

North & South Otter Lakes AGM Presentation

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Watersheds
CANADA

C A N A D A

Your Lakes. Your Rivers. Your Future.

watersheds.ca



- Located in Perth, Ontario
- Federally incorporated, non-profit organization
- Registered Canadian charity
- Providing programs in communities across Canada since 2002.
- Engage and help shoreline owners enhance and protect the health of lakes and rivers.





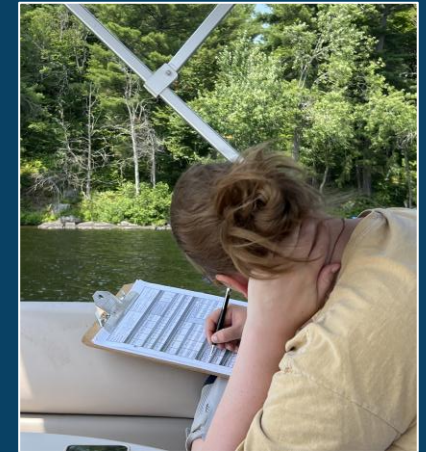


Natural is Beautiful

Healthy Shorelines for Healthy Lakes

What is the Love Your Lake Program?

- Every property on the lake was assessed using a standardized assessment protocol - observation only via boat
 - **Structures & docks**
 - **Erosion control structures**
 - **Vegetation & habitat**
- Landowners will get a personalized property report with details on the state of their shoreline and recommended actions for improving lake health for people and wildlife
- Value Survey results and a Lake Level Report are provided to each lake (with no personal information revealed)

