



Turf Grass vs Native Plants



Dry river bed

Lake Friendly Protection Ideas

- **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.
 - * **Check out “Sebastian the Goose” on YouTube.**
 - * 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.
- **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.



Permeable driveway



Planting bed



Privacy, protection & “Up North” Aesthetics



Native flower



Rock filled trench at eave line

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