



OCTOBER 2021

*Friends of Lake Eau Claire  
Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc.*

P.O. Box 229

Augusta, WI 54722

[www.lakeeauclaire.org](http://www.lakeeauclaire.org)

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lori Bechtel

It's Fall in Wisconsin, the leaves are turning many beautiful colors and the temperatures have started cooling down this past week. Yards are filling up with fallen leaves and most people have removed their docks, lifts, boats, and pontoons. I am always sad the day we take our boats out of the water and I begin counting down the days until we can put them back in.

This past week I wrapped up the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute program through the Extension Lakes Program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the citizen advocacy organization Wisconsin Lakes. The program consisted of many online meetings and three 2-day in-person seminars over the past 12 months. The experience was excellent and I was able to meet over 20 other individuals from around the state and learn a bit about their lakes and organizations and the challenges they deal with on an ongoing basis.

We were able to learn about personalities (both our own and others) and how to work together to get things done. We heard about fundraising techniques and getting people inspired and involved. We learned about aquatic ecology and the science of lakes and watershed areas, state and local government processes and relationships, how to work together to resolve lake issues, and many other valuable topics.

It really was an excellent experience for me and I'm thankful that I was able to participate. I am inspired to keep doing good for not only Lake Eau Claire but other waters in our beautiful state so that future generations are able to have a clean, quality water system.

While attending the first seminar earlier this year, a quote was shared with our group that really stuck with me and I just love it! I hope it hits home with you as well.

*"We didn't inherit this lake from our grandparents, we are borrowing it from our grandchildren"* - Mike Lehner, Green Lake, WI



## *Save the Date!*

*Our Annual Holiday Party is coming back  
and planned for Saturday, January 8, 2022 at  
the Augusta Lion's Hall.  
Stay Tuned for more details soon!*

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## 2021 ANNUAL PICNIC - recap

Thank you to everyone that attended the annual picnic and meeting! We had a great turnout with one of our largest groups yet.

We collected donations for a variety of causes:

1. We collected over \$450 for the Augusta School District school supply fund.
2. We collected over \$1,600 towards fireworks at the picnic.
3. We collected \$1200 towards lake rehab and fisheries.
4. Our 50/50 winner donated their winnings of almost \$300 back to the organization!



We are so thankful to everyone that attended and donated!



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# Nature Notes

## The Great Egret

*By Mike Harden*

While pontooning with friends on August 12th, we were treated to a spectacular sight. In the reed beds up where the river comes in, we spotted a large, pure white heron-like bird; a great egret (*Ardea alba*). They are also sometimes called the common egret. Unless my memory fails me (and it often does these days), it is the first of its kind I have ever seen on our fair body of water. Our travels that day brought three more sightings of different individuals of the species.



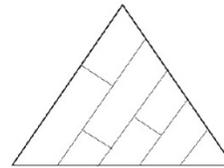
This bird is more common in the southern states, but can be seen near the Mississippi River as far north as Burnett County. Their numbers in the south are actually declining in some areas because of habitat destruction, but their range in the north is actually expanding as climate change progresses.

These spectacular birds are smaller than the familiar great blue heron, standing a little over 3 ft. in height, with a wing span of 4-5 ft. They only weigh about 2-3 lbs. They are pure white with a yellow beak and black legs and feet. The beak may turn darker during the breeding season. The sexes look alike.

These birds hunt in a manner similar to the great blue heron, wading or standing still, spearing or grasping prey with their sharp beak with a lightning quick thrust. Their food supply consists of fish, frogs, small mammals, reptiles and insects. They are mostly silent, except for a croak when startled, or when nesting. Colonial nesters, they build nests in trees. The nests are made of sticks, and may contain up to 6 pale bluish green eggs per clutch. Parents share the incubation duties, and the young hatch in 3-4 wks., and fledge at 6-7 weeks.

These birds were somewhat responsible for the formation of the National Audubon Society, and serve as the symbol of that organization to this day. In the 1800s to early 1900s, these birds, along with the snowy egret and others, were hunted to the verge of extinction because of a demand for their plume-like feathers for ladies' hats. The Audubon Society was formed to promote conservation of these and other birds and wildlife, and as a result of their efforts this species has made a substantial comeback.