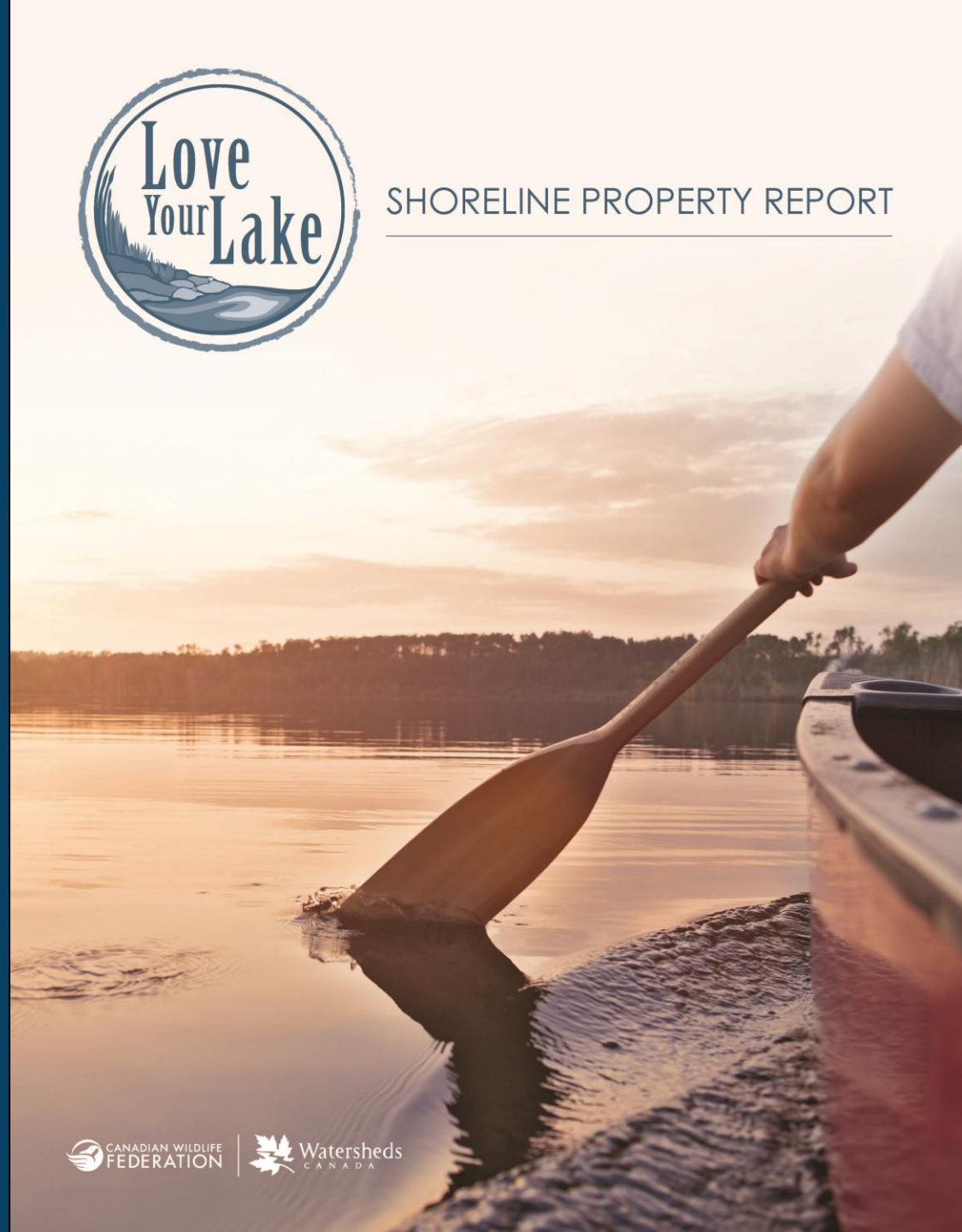


Personalized Shoreline Property Report

- Free download or purchase a printed copy for \$20
- Generated from assessment data
- Specific to each shoreline property owner
- Recommendations for voluntary actions
- Additional local resources
- Non-regulatory

