



### **Eliminate or reduce fertilizer use on lakeshore lawns**

Lawn fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus can enter lakes and contribute to nuisance algae and aquatic plant growth. Consider eliminating fertilizers all together and if you need to fertilize, make sure to only use what you need and follow best practices when applying.

### **Protect native aquatic plants**

Native aquatic plants like waterlilies, pondweeds, and water celery provide critical habitats for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants also help improve water quality and clarity. Minimize disturbance to native aquatic plants by not removing them or only remove what is needed for your recreational area.

### **Protect your shoreline with a shoreline garden**

Erosion often occurs when natural shoreline vegetation like shrubs and rushes are removed and replaced with lawn grass. Consider keeping your shoreline natural by preserving existing shoreline plants. If you have a lawn to the water's edge, plant a wildflower garden full of flowers and native grasses (and maybe a flowering shrub) to reduce erosion and add beauty to your lake landscape.

### **Do you have a seawall? Add best practices to help improve habitat**

Seawalls often eliminate shoreline habitat and can cause erosion on your neighbor's property. If you already have a seawall, you can add back habitat and reduce erosive waves by (1) adding a shoreline garden above your seawall, (2) adding turtle logs and fish structures directly in front of your seawall, and (3) making sure you have a small ramp of stone in front of your seawall.

### **Observe and encourage no wake rules**

Boat waves can cause widespread shoreline erosion, sediment resuspension, and aquatic plant disturbance. Maintain slow no wake speeds near the shoreline or in shallow areas of lakes to reduce negative impacts.