

LAKE FRIENDLY ADVICE FROM ABSOLUTE AWC

- **Lawn Care:** Use a product that contains no phosphorus and has slow-release nitrogen. Your lawn rarely requires additional phosphorous. Algae thrive on phosphorous as a nutrient. One pound of phosphorous may produce over 10,000 lbs of weeds and algae.
- Be aware of runoff areas adjacent to lakes. Avoid fertilizer application prior to rain.
- Apply fertilizer when grass is actively growing to assure nutrient uptake.
- Curb the use of fertilizer in the fall after grass stops actively growing.
- Provide a 10-foot strip of lawn unfertilized along lakefront, more if there is a steep slope.
- Aerate your lawn periodically adding seed. Mulch exposed soil to prevent erosion.
- Avoid planting vegetation that shed their leaves into the water.
- Avoid discharge of grass clippings into lake. Remove fallen leaves and branches from shore to prevent decay and nutrient loading.
- Storm drains are a conduit into the lake and often the source of local fish kills. Avoid pouring foreign materials down storm drains in the street or along curbs. Direct downspouts away from lake.
- Do not release aquarium fish, plants or snails into lake. Plants may survive and become nuisance weeds. Fish may carry disease to which our native fish have no resistance.
- Avoid feeding geese and ducks. Geese relieve three times their body weight a month. A 5-year study revealed that an adult goose contributes 86lbs of phosphorus into the watershed per year. This is equivalent to 43 – 5,000 sq/ft lawns. A dog contributed as much as 57 – 5,000 sq/ft lawns.
- Practice, catch and release. Wet hands when handling fish. Use bronze hooks when possible. Discard cut fishing line into pocket or waste can to prevent entanglement or ingestion hazard.
- Use 1/8” to 1/4” fish food pellets (available at a local Co-Op) when feeding fish. Bread offers little nutritional value to fish and un-hydrated bread when eaten swells in the fish stomach and intestines. This can result in reduced foraging, mal-nutrition, disease and in some cases death.