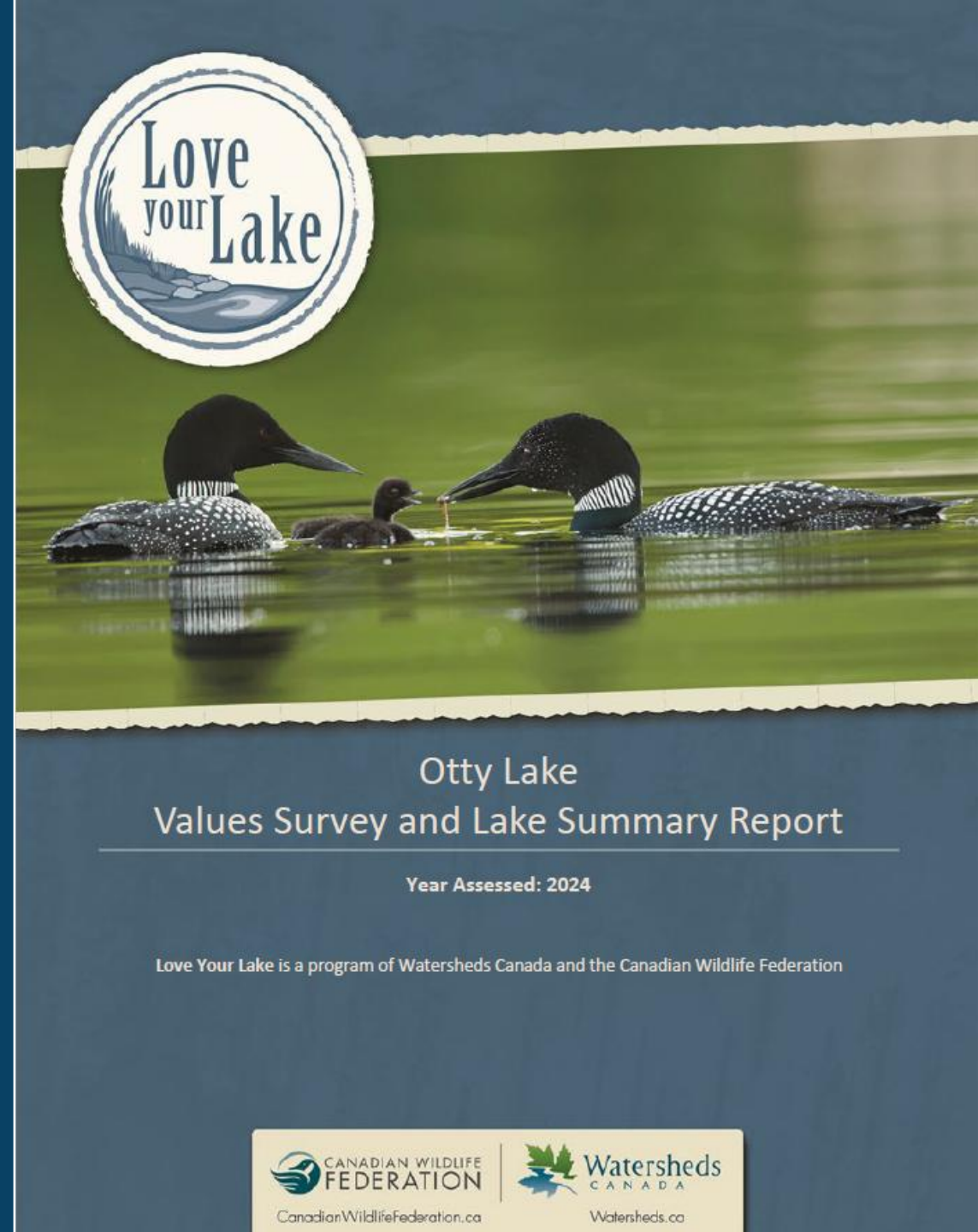


SHORELINE PROPERTY REPORT



Value Survey & Lake Summary Report

- Summarizes Values Survey responses and assessment data
- No identification information included (names, addresses)
- Encourages community stewardship actions
- Resource for lake organizations



North & South Otter Lake Values Survey Results:

- 89 properties surveyed
- 15 respondents to Values Survey
 - 9 (60%) seasonal residents
 - 5 (33%) permanent residents.
 - 1 (7%) own vacant property

Top Recreational Activities Enjoyed

Recreational Activities:	# of respondents	% of respondents
• Swimming	15	100%
• Canoeing or Kayaking	15	100%
• Nature Appreciation	15	100%

The most important elements, valued for their impact on personal enjoyment of the lake, included:

