

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES INVENTORY  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PROJECT: Dunham Lake Greenbelt

CATEGORY:  
Green Development

PRACTICE:  
Retention of Existing Vegetation and Natural Communities

CONTACT:  
Dunham Lake Property Owners Association

<http://www.dunhamlake.org>

[www.dunhamlake.org](http://www.dunhamlake.org)

OWNER: Dunham Lakes Estates; 360 individual property owners

PARTNERS:  
Dunham Lake Property Owner's Association, Dunham Lake Civic  
Committee & Board of Directors

DESIGN: Murray D. Van Wagoner

CONSTRUCTION:

MAINTENANCE: Dunham Lake Civic Committee & Board of  
Directors

DATE INITIATED:

INITIAL COST: (not estimated)

MAINTENANCE COST: \$55,200/year

PROJECT

What sets the Dunham Lake Estates community apart from other residential lakes is the buffer strip or 'greenbelt' that surrounds approximately 2/3 of the lake and is deeded to the community's 360 property owners. The greenbelt ranges varies in width from 100 - 400 ft. Cedar trees planted in the 1930's abound, as do other conifers, along with towering hardwoods such as oak, cherry, maple, and berry-producing shrubs. Dunham Lake's greenbelt serves the important function of protecting the lake's water quality. Due to the greenbelt's presence no chemical control of water quality or aquatic weeds has been needed despite the presence of approximately 400 homes, complete with septic tanks and tile fields around the lake. In fact, 1984 survey results indicate that the lake has a water quality index value of 92, which designates the water quality as 'excellent'. The greenbelt buffer continues to provide excellent protection for the lake by filtering, removing, and absorbing nutrients from the lots that border the lake. The inclusion of the buffer strip between the lake and subdivision by the developer was an extremely wise one.



Aerial view of the Dunham Lake community. Photo courtesy of [dunhamlake.org](http://dunhamlake.org).



View of Dunham Lake's west path. Photo courtesy of [dunhamlake.org](http://dunhamlake.org)