. Marys is home to over 11,000 residents and hosts over 750,000 visitors annually - which account for an economic contribution worth over \$150 million.

The following offers a brief overview of the problems faced by Grand Lake St. Marys and the community the lake supports, as well as potential solutions to those problems.

Issues

Nutrient runoff from surrounding land, especially phosphorous, that fuels the overproduction of toxin-producing bacteria such as blue-green algae.

These toxins not only degrade water quality, they can cause health complications in humans and animals ranging from mild rashes and sneezing to severe gastrointestinal and respiratory distress and failure, convulsions, paralysis, and death. [Learn more](#)

Elimination of natural banks from shoreline development and erosion. Banks populated with native flora act as natural filters for runoff nutrients and help maintain lake stability and water quality. [Learn more](#)

Industrial and residential drainage piped directly into the lake adds unfiltered wastewater, nutrients, and chemicals to the problem. [Learn more](#)

Shallow lake depth that makes it easy for winds to move water, stir up nutrient-rich bottom sediment, and spread blue-green algae rapidly. [Learn more](#)

Political inactivity that has stagnated progressive thinking along with the water. [Learn more](#)

Solutions

Encouraging nutrient-management best-practices in agricultural operations and providing training programs to educate industries on nutrient management. [Learn more](#)

Re-establishing natural watershed buffers and channels to reduce nutrient runoff. [Learn more](#)

Identifying and deploying water quality improvement strategies to clean the lake in its current condition. [Learn more](#)

Conducting water quality monitoring and increasing public awareness and information resources. [Learn more](#)

Lobbying for legislation, enforcement, and responsible political decisions that have a positive effect on the Grand Lake St. Marys Region. [Learn more](#)