

lake property owners' Guide to a Healthy Lake



Eleven ways to keep your lake healthy:

Create a Buffer Strip at Water's Edge

Leaving a strip of natural vegetation at the water's edge pays huge benefits. This vegetation serves as an excellent natural filter for runoff from your property and serves as quality habitat for a variety of living creatures that are vital to a healthy natural environment.

Improve Privacy

Natural vegetation at water's edge increases privacy. Boaters, anglers, water-skiers, jet-skiers, and swimmers all love our lakes. Shoreland vegetation can help screen homes from public view and help reduce noise from boats and jet-skis on the water.

Avoid Shoreline Erosion

Removing shoreland vegetation can destabilize shoreline and lead to loss of land. Shorelines must stand up to wind-driven waves, boat wakes, fluctuating water levels, moving ice, flooding, and surface runoff erosion. A well-vegetated shoreline will help your keep land in place.



An Excuse to Stop Mowing

If you have lawn to the water's edge, a simple, no-cost way to start restoring your shoreland is to stop mowing next to the water. Seeds in the soil will germinate and valuable native plants will begin to appear.

Fallen Trees Create Baby Fish Nurseries

Trees that fall into the water create the perfect habitat for baby fish to feed and hide from predators, giving them the chance to grow up to be big fish. This twiggly underwater environment benefits many other species that are vital to the food chain both below and above the water. Shoreland property owners are strongly encouraged to leave fallen trees in the water.

Lawns and Lakes

There's a good chance that a portion of any chemicals you apply to your lawn will end up in the lake. This goes for fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides – all of which are damaging to a lake ecosystem. A vegetated buffer strip at the shoreline will go a long way in stopping these chemicals from reaching the lake. If chemicals are used, they should not be applied within 40 feet of the waterline.

Septic Systems and You

Be sure to inspect and maintain your septic system regularly. A malfunctioning septic system can put a large load of unwanted nutrients into a lake, resulting in an explosion of undesirable plant growth. For more information, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> and type *septic systems* in the search box in the middle of the screen.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species pose a major threat to both the biologic health of our lakes and the account balances of property owners. Once an aggressive invasive species get a foothold in a lake, it quickly begins to dominate the environment. Controlling the spread of these species is often a costly, reoccurring expense for lake associations.

This is why it is so important to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. The best way to do this is to remove all plants from trailers before leaving a boat landing, drain all water from water crafts before leaving a boat landing, and never using the same live bait in more than one lake. For more info on aquatic invasive species, visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and type *aquatic invasive species* in the search box.

Healthy Lakes = Higher Property Values

Properties on healthy lakes with good water quality command significantly higher property prices. Buyers prefer clean water and will pay more to live on lakes that are healthy. What you and your neighbors do to sustain or improve lake health will improve resale potential.

Boat Smart

Time on the water defines the Northwoods experience. Some prefer cruising in power boats, others sea kayaks, canoes and paddleboards. Whatever your craft of choice, it's important to know state watercraft laws and the codes of conduct prescribed to individual lakes. For more information on state laws, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> and type *boating regulations* in the search box in the middle of the screen. Codes of conduct information can be obtained from your local lake association.

Join Your Lake Association

All shoreland property owners are encouraged to join their local lake associations. Membership and involvement is a great way to promote lake health and meet your neighbors. To become a member, contact one of the Association representatives listed on the back of this brochure.

welcome to the serenity of lake living

Living on a lake is a dream for many. The peaceful scenic views. Boating with friends and family. Great fishing and wildlife viewing. All of these things and many others contribute to the high quality of life that comes with being a lakeshore property owner.

But all of these benefits depend on our lakes being healthy.

As a new lakeshore property owner, we would like to share with you things you can do on your property that contribute to a healthy lake environment.



Crescent Lake Association
PO Box 265
Rhinelander WI 54501

Join your lake association to find out what's happening in and around your lake.

To become a member, contact:

LAKE JULIA ASSOCIATION

Don Hoppe
(715) 362-5324
phoppe5324@charter.net

CRESCENT LAKE ASSOCIATION

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