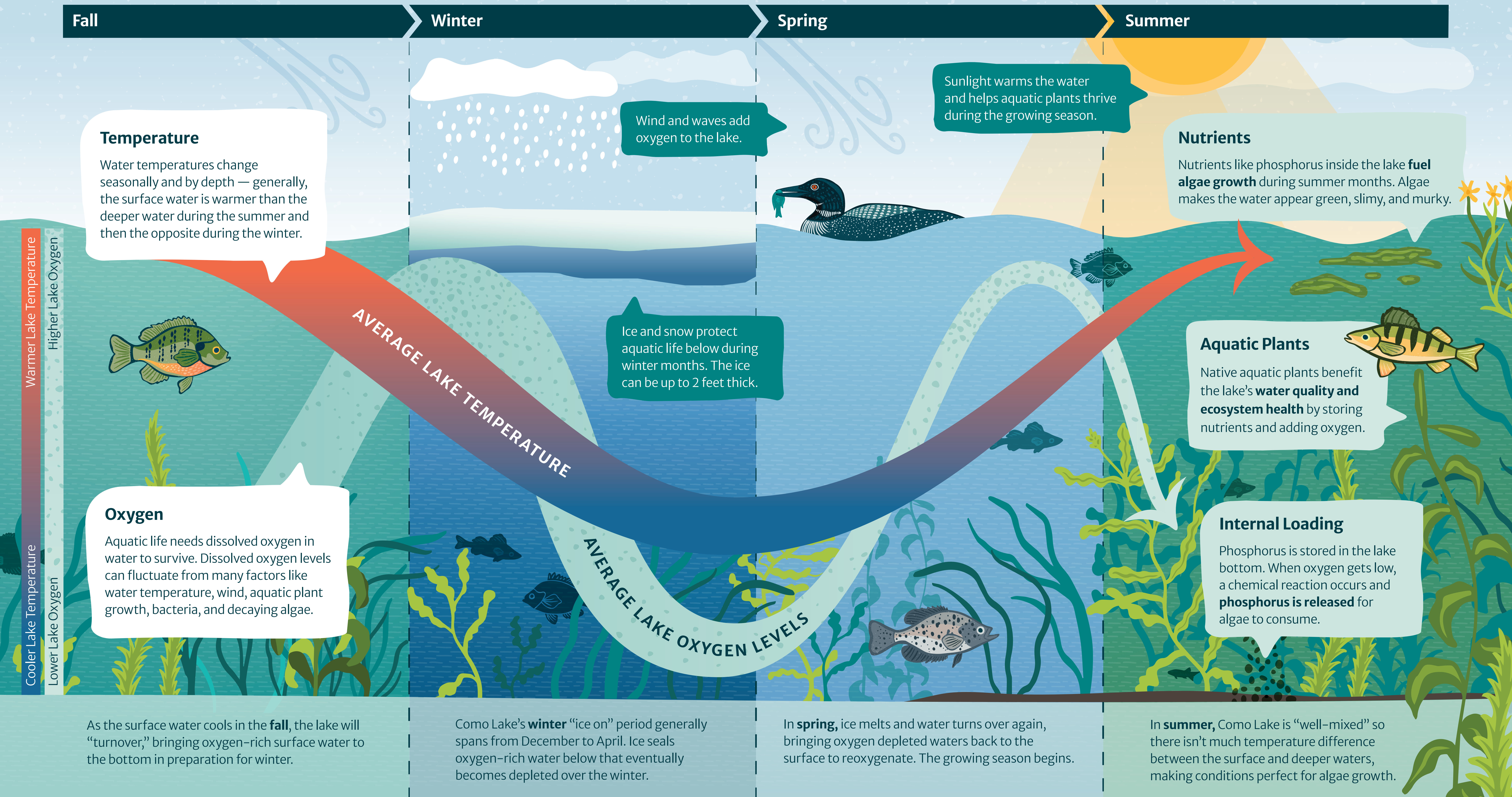


What's Happening Inside Como Lake?

Inside Como Lake, complex natural processes affect the lake's water quality, aquatic plants, and wildlife. Seasonal changes directly influence the physical and chemical properties of the lake, like water temperature, oxygen levels, and nutrient availability. Como Lake's ecosystem relies on warm temperatures and sunlight in the summer to support aquatic life and process nutrients, and cold temperatures and ice in the winter to insulate the wildlife below. Any change to this annual cycle can have cascading effects on the ecosystem. This makes Como Lake particularly vulnerable to impacts from urban development, climatic extremes, and aquatic invasive species.

Como Lake Changes Through the Seasons

Como Lake is **shallow** with an average depth of 6.5 feet. The deepest point is only 15.5 feet. This means aquatic plants can grow in most areas of the lake.

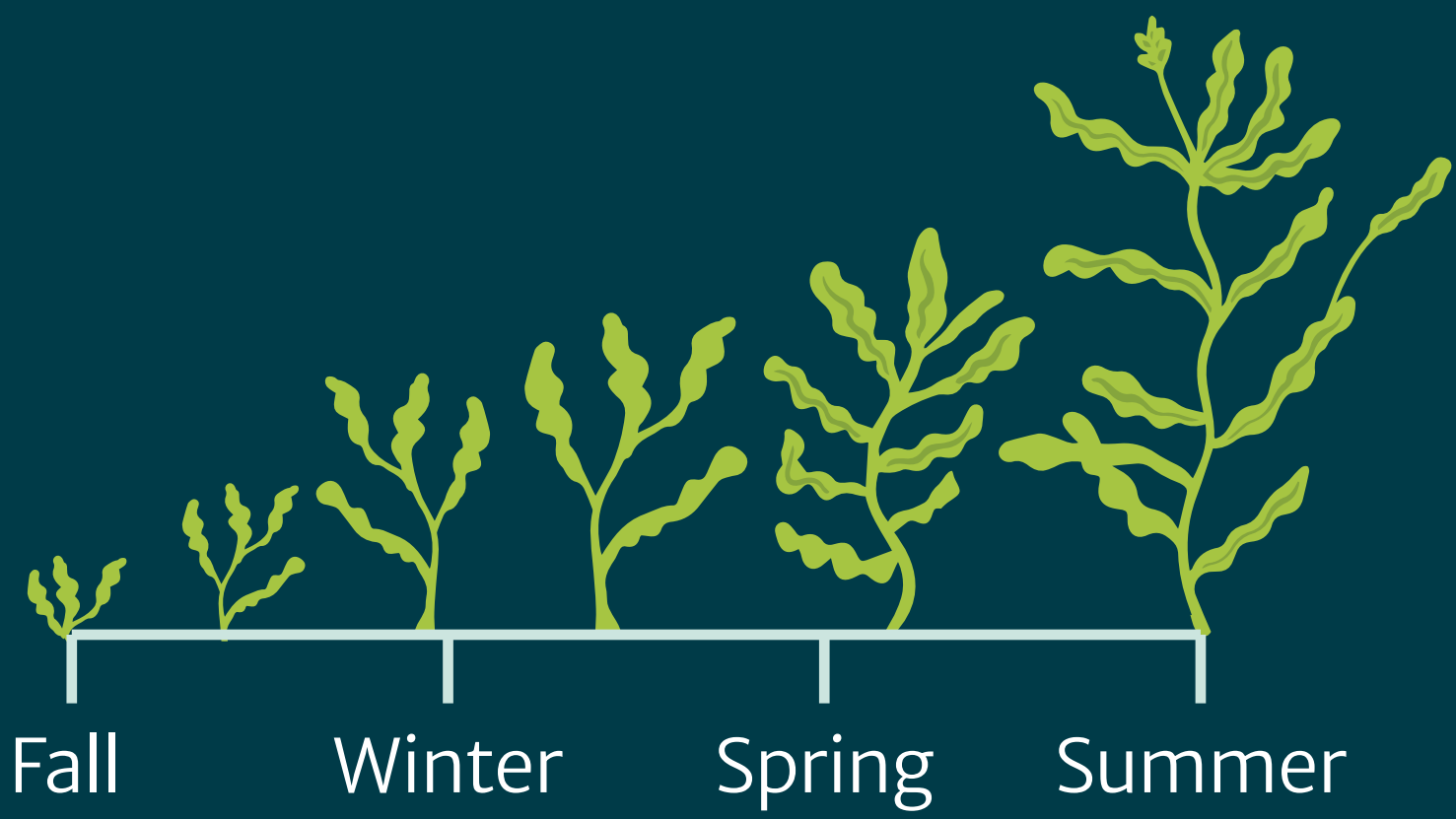


Aquatic Invaders Contribute to Poor Water Quality



Curly-leaf Pondweed is an invasive aquatic plant that thrives in murky water and spreads rapidly, choking out important native plants.

Curly-leaf dies off in late June, leaving dead plants to decompose during peak summer temperatures. The results are strong odors, reduced oxygen, internal loading, and algae blooms.



Common carp are invasive fish that stir up the lake bottom while searching for food and uproot important native aquatic plants.

Strategies for Improving Water Quality

Many strategies have been implemented to improve Como Lake! Learn more about these efforts at capitolregionwd.org/comolake



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