To those of us who enjoy the diverse wildlife of our lake, these birds are a spectacular and welcome addition to our local avian fauna. The next time you visit the upper end of the lake, keep your eyes peeled for a glimpse of these magnificent birds. Like other species one encounters in our aquatic ventures, they add a lot to then enjoyment of our lake ecosystem. Don't forget your bird guide and binoculars.



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## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

We are now accepting donations for the 2022 fireworks show. Remember, the fireworks show is 100% funded by donations our members make.

**Please consider making a donation to the Lake Eau Claire Association Fireworks Fund & then join us for a great show. Also encourage Friends and Family who attend our annual fireworks show to consider a donation as well!**



Donate today at: [www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/fireworks2022](http://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/fireworks2022)

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# Lake District Update-Show Me the Money

Mike Lea – District Chairman

We have several future projects planned on the lake and it will come as no surprise that money is needed to complete them. The regular cleaning of our sediment traps uses up more than our entire tax levy, so if we want to do any other projects, additional funding needs to be found. The three main sources of this extra funding are grants, cost sharing, and fund raising.

## Grants:

The majority of the grants we receive on our lake are state funded grants from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We currently have one of these grants to help complete the bank stabilization project in Lost Lake. Permits have been successfully acquired for this project and it is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

If matching funds can be found, the next big grant we will be applying for is a Recreational Boating Grant from the DNR. This grant would be used to fund the dredging of the Skid Row boat landing and the channel upstream beyond the eagle's nest. Part of this project would also be to install a sediment trap at the upstream end of this channel to capture any additional sand before it reaches the lake.

We are also planning to apply jointly with Lake Altoona and Eau Claire County for a DNR Surface Water grant. This grant would be used to fund mapping and sampling projects on the entire Eau Claire River as well as the lakes to get some hard data on the effectiveness of our dredging operations and whether changes need to be made in our sediment control approach.

We are always searching for new grants, so if you are aware of an appropriate grant or a foundation in search of a project, feel free to contact me and I will follow up on it.

## Cost Sharing:

On Lake Eau Claire, the majority of cost sharing comes from Eau Claire County. Every year the district applies for cost sharing funds from the county's lake rehabilitation account. We never know how much, if any, money we will be getting until the county finalizes its budget in November. There are listening sessions in August and county board meetings in September where the public is invited to give input on what budget items should be given priority. Look for email notices on when these meetings are held and let the county board know the importance of their continued support of our lakes.

## Fund Raising:

None of the projects on the lake could be completed without some additional fundraising and this is done by our lake association, The Friends of Lake Eau Claire. Projects funded by the Friends of Lake Eau Claire in just the last three years include: Installing the Hay Creek and Muskrat Creek traps, additional dredging near the mouth of Muskrat Creek, annual dredging of Bedpost and Beach Creeks, Lost Lake bank stabilization, tree drops and fish cribs, life jacket stations at the boat landings and more.

The Friends have done an amazing job raising money, even with the COVID challenges of the last year and a half and they can always use more help. Consider volunteering at one of their many fundraisers and support these events when possible. Every dollar raised goes directly toward improving the lake for everyone.





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## NEW WALLEYE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WISCONSIN

by Fred Poss

This August the Wisconsin DNR walleye staff released its latest update on walleye fishing in our state. "Report 159" by Robert Holsum and Allison Scott summarizes a year of data collection efforts to assess angler views on our favorite fish. Information was gathered through meetings, online surveys and paper surveys. Over 5,000 folks responded to the opportunity to provide input, and the preliminary report is over 100 pages long.

The results aren't too surprising. Walleye remain the number one target of game fishermen and women in our state. A similar result was obtained in 1996, the last time such data was recorded. Most casual fishermen go out about 3 days a year. Serious walleye anglers fish at least 10 days a year. Anglers felt the most serious problem they experience is crowding on popular waters. A size limit of 14 to 18 inches remains the most acceptable one for fishermen. Stocking walleye is still a popular idea, however, research only supports this for lakes where natural reproduction is not effective. The best way to increase walleye populations is to improve natural habitat (as we have done here in Lake Eau Claire with our aeration system, fish cribs and tree falls.)

