

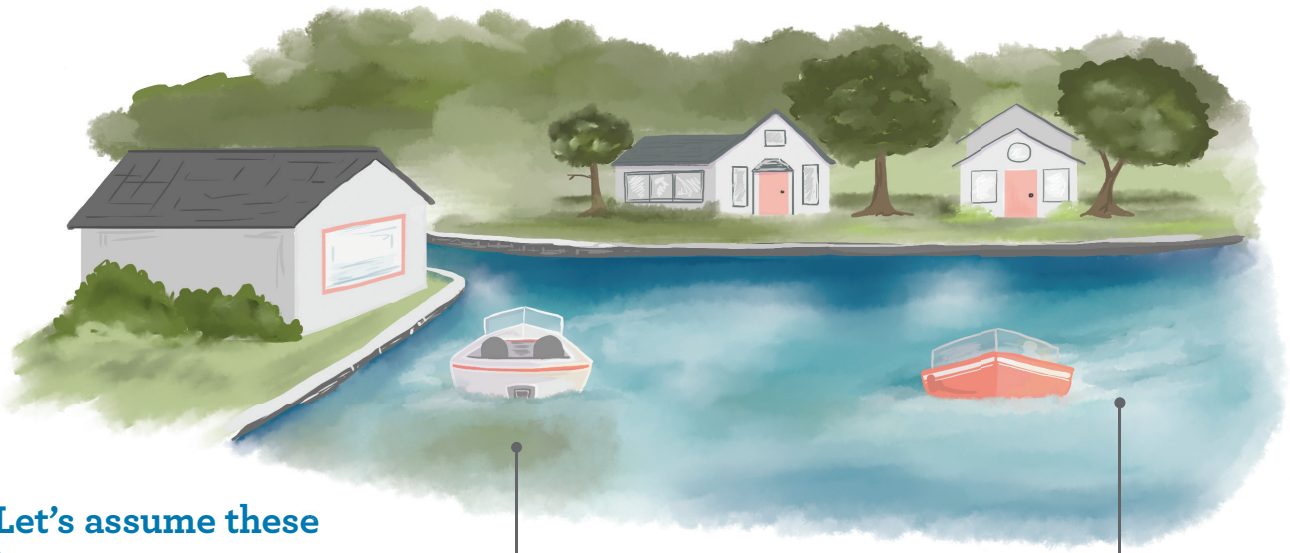
# HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE WHILE YOU'RE BOATING

A LOCALLY SOURCED SCIENCE GUIDE FROM THE LILLY CENTER FOR LAKES & STREAMS

## MINDFUL BOATING

The actions we take on or near local lakes will have an impact on the health of the water, and on what lives in it. But how does that apply to boating, one of the most-loved summertime activities?

Here's the bottom line: Use parts of the lake that are **at least 10 feet deep for any boating activities that create a wake** and may stir up nutrient-rich sediment. That means fewer nutrients for algae and weeds to grow in your lake!



**Let's assume these boats are operating at the same speed on the same afternoon.** The one on the left is in 5 feet of water; the other is in 15 feet.

Notice the plume behind this boat. That dark greenish-brown color is actually millions of tiny particles, primarily some form of sediment with assorted nutrients from the bottom of the lake.

There isn't a plume behind this boat; it's operating deeper than 10 feet. The water is still being stirred, but the prop and action of the water isn't catching sediment from the bottom.

When the Lilly Center research team ran boating tests in 2018, they used five different kinds of watercraft (loaned by Wawasee Boat Company) and operated them at three speed categories over sand,

marl, and two muck substrate types in multiple depths of water. Analysis of water samples, video and other measurements taken at the time showed that when a boat is operated at any speed in 10 feet

or deeper, no measurable sediment (and therefore nutrients) is kicked up by boat props. **Fewer nutrients lead to less algae and weeds in the lake.** Keep this in mind while you boat to help protect the water.



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