

# Actions to Improve Water Quality

Keep our

Lake  
Blue



## Actions to Reduce Runoff

### Make Impermeable Surfaces On Your Property Smaller

- Convert your driveway or parking area to a permeable surface
- Make your pathways out of stone or pavers (instead of poured concrete or asphalt)

### Reduce The Size Of Your Lawn

- Plant more trees and shrubs around property edges and work your way in
- Plant shrubs and groundcovers instead of grass

### Use Water Wisely

- Water your lawn or garden in the morning or evening to minimize evaporation
- Adjust sprinklers to only water the lawn (not the side of the house or sidewalk)
- Install a rain sensor so your sprinklers don't turn on when it's raining
- Spread organic mulch around plants to retain moisture
- Install drip irrigation for shrubs and trees
- Convert some lawn space to a patio (with permeable paving stones) to reduce the area needing to be watered
- Landscape with native plants that won't need irrigation once established
- Install a rain barrel to collect runoff from your roof to use for watering your garden
- Direct downspouts onto plants, lawn, or a rain barrel and away from impermeable surfaces
- Fix any leaking faucets/pipes
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks

### Plant A Vegetative Shoreline Buffer

- Cover 50–75% of your property line with native species
- Plant appropriate shrubs, trees, flowers, and groundcover on your property beside the lake

### Plant A Rain Garden

- Pick a location that you can direct a downspout and build a rain garden

### Plant Native Plants

- Plant native plants in your garden or on your lakefront property line - they reduce stormwater runoff and are low maintenance



# Actions to Eliminate Pollutants

## Eco-Friendly Lawn Care

- Apply fertilizer at the recommended rate – spring is the best time and never before a storm or on frozen ground
- Skip chemical fertilizers all together or use compost
- Keep yard waste out of the street, ditches, storm drains
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Mow higher – 2 to 3” is healthier for your lawn
- Pick up pet waste
- Use pesticides sparingly, and only when needed. Do not apply chemical pesticides as part of a “routine maintenance plan”

## Maintain Your Septic System

- Have your septic system inspected every 2 years
- Pump your septic system every 1-2 years
- Don't dispose of hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets
- Plant only grass or groundcover with shallow roots over your drainfield
- Reduce water use to reduce stress on the septic system
- Instead of doing laundry all in one day, spread it out over the week
- Make sure water softeners or filters aren't flushing into the septic system
- Reduce the use of antibacterial products and harsh cleaners

## Don't Flush Drugs

- Take expired and unused medications to a collection site, such as a pharmacy, instead of flushing them

## Use Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer

- If you buy fertilizer, buy phosphorus-free

## Minimize Erosion During Any Construction Projects On Your Property

- Preserve existing vegetation where possible
- Install a silt fence or straw bales to trap sediment on the downslope of your lot
- Replant the disturbed area as soon as possible
- Fence the construction area to limit activity to the necessary area
- Divert runoff around disturbed areas

## Maintain Your Vehicle

- Make sure your car is not leaking oil or other fluids onto your driveway
- Use kitty litter to clean up oil spills instead of washing it down the storm drain
- Wash your car on your lawn or at a commercial car wash instead of on the street or your driveway

## Conserve Water In Your Home

- Install high efficiency showerheads
- Turn off faucets while shaving or brushing teeth
- Only run the dishwasher when full
- Install aerators in the kitchen and bathroom faucets
- Replace dishwashers, toilets, and washing machines with high efficiency models

## Reduce Household Hazardous Waste

- Use hazardous substances such as gasoline, oil, paints, solvents, paint thinners, fertilizers, pesticides, and cleaners in the smallest amount possible
- Use biodegradable products when possible
- Use phosphate-free soap



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