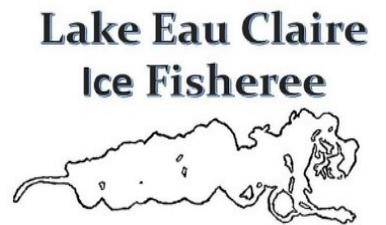
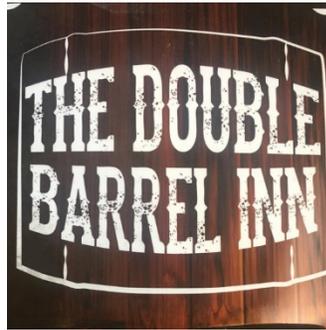
To read more about this latest report, please follow the link below. The WDNR will be conducting a second survey effort later this winter.

<https://widnr.widen.net/s/lhgfhk7nnp/fishmangementreport159>

## LIFE JACKET STATIONS installed!

Through some generous donations, the Lake Eau Claire Association installed two life jacket stations in September. One was installed at the north shore boat landing and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one at the public beach. The goal is to build two more stations that will be placed at the south shore boat landing and the Skid Row landing. The stations provide the public with free use and return life jackets, on a first-come-first-serve basis. U.S. Coast Guard accident data shows that most drownings could have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn by the victim. Since the mid-1980s life jacket loaner stations have been gaining popularity. We plan on having ours/yours in place for you to utilize by Labor Day weekend.

When you come out for a day of fun in the sun and you forget a life jacket, we have you covered. Just remember to return it when you are done using it, ensuring everyone gets a chance to have a safe day on the water. These stations are equipped with infant through adult sizes. The goal of the life jacket station is to prevent drownings and increase life jacket wear while on the water. We want everyone to have a safe and fun time on Lake Eau Claire.



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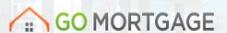
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*Did you know that your property can affect the water quality on Lake Eau Claire?*

*Be sure to read the last 4 pages of this newsletter. It includes excellent information from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on how to control water runoff which greatly affects our lake.*

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## Have you heard of a Land Trust?

**What is a land trust?** A land trust (or “conservancy”) is a non-profit organization that permanently conserves land through conservation easements with private landowners, and also owns and manages their own conservation lands for the benefit of the public. Land trusts typically work in partnership with private landowners, government agencies, and other conservation organizations. Oversight of the land trust is through a volunteer board of directors and an optional land trust accreditation program. There are approximately 50 land trusts in Wisconsin and 1,700 nationwide.

**What tools do land trusts use to protect land?** Land trusts offer a number of voluntary conservation options with flexibility to meet landowners’ needs while providing lasting benefits.

- **Land Protection Agreements:** Perpetual land protection agreements, called “conservation easements,” are formed between a landowner and the land trust to permanently protect a property’s natural values and resources. The donation value of the conservation easement is considered a charitable contribution. The protected land remains private property, is taxed accordingly, and is managed by the landowner. It can only be improved or developed to the extent specified in the agreement. The property can be sold or passed down to heirs, with the easement attached to the deed. The land trust monitors the property annually to ensure the terms of the agreement are upheld.
- **Land Donations:** Donating sizable property for conservation leaves a legacy that lasts long after we’re gone. Some prefer to donate land in their wills, while others gift their property up front to take full advantage of income and estate tax deductions. The land is then owned and managed by the land trust, and in most cases, is open to the public for recreation and enjoyment.
- **Trade Land for Resale:** Donation of properties that are not eligible for permanent conservation can serve as ‘trade lands.’ The land is donated to the land trust for the purpose of resale, with the proceeds support conservation projects and programs.
- **Other Strategies:** Bargain sales of land (selling land at a reduced rate for conservation purposes), limited development strategies, or entering into the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law, are options to consider as well.

### How do land trusts get funding?

- **Donations & Memberships:** Annual contributions (sometimes in the form of ‘memberships’) and general donations are tax-deductible and help land trusts fund their annual budgets so they can work with landowners and steward conserved land year-round. Gifts of stocks, bonds, and IRA distributions are also great ways to make gifts.
- **Government & Private Foundation Grants:** State and federal government grant programs can help fund land protection projects, and private foundations focused on environmental causes offer grants for projects and programs to land trusts.
- **Legacy Planning:** Long-term planned gifts can include bequests by will, naming the land trust as a life insurance beneficiary, and the transfer of real estate and other tangible assets. Planned gifts are a primary way for the land trust to build its general endowment to provide long-term financial stability.

**What land trust works in our area?** Your regional land trust is the **Landmark Conservancy**, based in Menomonie, WI. Landmark Conservancy’s Mission is to conserve Wisconsin’s natural legacy for everyone.... *forever*.

