

Signage:



Why Should We Use Fishing Line/Lead Collectors?

- Monofilament fishing line persists in the environment for 600 years.
- Fishing line and hooks can cause injuries or kill birds.
- Birds can ingest fishing lures & hooks. A small lead sinker is enough to poison a Bald Eagle (Using non-lead weights is a great way to protect wildlife).
- Fish, turtles and other aquatic species are at risk of being entangled in the fishing line or mistaking it for food.
- Soil quality and water can be affected as well as the monofilament breaks down into harmful microplastics.

A potential model for addressing the Impact of Fishing Line and Lead for London Ontario's watershed:

The goal of the Fishing Line Recycling Station program is to bring awareness to the issues caused by fishing line being left in the environment and the importance of disposing of it correctly. The stations are made of donated PVC pipe

Examples of other communities having adopted this program:

<https://clearyourgear.ca/#help> With the kind support of our Sponsors, we continue to deploy Indoor & Outdoor Recycling Receptacles throughout Canada.

Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee (MREAC)-A Multi-Stakeholder ENGO With a Focus on Science and Research on the Miramichi Watershed. Based on the success in removing waste line and some lead along with the very positive response to this project MREAC will continue this project into future years. The units are multi-year, low cost, and demand only infrequent emptying due to the low volume of the waste materials.

The Thousand Islands Association (TIA) began working on the fishing line recycling stations in early June 2021, and the first station was installed in the first week of July, but they're hopeful more will be installed in the future. They are also partnering with Save The River, an organization on the American side of the St. Lawrence River, and have given them 10 of the PVC pipe recycling units to set up near their shorelines. <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/08/12/group-encourages-recycling-of-fishing-line.html>

The fishing line will then be sent to the Berkley Recycling Centre in Iowa to be properly recycled and repurposed. The Iowa recycling centre has the ability to melt down the fishing line and repurpose the old line into new line.

Additional key measures for consideration:

- Education and Awareness: regarding the harmful effects to the soil and wildlife through media platform campaigns and signage in ESA's.

- To ensure the Recycling Receptacles are installed and maintained regularly: Clear Your Gear solidifies the support of regional Partners & Volunteers. Once the line is collected it is shipped to the recycling facility.
- Opportunity to repurpose: Recycled monofilament fishing line is used for many purposes including the manufacturing of Berkley Fish Habs. Once in the water, the Fish Hab attracts fish and plant growth almost immediately.

