

Clean Lawns = Dirty Lakes

- Property values tend to be lower on lakes with poorer water clarity. Mowed lawns allow runoff carrying fertilizers, pet waste, soil and lawn clippings into the water, which can result in algae blooms and decreased water clarity. **cite:** Krysel, Charles et al. *Lakeshore Property Values and Water Quality: Evidence from Property Sales in the Mississippi Headwaters Region*. 2003.
- Geese are often attracted to mowed lawns.
- Fertilizers and herbicides applied on lawns and gardens will make their way to the lake and harm aquatic organisms.

Healthy Shorelands can...

- Prevent polluted runoff containing sediment, bacteria, debris, and herbicides from entering the lake.
- Provide habitat for songbirds, ducks, loons, turtles, frogs, fish, butterflies, dragonflies, and many other creatures.
- Reduce shoreland erosion by stabilizing soil, softening impacts of waves, and slowing down runoff.

Reduce runoff to the lake by building a rain garden. Protect the quality of your lake for future generations by using healthy shorelands practices.

As we simplify the environment and remove protective elements like trees and aquatic plants, the very things that drew us to the water vanish. – Paul Cunningham

Healthy Shorelands: Following Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy

- Healthy shorelands can add natural beauty to your property and provide essential wildlife habitat, but it is also critical to improving water quality and preserving a healthy lake ecosystem.
- *The wealth of the nation is its air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and biodiversity... that's all there is. That's the whole economy. That's where all the economic activity and jobs come from. These biological systems are the sustaining wealth of the world.*
- Gaylord Nelson
- *In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks.*
- John Muir

Join your neighbors in adopting healthy shoreland practices to protect and preserve the lake for future generations.

Healthy Lakes Have More Fun

- Keeping your shoreland area natural can provide opportunities for kids to explore and discover frogs, fish, and dragonflies.
- Healthy shorelands offer a natural space that provides opportunities for photographing wildlife and plants.
- Native vegetation can reduce runoff carrying nutrients and sediments to the water where they can fuel algae blooms and enhance plant growth and make swimming and boating less enjoyable.
- Herbicides applied on lawns and gardens will end up in the lake, harming or killing fish and many sources of food that they rely on.
- **The choice is yours!** Join your neighbors in adopting healthy shoreland practices that promote good fun, good water quality and preserve the lake for future generations.

Healthier Lakes, Healthier You

- **Experiencing the beauty of your natural shoreland area can help to ease anger, fear, and stress while also boosting your mood!** Studies have shown that exposure to nature can also reduce blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones. **Cite:** University of Minnesota Center for Spirituality and Healing. "How Does Nature Impact Our Wellbeing?" *Taking Charge of Your Health and Wellbeing*. Ed. Jean Larson and Mary Jo Kreitzer. U of Minnesota, 25 June 2015. Web.]
- **Herbicides applied on the land will end up in the lake where they can cause harm to humans, animals, and the environment.** Exposure to these chemicals can damage the nervous system, irritate skin or eyes, or may even contribute to some forms of cancer. **Cite:** "Human Health Issues." Pesticides: Health and Safety. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 11 Oct. 2014. Web.
- **Healthy shorelands can help to reduce nutrients in runoff entering the lake, which in turn can prevent algae blooms.** Contact with blue-green algae can cause skin irritation or respiratory irritation, and can also produce toxic chemicals that can be deadly if ingested.

Use healthy shorelands practices to promote a healthier lake, and a healthier you!

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

— Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*