Visit [www.landmarkwi.org](http://www.landmarkwi.org) to offer your support and learn more about how you can help “keep conserving Wisconsin’s natural legacy for everyone...forever.”



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## Two Lake Eau Claire residents recognized as Lake Leaders

Mike Lea, Lake Eau Claire District Chairperson and Lori Bechtel, Lake Eau Claire Association President, were recognized by DNR Assistant Secretary Todd Ambs, UW-Madison Division of Extension Dean Karl Martin, and Wisconsin Lakes Board Vice President Derek Kavanaugh for completing their training through the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> class of graduates to learn about Wisconsin's unique lake resources through a program organized by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership.

Through a series of in-person seminars and online meetings, both Mike and Lori gained a better understanding of lake ecology and how to work with state and local governments to assure lakes get the attention they need. The program combines readings,



discussions, activities, and field experiences to highlight lake management, local and state government, and leadership skills.

“The individuals that participate in this program are true leaders who have stepped forward to protect our lakes for future generations”, explained Sara Windjue, Leadership and Capacity Development Specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s Extension Lakes Program. “They are committed to developing partnerships and facilitating the learning of others in order to build capacity which will ensure the protection and restoration of thousands of lakes across Wisconsin”.



The Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute draws participants from across the state to take part in a series of three two-day seminars. Participants demonstrate their commitment to protecting the integrity of the lakes in Wisconsin with an investment of their time and a modest registration cost to cover meals and lodging.

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is made up of the Extension Lakes Program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the citizen advocacy organization Wisconsin Lakes. Together they recognized the need for new and on-going leadership in the management of our lakes and created the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute in 1996. The mission of the Institute is to assist citizen lake leaders to develop both their technical and people skills, ultimately enriching their communities and the waters within them.

The 2021 graduation ceremony took place October 8 at the Aldo Leopold Shack near Baraboo, a fitting setting for celebrating the lake leaders’ accomplishments and looking ahead to their conservation journeys in the world of lakes.

Since its inception, over 300 participants have graduated from the Institute and have made significant contributions in addressing a host of diverse water management challenges. The program has received national attention as an effective strategy to enhance lake stewardship and protection. Recruitment for the 14<sup>th</sup> “crew” of Lake Leader Institute participants begins this winter.

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## 1,300 Fish At Lake In Conservation League Contest

A crowd estimated at over 1,300 attended the annual ice fishing contest on Lake Eau Claire and a good time was had by all in sunny and pleasant weather.

Final figures on the financial results of the contest were not available but it was believed that the league had netted about \$700 for use on its game propagation and public hunting grounds projects.

Fishing was slow but enough were caught to award all the prizes plus dozens of other prizes that were awarded on an around the minute hand basis.

Prize for the largest game fish went to Rus White of Eau Claire for his 10 ounce crappie. David Bisholf of Chippewa Falls won a Polaroid camera with his seven ounce crappie and spinning outfits were awarded to second place winners John Fennie and Kenneth Boettcher.

(Note:- the spelling of these names is largely a matter of guessing at the name written on the tickets.)

Henry Spaeth won the 200 lb. hog with his catch of a 14 ounce RedHorse to win the newly inaugurated rough fish prize.

Ronald Decker won the smallest fish prize with his less than one ounce walleyed pike.

Oldest lady at the contest was Mrs. Alvina Heuer, 87. Oldest man at the contest was R. W. Bowen, 85.

Youngest boy was Kim Harden, 2 years old and the youngest girl was Susan Schalinske also two years old.

Almost ideal weather conditions greeted the sponsors on the Sunday morning and the crowd arrived at the lake area early, ready and waiting for the contest to begin.

### ★ Al Knuth Injured

A sobering note to this otherwise festive occasion was the fact that Al. Knuth, veteran league member and booster was lying in an Eau Claire hospital in great pain from a near fatal accident at the contest site.

Al. was injured when his left jacket sleeve caught in the power take off of the tractor powered hole driller on the Friday before the contest. His arm was broken in two places, badly mangled and the skin torn off.

At last report he was making fine progress and while his injury was painful it is believed he

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## Are you up for a Challenge?!?!



As a non-profit organization, we are membership driven and rely on those who love Lake Eau Claire to make our lake better! We know there are many who use Lake Eau Claire for various reasons and we believe they would benefit from becoming members! So, our challenge to you... recruit at least **one** new member to join the Friends of Lake Eau Claire.

