

Improving Our Lake Community

We can all share in Preserving,
Restoring and Protecting our Lakes.
by Joe McGraw

Part 2

Planting & Landscaping

Go native. Native plants are adapted to our climate and thrive with little maintenance, fertilizer and water.

Plant a buffer between your lawn and our lake. It will help decrease run-off from your property, and geese will stay away to boot!

Landscape to slow rainwater run off between your house and the lake, making it easier for water to soak into the ground. Place small swales where water naturally drains off your property, create twists in your paths or driveways, or plant a rain garden – using water tolerant plants that absorb rainfall.

Reduce or eliminate pesticides or herbicides. Gardening chemicals end up in the lake in measurable amounts. Pesticides also kill good bugs; can poison birds and fish; and should be used sparingly around children and pets.

Use organic, slow-release fertilizers on your lawn – or none at all! Conventional fertilizers and weed-and-feed type products are released all at once and end up mostly in the lake. Use phosphorus-free or slow-release natural fertilizers on your lawn areas. Most lawns at Moosic Lakes will do very well by just using lime to balance the soil pH with minimal impact on our waters.

Shrink your lawn. Less lawn = less maintenance, mowing, watering, fertilizing, money and more rain soaking into the ground instead of running off into the lake. Geese love large lawns. Reduce your lawn, reduce your fowl visitors.

Replace concrete and asphalt with permeable alternatives. Rather than letting water flow off your driveway, walkways and outdoor living spaces, check out alternatives that let rain soak in like “grasscrete,” gravel, pavers, or other surfaces.

Leave large trees and shrubs on your property to create wildlife habitat and shade, especially over the water.



Keep our shoreline natural. Concrete or stone bulkheads and artificially sandy beaches can destroy critical habitat for fish, cause erosion and add toxins to the lake.

Learn to identify the noxious weeds on our lake. Check for noxious weeds or unusual algae or plants. Learn what you can do to control and eradicate them before they become a problem. And more importantly be sure to notify the club immediately.

Check boat trailers for noxious weeds. Boats can carry aquatic weed fragments from lake to lake, creating infestations. Wash boats and trailers thoroughly if used at different lakes.

Don't ever dump aquarium contents, fish or amphibious pets in the lake. These plants and animals can create serious negative impacts to lake ecology.

Wildlife & Habitat

Discourage geese - shrink your lawn. Goose droppings, in excess, can negatively affect water quality. Reduce the wide open spaces they love so much by replacing grass with taller plants.

Leave fallen trees in the lake and on the shoreline. If not a threat to safety, they provide food and shelter for native fish, amphibians and birds.

Don't feed the ducks. Bread isn't good for ducks. And when they gather in large flocks – to be near a consistent food source – they can transmit diseases. Also, excess goose poop can contribute to water quality problems.

Put up bat boxes. Bats eat pounds of insects every night – that's serious relief from mosquitoes!

Maintenance

Pick up trash around the lake. Join our community clean up day to remove litter and illegal dumps in our community that might impact lake water quality.

Clean up after your pets promptly. Pet waste can contribute significant fecal contamination to our lake, even if it's just from rain or sprinklers washing over it.

Clean up your yard. Old equipment, machinery or debris lying around can leach contaminants into the soil, impacting lake water quality.

Create wildlife "Green Space" corridors. Work with your neighbors and the club to organize and plan landscaping projects together to create “wildlife corridors” between properties, the lake and forested areas away from the water. This gives critters somewhere to go besides your yard or patio.

Monitor common areas. Report vandalism, destruction or maintenance needs to the Moosic Lakes Club.

Around the House

Use non-toxic dock preservative. Avoid harming water and the critters in it, while protecting your dock. Research and choose alternative, environmentally-friendly maintenance materials before treating lumber.

Wash your car at a car wash. Washing it in your driveway sends harmful car oil and residue right into our lake and yard.

Don't drive golf balls (or cars!) into the lake. Golf balls in a lake are trash and can harm fish and other critters.

Don't shoot fireworks into the lake. They contain chemicals.

Go for a quiet, moonlight paddle in a canoe. You'll see a whole new side of our lakes.

Communicate with your elected Officers and Directors. Let them know what you love about our lakes, what issues residents face and be sure to vote!