



# Lake Friendly Protection Ideas

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is the precipitation that runs over a property picking up sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants before dumping into the lake.

## Why is stormwater management important?

Stormwater runoff can damage the environment, reduce property values, and affect our way of life.

## What can we do?

Be proactive. Help keep our lakes clean for our use and future generations' use tomorrow. It's Our responsibility.

Remember, the Antrim Conservation District and the Healthy Lakes Landscaping Initiative is here to help you protect your lake. Don't hesitate to contact us:

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**Minimize impervious surfaces**—paved driveways, concrete patios and sidewalks.

- Water runs off hard surfaces and does not infiltrate excess water. Use permeable materials.
- Maintain natural areas and utilize plant beds to capture and filter runoff water.

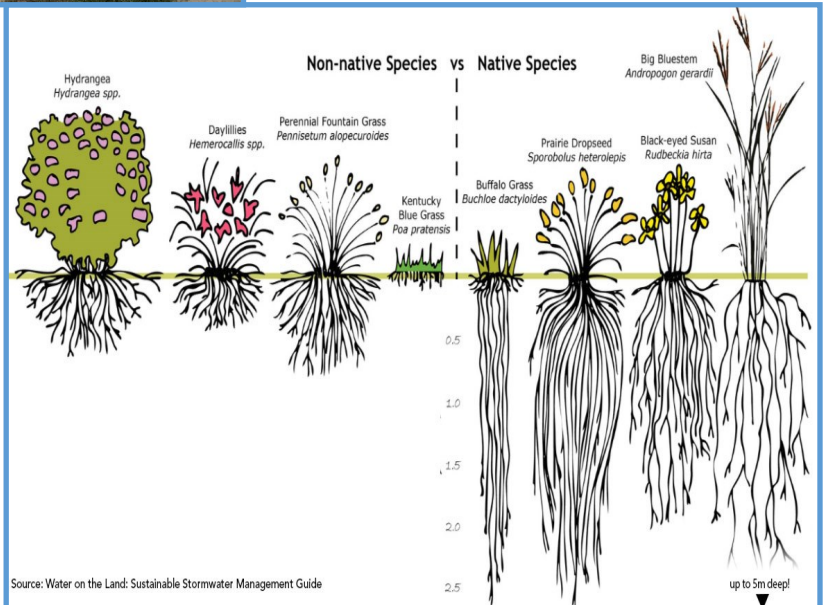


## Strategically plan landscaping.

- Capture and clean water that runs off properties before it enters the lake by filtering it through landscape beds placed around the home and property.
- Install plant beds at the lake—geese love mowed lawns; they are grazers. A plant bed at the shoreline will deter geese because they don't know if predators are in them hiding.
- Install rock filled trenches, berms, swales, dry river beds in landscaping to control runoff water.

## Reduce the size of mowed lawns.

- Grass is inappropriate at shorelines because roots are only about 2" long.
- Lawns require maintenance, mowing and can introduce fertilizers and pesticides to lakes and streams.
- If irrigation is needed, seasonally draw from the lake.





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## Utilize native plants in landscaping.

- Natives have deep and expansive root systems and are great for erosion control and bank stabilization.
- They are acclimated to the area, resistant to pests and reduce the need for chemicals.
- Natives provide great habitat for birds and butterflies. Plants at the shoreline are also great for fish; they shade the water and provide habitat for the insects on which fish feed.
- Northwest Michigan is beautiful and native plantings help maintain the “Up North” aesthetic; leave suburbia behind!



## Strategically plant trees and shrubs along the shoreline bank.

- Trees and shrubs have deep, expansive root systems to protect shorelines from erosion.
- They capture and filter storm water.
- Trees and shrubs are great habitat for birds and butterflies. Plants at the shoreline shade the water and provide cover for fish.
- Northwest Michigan is beautiful, and native plantings help maintain the “Up North” aesthetic.
- Trees and shrubs provide privacy and protect the property against harsh elements.

## Responsibly apply fertilizers

- Excess nutrients from fertilizers can cause algae blooms.
- Soil test before you fertilize.
- Use phosphorus free fertilizers on lake lots and stay 25’ back from the water’s edge when fertilizing.
- Algae and aquatic vegetation can clog waterways. When they decompose they stink and reduce the dissolved oxygen in the water hurting fish populations.