Think of family, friends, fishing buddy, hunting partner or a anyone who's interested in helping join our efforts to continually improve Lake Eau Claire! Everyone is welcome, you don't need to own a property on the lake to be a member!! Join today:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireassociation>



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### Lake Eau Claire Association Officers

**President** – Lori Bechtel, E19885 County Road ND, Augusta, WI 54722 612.991.8331 [lbechtel@comcast.net](mailto:lbechtel@comcast.net)

**Vice-President** – Duane Ives, E20250 Greens Landing Road, Augusta, WI 54722 608.444.0380 [dewey.ives@gmail.com](mailto:dewey.ives@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Joe Vydrazil, [vydrazilj@gmail.com](mailto:vydrazilj@gmail.com)

**Secretary** – Nate Smith, 715.579.0961 [helpermonkey.smith@gmail.com](mailto:helpermonkey.smith@gmail.com)

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### Lake District Officers

**Chairperson**- Mike Lea 715-286-5423 or 715-225- 8768 [armlea@centurytel.net](mailto:armlea@centurytel.net)

**Secretary**- Joe Bechtel 612-812-0451 [jbechtel8043@gmail.com](mailto:jbechtel8043@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - Dean Boehne 715-695-3131 [dcbost@tcc.coop](mailto:dcbost@tcc.coop)

**Vice Chair & Commissioner** – Gary Gibson 715-210-0401 [gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:gary.gibson@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

**Commissioner** – Bruce Logterman

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**Membership for the Friends of Lake Eau Claire is only \$25 per year.** As you can imagine, the Lake Association has many expenses during the year. Your membership fee helps pay for things like equipment repairs, website hosting and maintenance, postage and other mailing expenses, newsletter printing, and a host of other things. The dues received are put to good use and spent very wisely. In addition to all that the Lake Association provides today; Friends of Lake Eau Claire

members will now have the opportunity to be enrolled in a texting service that we can utilize during emergency situations. Given the flooding that occurs often, we believe we need multiple options for notifying people of emergency situations and important announcements. This service will **ONLY** be available to members who are up-to-date on their membership dues. You can renew your membership or join today by going to the following link, <https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireassociation>, click the “Join our group” button and fill out the form to “Create an account”. You can also join by mailing your payment to: Lake Eau Claire Association, PO Box 229, Augusta, WI 54722.

#### Lake Eau Claire Membership Dues Renewal/Application

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Fireworks	\$		
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Other Donation	\$		
Total	\$		

*Note: Donations to the LECA are tax deductible.*

#### Payment options:

##### Member Planet Online Payment Options:

Memberships: You can renew your membership or join today by going to the following link,

<https://www.memberplanet.com/lakeeauclaireassociation>, click the “Join our group” button and fill out the form to “Create an account”.

Donations: <https://www.memberplanet.com/campaign/lakeeauclaireassociation/donations>

Mail completed form with check made out to Lake Eau Claire Association to the following address:

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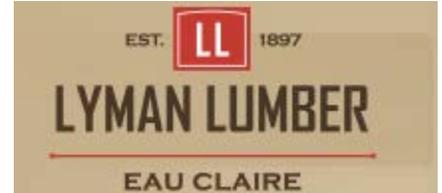
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*Did you know that the water runoff from your property affects the water quality on our lake?*

## **Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff**

Runoff from waterfront property impacts water quality and may cause unsightly erosion problems for you.

Use this checklist to assess the need for water quality improvements on your property.

- **Analyze water flow patterns and sources of runoff on your parcel**
- **Consider potential solutions to runoff problems**
- **Find out where to go for additional assistance**

Harmony Environmental  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Graphic design: KJE Design LLC  
Narrative: Harmony Environmental  
Published 2015

DNR PUB WY-004

## Are all areas of your parcel well covered with vegetation?

- Yes** Good, a cover of vegetation prevents erosion to the water. Native plants with deep root systems are especially good for preventing erosion.
- No** Areas of bare soil may lead to significant erosion and deposition of sediment and nutrients in the water. Let's see if there's a way to address the problem.

