**WETLANDS & YOU**

**THE UNKNOWN KILLER**
Mowing behaviors are negatively affecting local wetlands.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**
The problem with cultivars and ornamental plants on local natural areas.

**WETLANDS**

A wetland, as defined by Lake County, is land that has a predominance of hydric soils and that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of hydropathic vegetation typically adopted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**RLB Wetlands**
Lack of active stewardship has caused the wetlands to become degraded... Overtaken by invasive species, litter, and increasing erosion these wetlands are far from what they used to be.

**COMBATING TRASH**
Litter is a growing problem whether it is from neighboring homes or those who are just passing by. Working together we can preserve these natural areas.
The Unknown Killer

Mowing, is a regular part of lawn care but there is a point in which regular lawn care hurts neighboring wetland ecosystems.

What? And How?
Mowing up to the edge of water ways such as creeks, ponds, and lakes removes tall vegetation that stabilizes the soil. Overtime without strong roots keeping the soil in place erosion begins to sweep the soil away.

Now what?
If nothing is done the soil will continue to erode away. The level of erosion will continue to grow in size until neighboring properties are in danger of being consumed by erosion.

“The soil is a medium for living things and lives itself and its strength can be killed by those not aware”
-Anonymous

Erosion
Definition: The gradual removal of surface material.

TIPS

01
Avoid mowing up to the edge of waterways. Leave at least 10’ buffer around any waterway.

02
Awareness. Tell your neighbors and community member the dangers of mowing to close to waterways.

03
Do not build structures next to or on the banks
Beauty and the Beast

Cultivars, they are a beautiful addition to any yard due to their beautiful displays of flowers/or bold colorations. But these beautiful cultivars can be detrimental to neighboring natural areas.

Cultivars are generally sterile but when met with a wild variety, are capable of hybridizing. In some cases this creates an opportunistic plant capable of spreading quickly and aggressively.

Bradford Pear, is a popular ornamental tree used as a street tree and focal tree in yards due to the white flowers it produces.

In recent years it has been found that the Bradford pear can easily hybridized. Leading this tree to dominate anywhere it can. This fast growing tree and easily out competes native hardwoods.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

-Aldo Leopold

Cultivar
Definition: Are plants that have been selectively breed for key characteristics.
Examples: Callery Pear (Bradford Pear)

Ornamental Tree
Definition: Trees grown for decorative purposes.
*Examples: Eastern Redbud, Dogwood, Kentucky coffee tree, and Japanese Maple
*These are not problematic trees

WHAT NOW?

01
Visit the IDNR exotic species page and verify purchased plants are not problematic.

02
Remove and replace problematic plant species with native plants.

03
Stay informed.

Bradford Pear (Callery Pear), is only one example of a tree that has been unleashed in local ecosystems. There are many others such as buckthorn and burning bush. Take a look at the IDNR website to learn more.
Combating Trash
Litter is a common finding at every wetland in the Village whether it is in the water ways or on the banks it is there. In a few cases neighboring homes have begun to dump large items such as: furniture, tires, and electronics.

Common culprits
1. Lack knowledge, where or how to properly dispose of large items
2. Don’t want to pay, the resources are there but they don’t want to pay an extra fee

Resources
The village has many resources available on its website and through SWALCO that provides homeowners and business owners information on where to dispose of large items.

We need your help
Littering is a huge problem in our natural areas and in order to maintain the health and balance of these ecosystems we need the public’s help in spotting large quantities of trash in our ecosystems.

Put Waste in the Right Place,
It only takes one person to make a Difference.

S.A.C

S.
Spot. Be vigilant of large quantities of trash

A.
Act. Don’t ignore the trash take

C.
Call. Notify the Village of large quantities of trash.