

5 WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR WATERFRONT INVESTMENT

1

Protect and restore natural buffer

If you have a natural shoreline buffer, you are lucky! Buffers provide several benefits: protect the lake from pollutants, provide privacy while maintaining a view of the water, deter nuisance geese, and provide habitat for other wildlife. If you do not have one, consider restoring it in areas not used for water access. As a reminder vegetation within 75 feet of shore cannot be removed by law.

Minimize erosion during construction

Construction is a vulnerable time for your property, and if not done right can put too many nutrients into your lake, leading to algae blooms and damage to your property. Contact Washburn County Zoning for the best and lawful way to prevent erosion: (715) 468-4690

2

3

Plant trees & shrubs or protect wooded areas

Trees provide cooling, shade and privacy from neighbors in addition to filtering out pollutants in runoff. If you don't have wooded areas, plant trees and shrubs to benefit your property and the lake. Less lawn means less mowing for you and less nutrients in the lake to cause algae blooms.

Direct downspouts to lawn or landscaping

Directing water from your gutter downspouts to your lawn or landscaping instead of hard surfaces allows the water to soak in rather than runoff your property into the lake. You can also direct the water to a rain garden for improved infiltration.

4

5

Build a rain garden

Rain gardens are attractive and functional. They are designed to allow water to soak in, removing pollutants while also providing habitats for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Rain gardens are often used to receive water coming off of hard surfaces to prevent the pollution from entering the lake. Healthy Lakes offers a free how-to guide at: healthylakeswi.com/resources/#downloads.

Want help getting started or more information?

Madeline Roberts
Natural Resources Extension Educator
304 2nd Street, P.O. Box 305
Shell Lake, WI 54871
715-635-4444/madeline.roberts@wisc.edu



Extension Washburn County
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.