### Consider the possible cause of areas of bare soil...

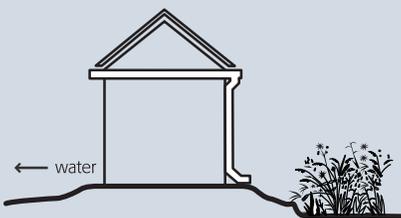
- Foot traffic?**  
Consider re-routing your pathway. Curved pathways can help to slow and divert water flow and reduce erosion. Add stepping stones to prevent erosion of soil. County permits may be required for stairs and pathways. Do not pave or cement the area — increased impervious surfaces result in more runoff and can increase erosion.
- Shade?**  
Plant native shade-tolerant vegetation such as big leaf aster or Pennsylvania sedge in sandy, dry soils or ferns in moist soils. This vegetation may not tolerate much foot traffic. You might also seed each year with fast-growing annual rye grass (available at hardware and garden stores).
- Construction project?**  
It is especially important to protect your property from erosion when areas are cleared for construction. Install silt fences down-slope of bare soil, and revegetate bare soil as quickly as possible. See page 4 for resources for additional construction site practices to prevent erosion.
- Water flow?**  
If water is washing away soil and vegetation, look uphill to the source. Identify the area that drains to your problem spot, and divert the flow of water to an infiltration practice as close to the source as possible. See examples below.

**TIP:** Try to divert water as close to the source as possible. It is easier to deal with smaller quantities of water before they pick up speed running downhill.

## Are there deposits of soil in flat areas?

- Yes** Deposits of sand show that runoff water carries a significant sediment load. It also probably means that smaller silt and clay particles that carry a higher nutrient load have made their way to the water.
- No** This is probably a good thing. When the flow of water carrying sediment slows, particles of sand which are larger than other soil particles, will frequently settle out. If you have no deposits, it may mean that your runoff is clean. However, be cautious; it may simply mean that water doesn't have a chance to slow down, and runoff is carried all the way to the water.

### Water diversion practices *Such as ways for water to flow to an infiltration practice and/or away from the water.*



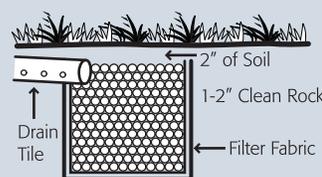
#### Rain Gutters

Rain gutters should discharge at the back of the house away from the water, or to a rain barrel or infiltration area.



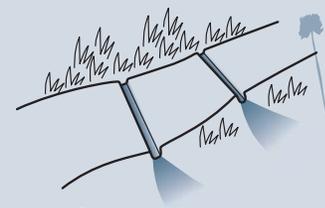
#### Berms

Gradual berms or bumps can retain or move water.



#### Drain Tile

Drain tile, perforated plastic pipe, allows some infiltration as water is moved to an infiltration practice.



#### Path Diversions

Divert water across a pathway or driveway at intervals using pipes or channels.

## Does water flow across your parcel evenly?

*During or after a big rainstorm is a good time to check. You can sometimes see the pathway of water flow by looking for leaves or pine needles that have washed downhill or grass that is laying flat.*

- Yes** Avoiding channelized flow of water will help to reduce erosion and minimize pollutants that reach the water.
- No** If there are obvious paths of water flow, look uphill to the source of water. Could water be diverted to an infiltration practice?

## Do you have natural, wild vegetation within the 35 foot buffer zone adjacent to the waterline?

- Yes** Good for you! Your property is an example for other waterfront property owners. You are helping to keep the water clean while providing habitat for the many creatures that live near the water's edge.
- No** Please consider a natural shoreline buffer of native vegetation. Lawn grasses have shallow root systems and short stems. The deep roots and tall stems of native vegetation slow runoff flow preventing erosion and allowing infiltration.

## Want to do more? Help is available.

*Arrange a site visit or consultation, or*

*Contact your local land and water conservation department for more information.*

Listings are available online at [www.datcp.state.wi.us](http://www.datcp.state.wi.us).

Keyword search: "LCD Directory."

*Get help from a professional consultant.*

Many local landscapers have attended training to learn about rain gardens and other native landscaping and infiltration practices. Check local listings and ask about experience and qualifications.