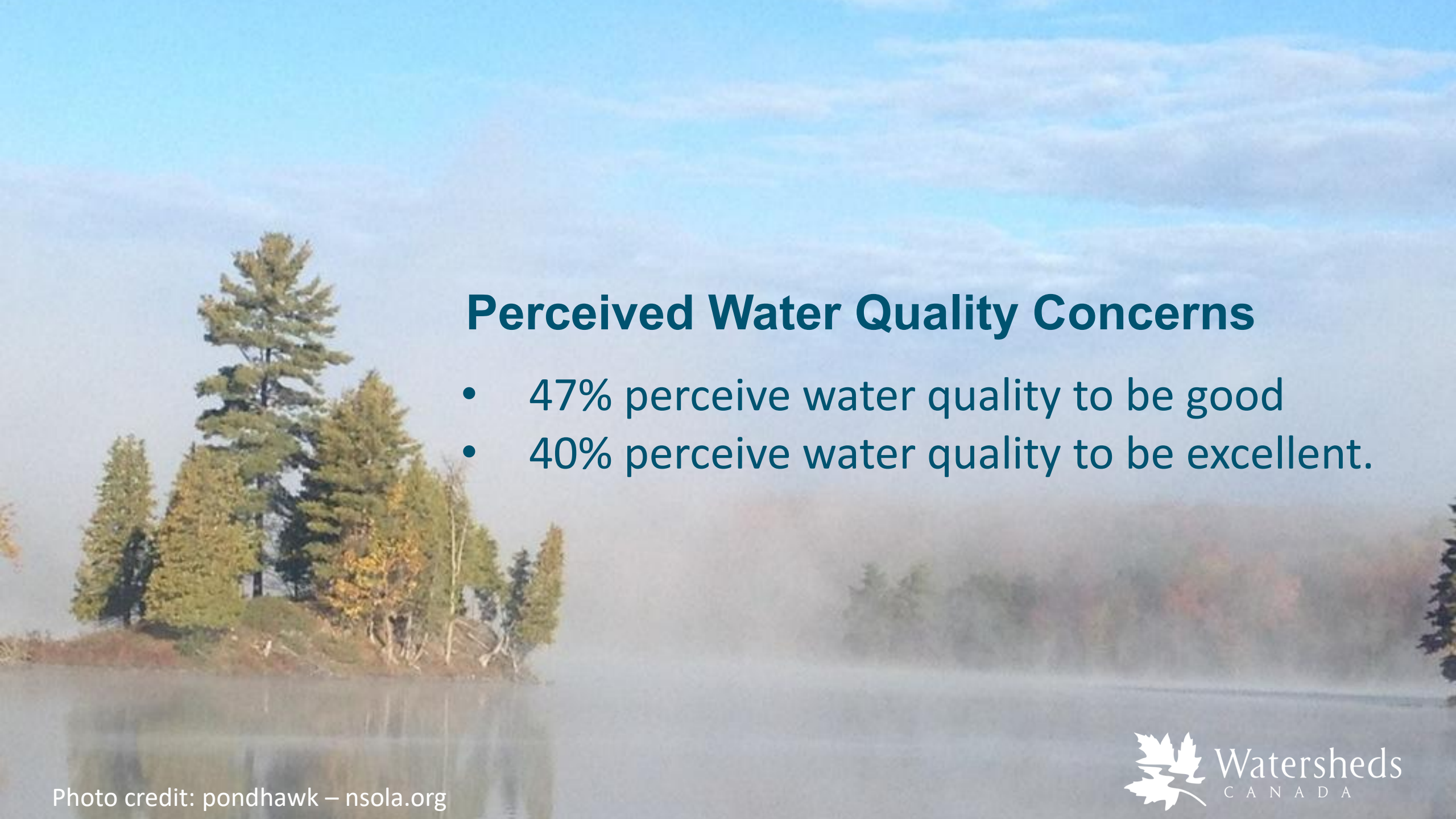
Wildlife viewing, water quality, and scenery/view

Issues Facing North & South Otter Lake

- Water quality
- Cottage Conversions to Permanent Homes
- Boating
- Shoreline Development

Top water quality concerns

- Algae and aquatic vegetation
- Bacteria
- Chemical contamination



Perceived Water Quality Concerns

- 47% perceive water quality to be good
- 40% perceive water quality to be excellent.

LYL Results – 23,521 meters of Shoreline Assessed



Buffer Recommendations:

- 3 properties – create buffer
 - 26 properties – expand buffer
 - 57 properties – great as is
-
- **Create – 80 meters**
 - **Expand – 3,162 meters**
 - **Great As is – 20,279 meters**

Top 3 Actions Identified By Shoreline Property Owners



Photo credit: pondhawk – nsola.org

1. Limit Boat Wakes near Shore
2. Create/Enforce Stricter Rules for New Development
3. Provide Education Materials to Property Owners

