

# Functional Landscaping Ideas for Your Lakeshore Home



*A helpful guide, demonstrating why  
your 100 feet of shoreline property  
matters and how you can help  
our lakes stay healthy*

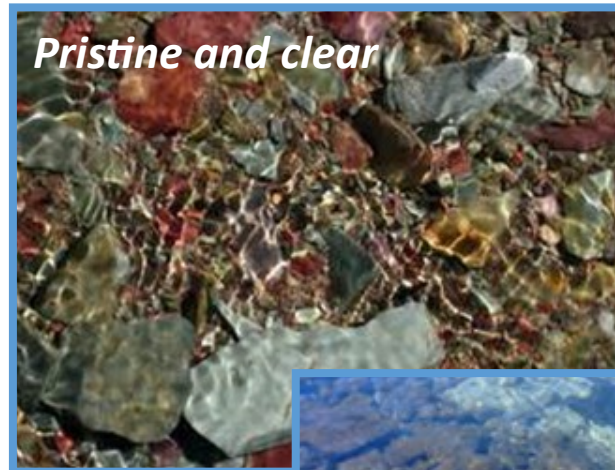
## The Economics of Why Your 100' Matters

*The average lake side homeowner has about 100 feet of shoreline. The way shoreline is treated matters, especially when all the lakeshore properties contribute to the overall health of our lake systems. This guide demonstrates functional landscape designs that can be installed to help make a healthy impact on our water.*

**Journal of Environmental Management:** States that harmful algal blooms will result in approximately 3600 fewer fishing licenses issued in the summer for Lake Erie adjacent counties, leaving approximately \$2.25 million to \$5.58 million in lost revenue.

**Agricultural and Resources Economics Review:** Reports that with every 1-meter decrease in water clarity, property values decreased 0.9% - 6.0%.

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection:** States that in the city of Belgrade, if water clarity were to decline by one meter of visibility, the city would lose \$10.5 million (or 5%) in property value (*Maine DEP, 2000*).



*Pristine and clear*

**TORCH  
LAKE  
1998**

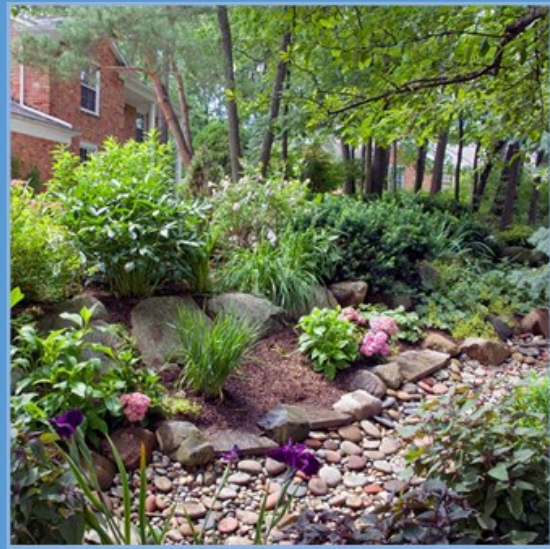
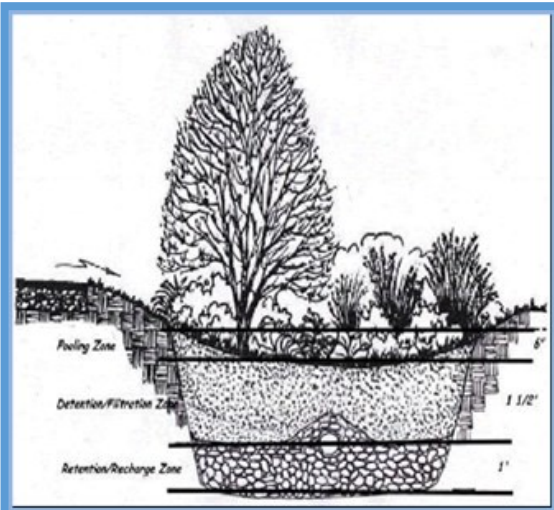
**TORCH  
LAKE  
2015**



*Murky algae growth*

## Rain Gardens (Infiltration Beds)

Recessed planting beds capture and filter stormwater. Stone installations at the drip line allows water to infiltrate into the ground easier. These features are not meant to create ponded water and under normal circumstances, will not. You can be as creative as you want when designing these functional landscapes.



## Dry River Bed

Dry river beds are used to control where water is going, either from a downspout, footing drain, or other water source. Some of the water from a dry river bed will permeate into the ground. For maximum efficiency, have the dry river bed outlet into a buffer strip or flower garden.



## Beach Areas

Sandy beach areas should be placed above the area of wave action so sand doesn't wash into the lake. Sand entering the lake covers fish spawning beds, filling the waterways and carrying pollutants. When installing, you may be creative and make a fun sand box that will keep sand in place to help save money and protect the lake.



## Buffer Strips (Recessed Flower Gardens)

Utilize buffer strips between the lake and the lawn to filter stormwater and stabilize the shore. A flower garden will help use up fertilizers, capture nutrients, and filter pollutants from stormwater before washing it into the water. Overall, buffer strips are important for protecting water quality.

## Permeable Pavers

Permeable pavers replace normally hard, impermeable surfaces and allow water to soak into the ground.



## Open-top Box Culverts

Open-top box culverts are used to help divert water from one area to another. Place open-top box culverts in an impermeable surface, such as an asphalt driveway, to divert water into a detention basin or flower bed.



Homemade open-top  
box culvert (top)

Concrete framed/  
grated open-top box  
culvert (bottom)

## Fertilizer is plant food. Algae loves fertilizer!



Poorly timed fertilizer application –  
washed into the lake  
causing algae growth and slimy rock.

## *Your 100' matters!*



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