

# WACF Land Acquisition



## Why More?

The primary mission of WACF is to preserve and enhance water quality in the lakes. To that end, a long-term goal is to acquire wetlands and endangered areas along the shorelines and along the feeder streams. The wetlands and adjoining properties that are crucial to the WACF mission were originally mapped and identified in the Commonwealth Diagnostic Feasibility Study of 1996. Those prioritizations are still valid. Additionally, all acquisitions require the review and concurrence of our independent Ecology Committee. To date, WACF has completed approximately 50% of the acquisition

Land Acquisition is charged with acquiring important wetlands and, sometimes the higher, adjacent ground. Protecting adjacent property is sometimes necessary in order to prevent damaging or destroying important wetland vegetation. This could occur in future years if there were improper uses such that polluted run-off is created from those areas into the nearby wetlands.

WACF is not opposed to responsible development that recognizes the need to preserve existing wetlands and water quality. Development should be done so as not to destroy or damage wetlands, even insidiously over a long period of time. When we sing Irving Berlin's classic "God Bless America," we sing the words; "land that I love" and that should include those special areas that form a transition from land to water and work to keep the water clean.



The overarching goal, however, is deeper and more significant. Achieving a proper balance .....use of the lakes and land in the ecosystem for enjoyment, recreation and beauty without overexploiting the landscape, and the lakes, to the point where there is a threat to the ability of our children and future generations to inherit the opportunity for this truly American experience.....



## What we do to the Lake affects others

Flocks of birds are gathering and preparing for their annual migration. Some will stop off in our watershed. Migration routes remind us of the connection of our ecosystem to other ecosystems thousands of miles away. Ecosystems are not isolated like islands but connect as networks.

Even within the 23,000 acre Wawasee Watershed there are sub watersheds wherein ditches and streams funnel runoff water into the lakes. Our largest sub watershed is the Ten Lakes/Turkey Creek Inlet. It provides 43%(est.) of

surface water into the lakes. This obviously becomes an area of greatest priority for protection of wetlands...wetlands so important to preserve because they filter out unwanted nutrients and sediment detrimental to water quality in the lakes.

