



WATERSHED PROTECTION IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Beth Proko, Vice President

Indian Lake Watershed Association

www.ilwa.org or bproko@charter.net

INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION'S MISSION:

- Preserve the environmental quality of Indian Lake.
- Improve and protect the surrounding watershed.
- Educate and inspire our friends and neighbors to take care of our waterways and neighborhood.



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

- A watershed is the land area that drains into a canal, stream, river, lake or other body of water.
- Rain soaks into the ground or flows over land and becomes part of a larger body of water.
- The watershed surrounding Indian Lake encompasses over 2000 acres which extends into Holden.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OUR WATERSHED?

- 1500 storm drains discharge into Indian Lake and its tributaries.
- Nutrients, oil, sediment and other pollutants flow into the water body.
- High levels of phosphates increase algae which leads to increased algae growth and threatens aquatic life.
- Development has increased dramatically in the last 30 years.
- How we treat the land affects the quality of our water – and our own quality of life.



INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Survey of waterways in conjunction with the Blackstone Headwaters Coalition.
- Paved roadways and sidewalk
- Stormdrain stenciling.
- Identify invasive weeds
- Dept. of Environmental Protection 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
 - Test water quality
 - Install underground sedimentation systems.
 - Weed replacement program.
- Annual drawdown
- Characterize sediment
- Educate



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Protect storm drains and report abuse: DPW 508-929-1300.
- Limit fertilizers and pesticides
- Pick up dog poop
- Direct water from rainspouts to plant beds and lawns instead of hard surfaces which prevent water from soaking into the ground.
- Create natural barriers when near waterways.
- Cleanups – May 8th for Indian Lake.
- Educate
- Group and individual projects

Show your appreciate for the earth that God created.



OTHER ILWA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Morgan Park
- Shore Park
- Frostholt Memorial
- Little Indian Plan with WPI

