

# WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Lake County has a rich heritage based upon access to clean, abundant and scenic water resources. Keeping water clean in Lake County is especially important since we have so much of it. Water comprises over 76% of the county, including the portion of Lake County that stretches into Lake Erie. There are more than 400 miles of streams and rivers, some of which are of the highest quality and most fragile in Ohio. With 31 miles of coastline, Lake Erie has played an important role in the development of the region, which helped it earn the name "Lake County." The future of Lake County is dependent on clean water, to sustain our quality of life, for many recreational uses, and for the economic viability of the region.

## Scenic Parks & Preserves

Lake County's numerous parks, beaches and preserves are among the most scenic and popular in Ohio. Rare environmental conditions make them unique.

## Plant and Wildlife Habitats

Lake County has a wide variety of animal and plant life that depend on abundant and clean water. Several habitats are home to threatened species such as the bald eagle, the piping plover, and aquatic species.

## Recreation & Tourism

Lake County's public beaches, boating and fisheries are popular tourist attractions. Out-of-county and out-of-state anglers visiting Lake County fisheries have quadrupled in the past decade. The recreational opportunities offered by our lakes and rivers helps to improve the quality of life in Lake County and serve as a significant stimulus to our local economy.

## Agricultural-based Businesses

The plant nurseries and wineries of Lake County have access to clean water and are sited on our unique sandy soils, helping to fuel our local economy. Over 100 nurseries in Lake County employ 2,700 people and contribute taxes on more than \$125 million in annual sales.

Source: Lake County Stormwater Management Department

*Lake Erie shoreline at Arcola Creek*

