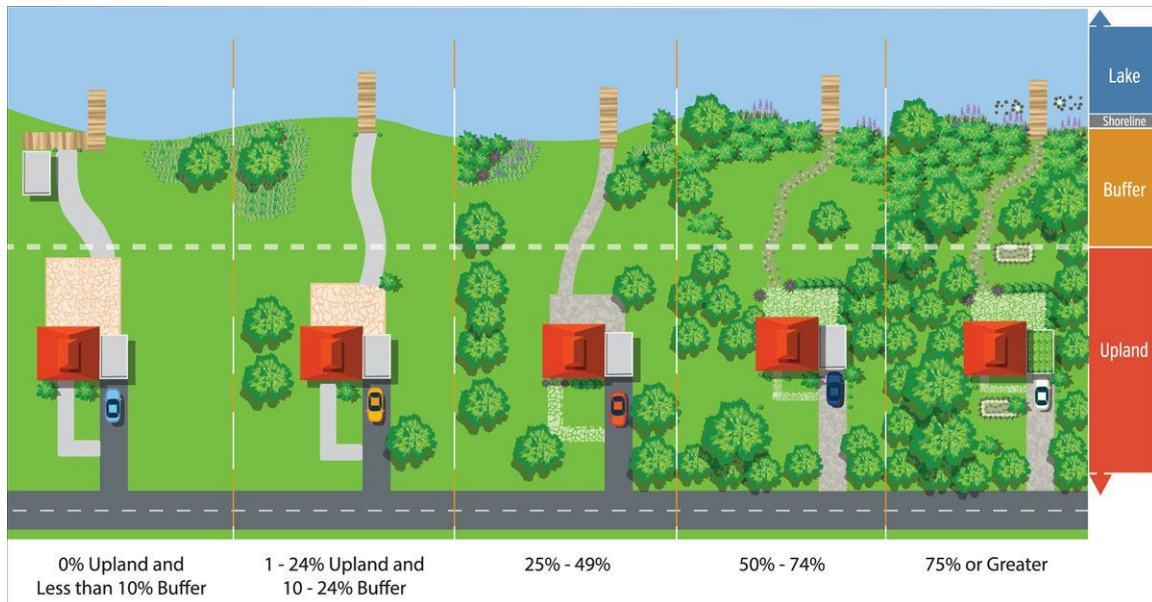


# Which Property Looks Like Yours?



## How Well Are You Protecting Our Lakes?

Most of us think we're doing a good job of protecting Crystal / Perch Lakes, but are we really?

Lake LeAnn has been having issues with their lake. They have hired consultants and are working with MSU to improve the water quality and protect their property values by having a thriving lake. This project is focused on their shoreline to improve the natural filtration for a cleaner lake.

We have been fortunate with the leadership of Bob Conn and Dave Vanderworp to help manage the lifeblood of our lake community. But it's more than the lake manager that can affect the quality of Crystal / Perch Lakes... it requires all of us to do our part to help keep our lakes healthy.

You can find out how your property footprint contributes to our lake health by taking the online **MICHIGAN SHORELANDS SURVEY**: (15 min)

1. Just go to: [www.mishorelandstewards.org](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org) and click "Rate Your Shoreland" to take the survey. This can be done anonymously or you can register if you want.
2. Then answer a short list of questions, such as:
  - Do you maintain a natural barrier between your lawn and the shoreline?
  - Do you maintain your septic system properly, having it serviced and pumped-out every three to five years?

- Are you taking steps to prevent erosion near the shoreline?

**FUN AND EASY!**

- Those of us who've taken the survey find it fun and informative.
- High scores are given a Bronze, Silver, or Gold rating, if you are into that kind of thing.
- Above all, you can learn a lot about how to protect our lakes and your property value.

**IMPORTANCE:**

- Learn how to prevent erosion along the **Shoreline Zone**.
- Get a better understand of the importance of trees and native plants in a wide **Buffer Zone**.
- See the connection between hard surfaces in the **Upland Zone** and increase runoff going into the lake.

**BENEFITS:**

- Learn which PAST actions you've taken that protect our lakes.
- Get customized recommendations for which NEW actions you can take to do an even better job.
- This survey is full of background information, definitions, and tips, which will answer almost any question you have about what beneficial shorelands look like.
- Our lakes will be better off when many of our homeowners take action to improve their property.