

JJC Lake Rehabilitation and Management Project

The Joliet Junior College Lake is a central aesthetic feature of Main Campus. The 5.8 acre lake has a 362 acre watershed which includes the college campus; parking lots; wooded, farm and open fields; and residential and commercial developments. The JJC Lake is eutrophic, which causes water quality degradation.



A grant-funded rehabilitation project is underway to restore the JJC Lake. As fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides from surrounding lawns and fields flow into the lake through storm water runoff, nutrient-rich sediments accumulate. This causes an explosion of plant and algal growth, which depletes oxygen levels and results in fish kills. The restoration efforts will address these issues with the goal of restoring the quality, health and natural beauty of the lake.

Project highlights:

- 6,300 cubic yards of sediment, will be dredged from the lake and transported to the college's agricultural fields; after dewatering, the nutrient-rich sediment will be spread over the fields
- Best management practices will be implemented to reduce non-point source pollution and ensure the long-term health of the lake
- Separators and a wetland swale will be installed to filter runoff water from the parking lots
- A bio-swale and a bio-filter cell will be installed to filter runoff water from agricultural fields, grass fields and residential areas
- Native plant species will be planted along the shoreline to prevent soil erosion

Benefits:

- Unsightly floating debris, odor problems and sediment buildup will be reduced
- A clean, healthy habitat for fish, wildlife and native plant species will be restored
- Approximately two feet will be added to the depth of the lake on average
- Education and research opportunities will be increased
- A valuable outdoor laboratory for JJC faculty and students will be restored and maintained

Visit www.jjc.edu/info/lake for more information.



Funding for this project provided, in part, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.