The Natural Edge



135+

Freshwater bodies



44,957+

Metres of shoreline restored



181,321+

Native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers planted



450,495+

Square meters of shoreline restored

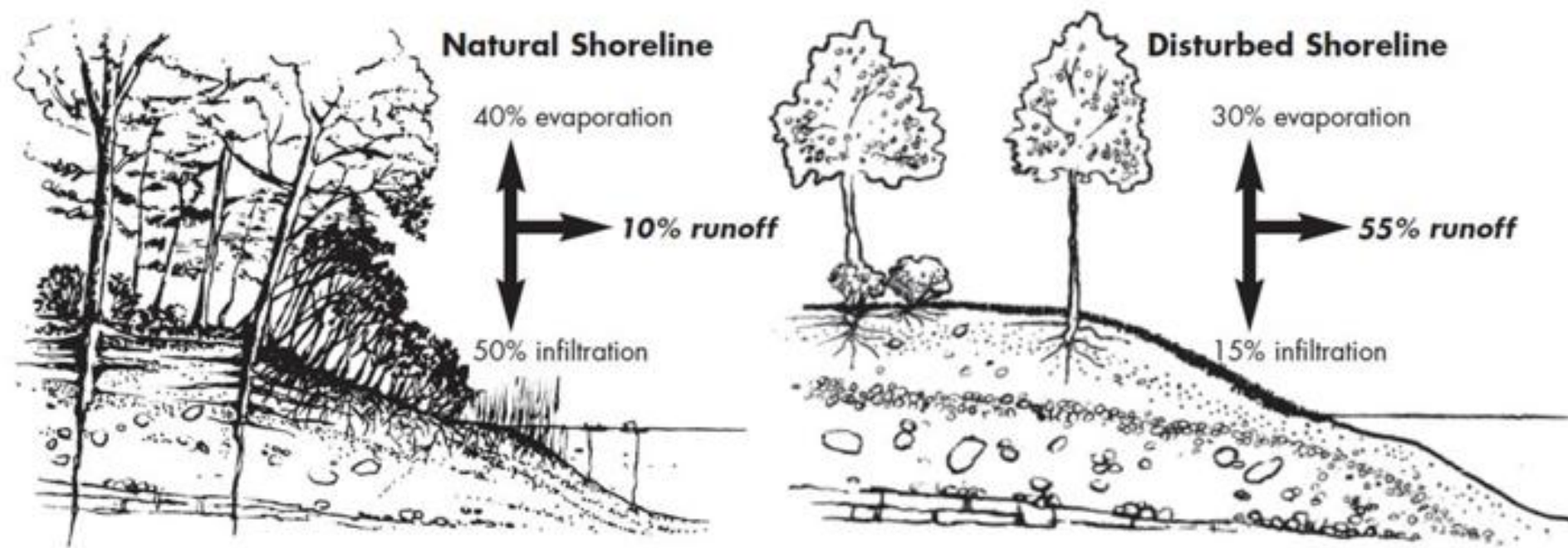




**PEOPLE NEED TO KEEP AT LEAST
75% OF THEIR SHORELINE NATURAL**

**90% OF AQUATIC SPECIES AND
70% OF TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE NEED
A HEALTHY SHORELINE TO SURVIVE**

