

Lake Leelanau
*Landowner's
Handbook*

Our Lake, Our Responsibility

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The Lake Leelanau Watershed

Landowner's Handbook

by

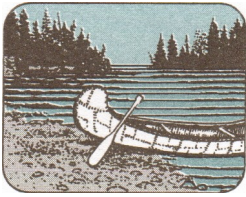
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In cooperation with:

- Northwest Michigan Resource Conservation and development Council
- Lake Leelanau Lake Association
- Leelanau Conservancy
- Leelanau Conservation District
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources a
- Michigan State University Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Michigan Lakes & Streams Association
- Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
- Environmental Health Department
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency



Lake Leelanau

Living Where Nature Comes First

From the days when natives wintered at its shores, to the arrival of European settlers and the damming of its outlet, the waters of Lake Leelanau have nourished generations of human inhabitants. Even now, after the clearing of the primeval forest, the mining of the watershed's soil, and the sudden surge of residential construction, one can still recognize the characteristics of a cold northern Michigan lake intact in the waters of Lake Leelanau. It has endured. Despite human activity, Lake Leelanau remains a symbol of the quality of life that northern Michigianians have come to treasure.

But how long will Lake Leelanau remain clean?

The fate of Lake stands at an historic crossroads. The suburban growth of the Grand Traverse Bay area is already spreading into the lake basin, and with it, many of the practices that have converted so many pristine lakes into weed choked ponds. But today, we have the tools and techniques at our disposal to change the habits of the past. We can enjoy Lake Leelanau and its surrounding watershed and at the same time protect its water quality.

This publication explains how you, as a member of the Lake Leelanau community, can contribute to the well-being of Lake Leelanau, participate in the protection of this valuable resource and, in the process, enhance the value of your property. In the following pages, you will read about the physical characteristics, history, and prognosis for the future of the Lake Leelanau watershed. We will introduce you to the problems, the causes, and the tools at your disposal to protect the lake's water quality.

The fact of future growth is self evident, the effects of the growth are not. Unlike our ancestors who settled this land, we have the knowledge and skill to maintain a high standard of living and at the same time protect the natural systems that make this region a desirable place to live.

That's what this book is about -- how to live in an area where nature comes first. We live around one of the most beautiful and healthy lakes in the world, and this book will help you learn how to keep it that way. The quality of our water is the gauge by which we measure our success. As the water quality goes so goes the fate of the natural systems. Like the proverbial canary in the mine, Lake Leelanau can tell us about ourselves, the state of our health, and the grave risk of carrying on with the status quo.

Use this Handbook as a reference. Chapter 2 sums up the common problems you may encounter. Chapter 3 offers a set of practices proven to go easy on the environment. Chapter 4 introduces you to various organizations and agencies that operate programs to protect the Lake Leelanau watershed (and helped produce this book). Chapter 5 explains the mega-tools that lay the foundation of building conservation into the long term future of the watershed.

We also hope you will use this Handbook to acquire a deeper understanding of the sublime beauty of the Lake Leelanau watershed and your role in protecting it. That's attempted in Chapter 1 . Good reading.

Acknowledgements

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