

# 10 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE

## **DO's & DON'Ts for taking care of the biggest threat to our lakes – Nutrient Pollution.**



1. Don't use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus. If you use a professional lawn care service, insist upon a fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus.
2. Use the minimum amount of fertilizer recommended on the label — more is not necessarily better!
3. Water the lawn sparingly to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake.
4. Don't feed ducks and geese near the lake. Waterfowl droppings are high in nutrients and may cause swimmer's itch.
5. Don't burn leaves and grass clippings near the shoreline. Nutrients concentrate in the ash and can easily wash into the lake.
6. Establish a green belt or vegetive buffer along your riprap. A greenbelt will trap pollutants and slow down runoff. A greenbelt minimizes lawn area. Less turf means less fertilizer, less pesticides – and less mowing. Its healthier for the lake and easier for you.
7. Where possible, promote infiltration of stormwater into the ground. Slowdown runoff from driveways and downspouts that flow into the lake.
8. Don't dump anything in area wetlands. Wetlands are natural purifiers.
9. If you have a septic system, have your septic tank pumped every 2 to 3 years.
10. Don't be complacent – your collective actions will make or break the lake.



**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens  
can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

*Margaret Mead*

More information on our website: [lakepoissett.org](http://lakepoissett.org)