

Why should I care?

The shoreline of a lake or stream and the immediate adjacent area is called a **riparian buffer**.



Healthy riparian buffers serve **many purposes** including:

- protecting water quality
- reducing erosion
- enhancing wildlife habitat
- providing beautiful scenery
- minimizing pollution and other impacts from human activities

Follow the ten tips in the next graphic to create a healthy riparian buffer on your property!

Learn more!

Look for the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission on the Lake County government website. Explore our **resources on stormwater best practices!**

Search online for resources from the following organizations:

- Lake County Health Department & Community Health Center
- McHenry-Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Morton Arboretum
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Illinois Extension



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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Living on the Water's Edge



Do you own property next to a lake or stream? If so, you are a **riparian landowner** and serve as the last defense to **protect our lakes and streams.**

Look inside to see how you can make a difference!



- ① Direct your downspouts into rain gardens and rain barrels. Use rain barrels to water gardens!
- ② Wash your car at a commercial facility.
- ③ Pump septic tanks every 2-3 years. Inspect aerobic treatment units at least 2x per year.
- ④ Stormwater is the **ONLY** thing that belongs in storm drains. Don't dump waste!

- ⑤ Use native plants in your landscaping.
- ⑥ Collect and properly dispose of yard waste. Grass clippings, sticks, and leaf debris should be kept out of gutters, streets, ditches, and streambanks.
- ⑦ Scoop the Poop! Pick up, bag, and dispose of pet waste in garbage cans.
- ⑧ Stabilize storm sewer outlets and other sources of concentrated flows.

- ⑨ Plant and maintain a buffer of native plants between your home and the body of water.
- ⑩ Mow high and fertilize your lawn wisely!
 - Test your soil to assess the amount and type of fertilizer it needs (if any).
 - If needed, apply fertilizer once a year.
 - Use phosphorus-free fertilizer. The "P" value for the N-P-K nutrient amounts should be zero.