Healthy Lawn, Healthy Lake



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WE ALL HAVE AN IMPACT



WHAT IS A **WATERSHED**?

Land that drains to lowest point in the landscape where water collects

Everyone lives in a watershed – water is going someplace all the time

Includes Groundwater



"Only rain down the drain"

The land use in a watershed determines water quality in streams, wetlands, lakes, groundwater, etc.



STORMWATER



The runoff that occurs over land, roads, parking lots, and other surfaces during and after rain Can pick up dirt and pollutants Harmful to the water quality





Our world is constantly changing... which effects our home and our water











Green Infrastructure

inimi



Sediment Traps

Sandy Bottom Shoreline Stabilization Project

ald Blue Mountain Pinks

Phlox subulata

Honeoye Inlet Restoration Project

HONEOYELAKEWATERSHED.ORG/PROJECTS







Water doesn't just stop at the end of your lawn or lot...





... so let's talk about what you can do to protect our water before it leaves your land

Practice Healthy Lawn Care PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF HONEOYE LAKE AND YOUR PROPERTY VALUES

- A healthy lawn can filter, purify and reduce stormwater runoff
- Misuse/overuse of fertilizers/pesticides can harm Honeoye Lake as chemicals are carried into surface water & groundwater
- Results in unhealthy conditions for your family/pets and more weeds in the lake
- Manage your lawn without endangering water quality or creating health threats
 It is possible and cost effective



TEST BEFORE YOU TREAT

A soil test can determine whether fertilizer is needed

- Cornell University surveys indicate that only 1 in 10 lawns actually needs fertilizing
- If fertilizer is necessary, apply in late May to early June or late Aug. to early Sept.
- Use only fertilizers with slow-release nitrogen and zero phosphate if possible
- Follow all label directions and safety precautions
- **1** *Ib. of phosphorus in the lake spurs the growth of 500 lbs. of aquatic plants*
- Look for this label:



Nitrogen- Phosphorus-Potassium



Check The Weather & Local Laws



Don't apply fertilizer or other chemicals if rain is imminent

- it will wash off in surface runoff
- Don't let fertilizer or chemicals fall on sidewalks or driveways where it will wash into our waterways

The Town of Richmond has a local law prohibiting the application of pesticides and fertilizer within 50 feet of the lake or a lake tributary

- § 128-5 Regulation of use and application of lawn fertilizer.
- A. No person shall, whether knowingly or negligently by virtue of insufficient control, apply or authorize any person by way of service contract or other arrangement to apply any commercial fertilizer, lawn fertilizer, and pesticides on vegetation within 50 feet of Honeoye Lake within the Town of Richmond. The use of commercial fertilizer, lawn fertilizer, and pesticides within 50 feet of any tributary into Honeoye Lake is also prohibited.



ID THE PEST



- Inspect regularly for pests to find problems early
- Decide which species you can live with, and which you need to control
- Try the many non-chemical alternatives to pesticides 1st
 - manual removal
 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- For more information, call Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Follow the directions printed on the label
 - How to apply properly and protect yourself, family, neighbors, pets, water, and stormwater drains; how to store and dispose of...
- Remember, not all bugs are bad

Improper use of pesticides can result in contamination of lakes and streams and cause environmental damage

MANAGE THATCH

- Thatch: a layer of decomposing plant tissue made up mostly of stems and roots, not grass clippings
- A thin layer of thatch (up to ½ in.) above the soil is beneficial
- A thick layer leads to increased disease and insect problems, drought stress, and winter injury
- Thick thatch usually occurs on lawns that have been heavily fertilized and watered for constant lush growth







MANAGE THATCH

Compacted, poorly drained and acidic soil contributes to thatch problems The use of pesticides can reduce or eliminate microorganisms that break down thatch Core aeration allows more oxygen, water and nutrients to reach root systems, promoting healthy grass growth



MANAGE THATCH



https://www.thelawninstitute.org/pages/education/for-homeowners/advanced-lawn-care/aeration/

Promote Dense, Healthy Growth

- Plant disease-resistant seed
- Cut grass no less than 3 inches in height
- Keep mower blades sharp
 - shredding grass blade tips invites disease



- Leave clippings on the lawn for natural fertilizer
- Mow over your leaves in the fall a few times in order to break them up
 - This will add nutrients to your yard naturally
- Water early in the morning, not in the evening

Consider Planting Ground Covers Other Than Grass

For example, White Dutch **Clover was traditionally included** in seed mixtures to "feed" the grass, as it fixes atmospheric nitrogen into the soil. Dutch clover grows only about 4" high, reducing the need to mow. Clover is durable, soft to walk on, and doesn't "dog spot." The deep roots of clover hold soil in place better than turf grass.



EMPTYING POOLS/SPAS

- Safely drain pools and spas by eliminating chlorine before emptying the water into a sanitary sewer
- This can be done chemically or by allowing the chlorine to evaporate over time



Rain Gardens

- Helps increase infiltration of runoff water from your roof and driveway
- Direct down spouts to a rain garden where vegetation will filter nutrients from the water



Rain Gardens

- Rain gardens are beautiful and can create an inviting habitat for birds and pollinator species
- The native plants used in rain gardens are perennials that require less frequent care after establishment
- No pesticides or fertilizers are required





PET WASTE

Clean Up After Pets Animal feces contain nutrients, bacteria, and parasites that can

contaminate the

lake



PET WASTE

Discard pet waste in your garbage collection in biodegradable bags

Dog waste composters, etc.









Maintain Wastewater Systems

- Although the shoreline of Honeoye Lake is serviced by sewers, residences farther away influence nutrient flow to the lake
- Septic tanks should be pumped every 3-5 years to remove sludge that will not decompose



Maintain Wastewater Systems

NYS Department of Health estimates a life span of 25 to 30 years for a properly maintained and serviced onsite wastewater system

Don't buy septic tank additives

- They have never been proven to reduce or eliminate the need for pumping
- Are your cleaning products safe?
- Paint, harsh chemicals, highly concentrated chemicals



Septic System Inspections (At Deed Transfers)

- South Bristol- OCSWCD
- Richmond- any OTN and CC OCSWCD
- Bristol- OCSWCD or Code Officer Approves

Naples and Canadice- N/A





Rain Barrels

- Collect and store rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains or streams
- This will minimize runoff pollutants into our waterways and conserve treated drinking water

Can be used for:

- watering gardens and lawns
- cleaning sidewalks
- cleaning outdoor furniture
- ...and the list goes on!









RAINFALL



To calculate the runoff from any given rainfall:

- Take the dimensions of the footprint of your roof and convert them to inches. (So, a 50' x 20' roof is 600" x 240".)
- Multiply the roof dimensions by the number of inches of rainfall. Divide by 231 to get the number of gallons (b/c 1 gallon = 231 cubic inches)

A roof that is 50 ft. x 20 ft.(1,000 sq. ft.) 1" Rain Event ~620 gallons are generated



- http://www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/description/roof.htm
- https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/calculate-rainwaterharvesting-potential-area-needed-to-absorb-it



HOW YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY

- Buying local: less waste, less packaging, less transportation
- Is the product recyclable? Or better yet...reusable
- Bulk vs portion size
 - Use less plastic
- Repurpose vs buying new
- Second hand? Garage sale?
- Diverting from landfills- composting, donating unwanted items













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