**TIP:** Native Wisconsin plant lists may be available from your local land and water conservation department. Or try the web resources at <http://healthylakeswi.com>

### CAUTION:

**Call Diggers Hotline 1.800.242.8511 to locate utility lines before you dig!**

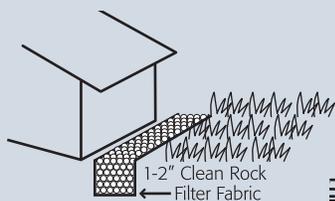
**Permits may be required for waterfront landscaping and construction. Contact your local zoning office to determine which activities require a permit.**

## Infiltration practices *Such as places for water to soak into the soil.*



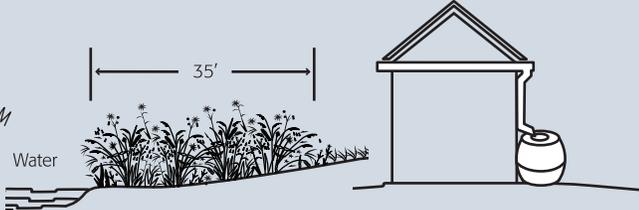
### Rain Gardens

Sunken gardens planted with native flowers capture runoff water and add beauty to your yard.



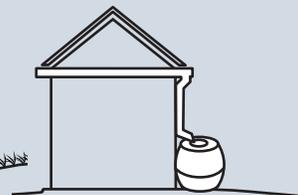
### Infiltration Trenches

Capture water next to pole buildings and garages.



### Natural Buffer Zones

These areas of tall vegetation slow runoff flow, allowing it to soak into the soil (especially on gradual slopes).



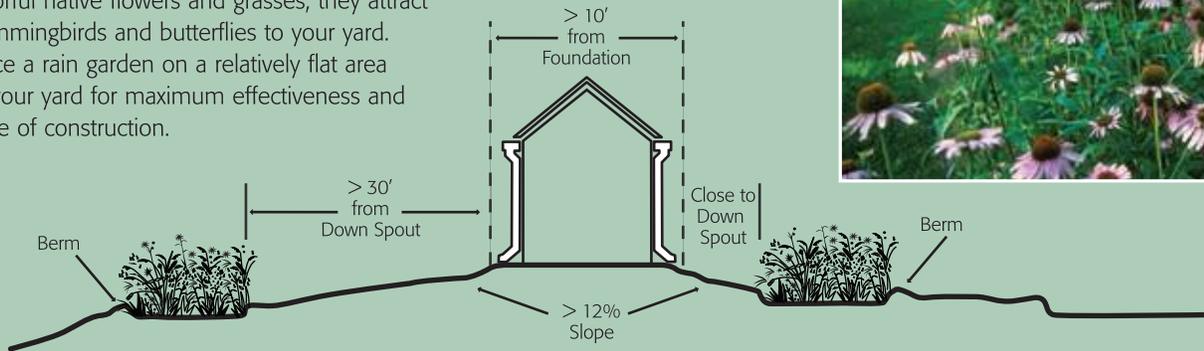
### Rain Barrels

Save the rain water from your roof to water your plants.

# Waterfront Water Quality Practices

## Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are designed to capture runoff from rain events and absorb water over several hours to a few days. Absorbed water is filtered and purified by the soil. When rain gardens are planted with a variety of colorful native flowers and grasses, they attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your yard. Place a rain garden on a relatively flat area of your yard for maximum effectiveness and ease of construction.



## Rain Barrels

Rain barrels capture water from a rain gutter downspout for watering gardens and potted plants. Many styles are available for purchase or you can build your own. Be sure that your rain barrel is covered to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs and reproducing.



## Infiltration Areas

Infiltration areas may be flat areas of woods or tall grasses or constructed pits or trenches. Where the slope is flat and the soil is sandy, it may be possible to simply divert water to an area where it can soak in. Other times infiltration areas are constructed by digging a pit or trench, lining it with porous landscape fabric, and filling the void with 1-2 inch clean rock. The size and depth depends upon the size of the area draining to the infiltration area and the type of soil beneath it. Do not encourage infiltration over a septic drain field, near a drinking water well, or within 10 feet of the foundation of your house.



## Shoreline Buffers

Shoreline buffers are areas of native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Natural buffers of shoreline vegetation have many benefits. They keep the water clean by filtering runoff and holding soil in place, create natural northwoods beauty, and provide a home for the diversity of creatures who live near the water. Shoreline buffers should be designed to follow NRCS Tech Note One standards so that you can still access and enjoy your view of the water.



## Learn More

Visit the *Healthy Lakes website*

<http://healthylakeswi.com>

