



FIX the DITCH to NAB the HAB

** OTSEGO LAKE IS AT STAKE **

The first line of defense is right up the road!

<https://otsegolakeassociation.org/>



This is an image of a deeply dug raw ditch. Notice that all vegetation has been scraped away.

Photo by K Wayne Bunn

WHAT CAN
I DO?



Speak Out!



WHO DO I
TALK TO?



Your Village, Town,
County or State
Highway Supervisor
or Superintendent



THIS HAPPENS
NEXT



Rushing brown water transporting HAB feeding nutrients down the bare ditch to our Otsego Lake.

Photo by Cornell Cooperative Extension

WHAT DO I
TELL THEM?



Keep it Shallow
Slow the flow
FIX THE DITCH!
Clean - don't scrape
Stone it or Grass it



*This is the **EASIEST** step we can take for a
HAB FREE OTSEGO LAKE.*

Fix the Ditch & Nab the HAB

(Harmful Algal Bloom)

Start Up the Road with a BMP

(Best Management Practices)

! BMP: Reshape the Ditch

The top priority is to reduce water velocity. Deeper and steeper is not better. Ditch shape determines water velocity. Brown, tainted water travels fast down a deep V-shaped ditch into a creek and then into the lowest point of the watershed (the Lake). In contrast, a wide, shallow ditch spreads out and slows down water flow, allowing seepage into the soil along the ditched area.

! BMP: Seed the Ditch

This is an effective erosion control mechanism used to filter sediment runoff. Grass seed applied before snow cover will germinate in the spring before the soil is too dry. Hydroseeding is a better option. Liquid seed-mulch mix is sprayed in the ditch and on the banks around the ditched area.

! BMP: Mulch the Ditch

Mulch stabilizes soil during non-growing months and protects seeding.



! BMP: Line the Ditch

Using filter fabric as a ditch lining reduces erosion.

! BMP: Stone the Ditch

Using stone over filter fabric reduces water velocity.

! BMP: Check Dam the Ditch

Small barriers of gravel or stone are installed at intervals to slow the flow. This can also be added to grassed ditches and is less expensive than stone lining an entire ditch.

! BMP: Lessen the Pitch

By reducing the pitch of **road shoulders**, gravel and other materials are prevented from washing into untreated ditches with water flow. Steep **road shoulders** cause gravel and other deposits to be carried into untreated ditches. Contaminants can include things like winter salts, sand sediment that carries fertilizers and other toxic materials, pet waste, motor fluids and trash.



Reform Traditional Ditching Practices
Fix the Ditch & Nab the HAB
OTSEGO LAKE IS AT STAKE!

Human activity on the land increases erosion. When rain falls and storm water moves across the land, it picks up soil, excess nutrients (such as phosphorus and nitrogen and other pollutants). Rather than being spread out and absorbed into the ground, these tainted waters move swiftly via poorly prepared ditches directly to the nearest creek and then into the lake. (See OLA's Smart Steps pamphlet.) To improve the quality of exiting ditches, keep ditches shallow, clean don't scrape and always reseed or stone.

FIX THE DITCH

The mission of the Otsego Lake Association is to protect and preserve the health, beauty, and well-being of Otsego Lake.

The image below, comprised from a series of images in sequence by Tom Gergel, shows the sediment load being deposited into Otsego Lake from Shadow Brook.



SUPPORT YOUR OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION