



Do Your Part to Protect the Water Quality of Your Lake

The key to the survival of your lake is developing a long term program for reducing nutrients entering the water. The following are suggestions that individual property owners can do at little to no cost to curb nutrients from entering the water.

- The use of a greenbelt of natural vegetation between your lawn and the lake to filter runoff. The greenbelt should consist of plant varieties of shrubs, flowers or trees that do not shed their foliage into the water.
- No lawn fertilization or a program that uses slow or time-released nitrogen. Also, know the amount of fertilizer your lawn needs by calculating the size of your lawn and reading directions on the bag before applying the product!
- Apply fertilizer when the grass is actively growing to minimize loss of nutrients to nearby waters. Begin fertilizing in the spring when temperatures are warm and discontinue before the grass ceases to grow in the fall. Avoid application to fertilizer prior to rainy days.
- Perforate lawn periodically and seed and mulch exposed soil (to prevent erosion).
- To maximize root growth, mow grass no shorter than 3 inches. Don't cut more than 1/3 of the lawn's height when mowing.
- Use your grass clippings as a source of nutrients, by returning clippings to lawn through mulching.
- Remove aquatic weeds and other debris that washes up along the lakeshore so it will not decay near the lake.
- Remove fallen leaves and branches near the lakeshore.
- Never burn yard waste along the shoreline, ashes contain phosphorus.
- Always use silt fences when building a new home or doing any yard-work that would cause erosion.
- Remove dog droppings from lawns and deposit in trash containers. This also pertains to geese and duck droppings. Also, do not feed wildlife along the shore, as it increases the amount of animal waste in the water.
- Encourage the use of stone, brick and similar porous materials when building a landscape to minimize urban water collection.
- Disconnect down spout from storm sewers.
- Do not pour oil or other material down storm sewers. Do not hook-up washing machines to storm sewers.
- Check on all activities occurring around the lake that are either causing erosion to the lake or are filling in the lake below the high watermark.
- Have your septic tank pumped regularly (about every 1-5 years) depending on tank size and people per household.

