Forest Lake Management Practices

The following lake management practices may help reduce nutrient loadings to Forest Lake. These practices do not address other resource-related issues that are not impacted by nutrient levels.

Vegetation Management

- Maintain lawn areas without use of fertilizers. Pledge with our other members who already have committed to no chemicals on our lawns.
- If you feel the need to fertilize, please:
  - Do not fertilize within 25 feet of the shoreline.
  - Choose zero phosphorus fertilizer
  - Have your soil tested, so you do not overfertilize.
- Keep grass clippings on the lawn and don't blow clippings into the lake.
- Maintain a good vegetation (preferably native plant species) on steep slopes, walkways and other disturbed areas.
- Rake up and dispose of leaves (those dropping in fall as well as early spring) to prevent leaves from washing into the lake.
- Clean up pet waste, especially waste deposited withing 25 feet of the shoreline.

Shoreline Management

- Maintain a buffer of native vegetation to filter pollutants from storm water runoff. Buffers ideally should start at the water's edge, be at least 10 feet wide – parallel or perpendicular to the shore, and contiguous rather than planted in patches.
- Control erosion and scouring of the shoreline (rocks and native species plantings).
- Do not burn leaves, grass clippings, or wood near the shoreline. Prevent ashes from washing into the lake.

Household Management

- Divert runoff from rooftops and paved areas away from the lake if possible, towards flat vegetated areas, rain gardens and/or rain barrels
- Wash vehicles in areas that drain onto grass areas away from the shoreline.
- Use non-toxic household cleaning products.

Household Management

- Regularly have your septic system inspected. All conventional septic systems are required to be pumped out every three years. Divert surface water away from the drain field.
- Use phosphorus-free detergents and soaps.
- Do not discard grease, paint, pesticides, or any other toxic substances into your septic system.
- Practice water conservancy and install water saving appliances.

KEYS TO FOREST LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

- MAINTAIN SEPTIC SYSTEM
- USE ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE LAWN PRACTICES OR CONSIDER REDUCING THE SIZE OF YOUR LAWN BY ADDING A BED OF NATIVE PLANTS & SEDGES
- ABSORB AND PREVENT RUNOFF
- PRACTICE GOOD SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

Additional resources: https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/
Protecting Your Waterfront Investment, UW-Extension, 2012
15 minute video: https//www,youtube.com/watch?v=mfrSvWSKcIE
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