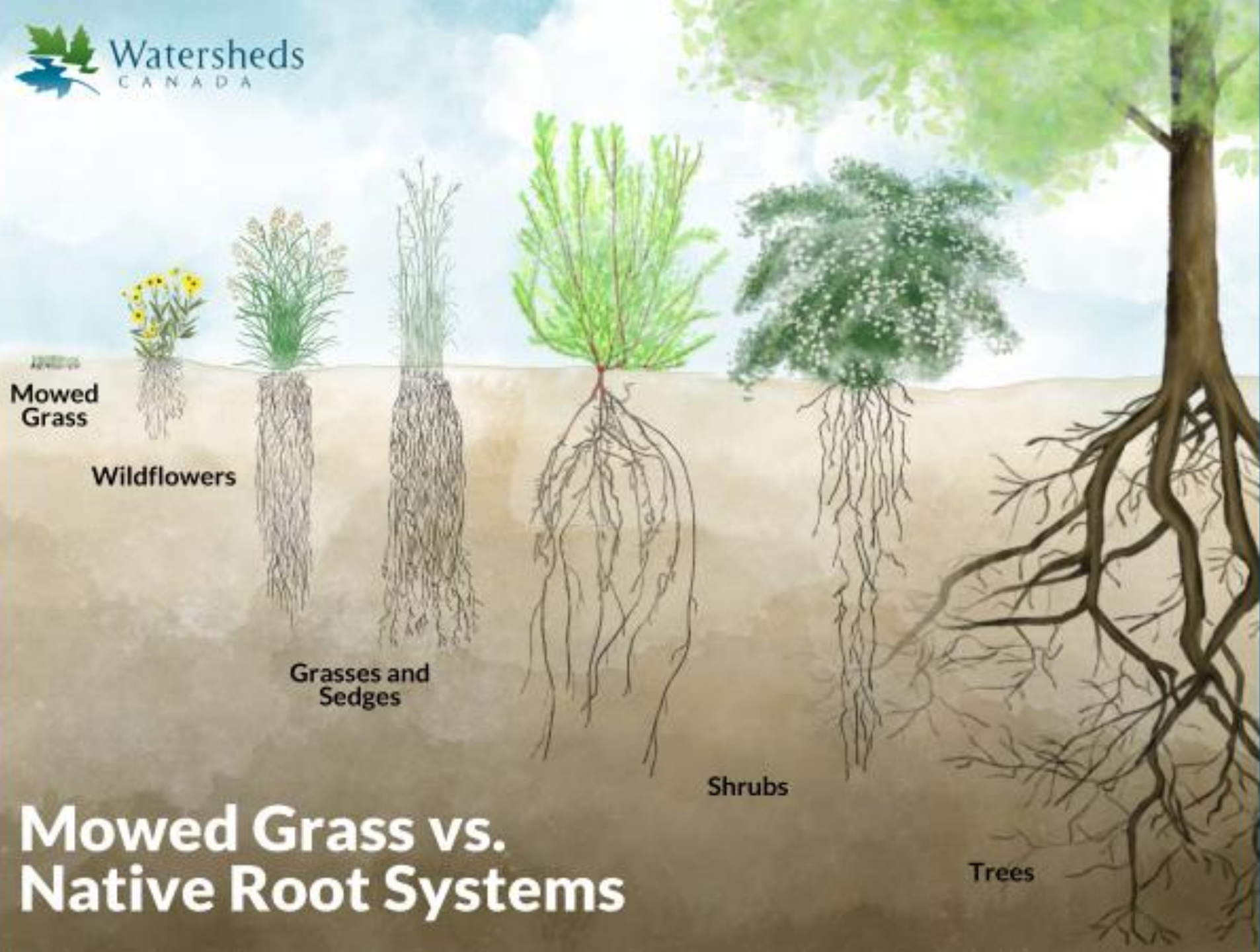
Improves Water Quality



Native vegetation protects water quality from polluted runoff, and helps soil absorb water.

Hard surfaces and reduced vegetation increase runoff and erosion potential, and decrease absorption by the soil.

Natural shorelands promote soil infiltration and subsequent reduction in runoff. Adapted from: *Benefits of a Natural Shoreline*, by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Retrieved from: <https://www.rvca.ca/stewardship-grants/shoreline-naturalization/benefits-of-a-natural-shoreline>



Mowed Grass vs. Native Root Systems

A Look Underwater at a Developed Shoreline



A Look Underwater at a Healthy Shoreline





Restoring the ribbon of life through:

- ✓ Free site visits
- ✓ Starter kits
- ✓ Planting plans
- ✓ Naturalization projects along shorelines



Long-Term Program Outcomes



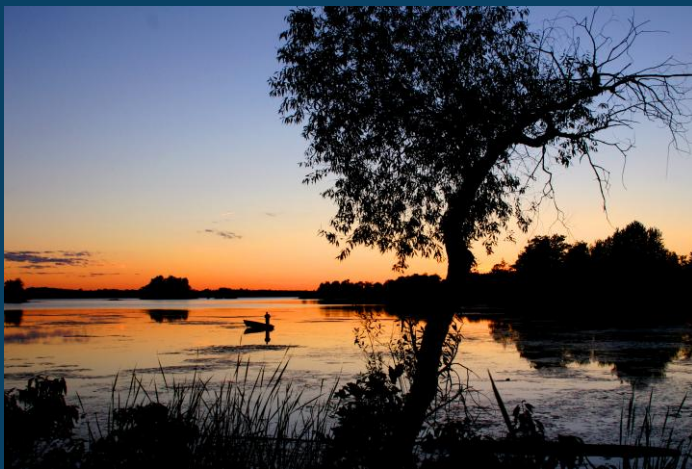
Targeted education & stewardship

Identification of wildlife habitat for fish, amphibians, etc.

Wildlife habitat improvement and protection projects

Data can be compared over time

Long-term outcomes can easily be evaluated





Thank you!

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