



## Be LakeSmart Lakes Environmental Association LakeSmart Tip: Are You Buff Enough?



A vegetated buffer (trees, shrubs, groundcover and duff) at least 10 feet deep across the shoreline (a) infiltrates stormwater runoff; (b) extracts nutrients like phosphorous; (c) catches sediment and pollution; and (d) breaks up rain drops which compacts the soil. Many varieties of native plants can be used that do not block the view and afford privacy and noise control.

Unlike native plants which have extensive roots systems that hold soil in place, lawns are unfriendly to water quality and wildlife. The shallow roots allow phosphorus, nitrogen, fertilizers and pesticides to wash into the lake. Reducing the size of lawns for recreation and relaxation also reduces the carbon footprint of maintaining lawns.

In summary: Lakes love a buffer of native shoreline vegetation, but don't love lawns.



LakeSmart is a program of Maine Lakes ([www.lakes.me](http://www.lakes.me)) run in the Lake Region by the Lakes Environmental Association ([www.mainelakes.org](http://www.mainelakes.org)). For more information contact Lauren Pickford (207-647-8500 – [lauren@mainelakes.org](mailto:lauren@mainelakes.org)).