

# Lower Long Lake COMMUNITY SHORELAND STANDARDS



To reach its water quality and fish & wildlife habitat goals, the Lower Long Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (LLPRD) has engaged in a voluntary approach to restore vegetative buffers and reduce runoff and nutrients from existing developed shoreland.

The District has adopted a set of Community Shoreland Standards to help define what each lakeshore property owner ought to do to protect our precious resource.

## Upland Standards

1. **Establish a 35-foot natural vegetative buffer from the shoreline by either:**
  - a. Allowing natural renewal of existing plants (no-mow), or
  - b. Creating a natural shoreland buffer by planting and maintaining a mix of native plants species.



*A natural vegetative buffer provides a healthy transition from land to water. It slows stormwater runoff, and whatever pollutants the runoff may carry, allowing the water to filter through the ground before reaching the lake. The buffer's trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs, (flowers) also help to absorb runoff and take up excess nutrients that could otherwise cause water quality problems. Shoreland buffers also help protect banks from erosion, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and can provide privacy.*

**2. Redirect stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways and other impervious surfaces, to natural depressions or constructed *rain gardens* to encourage infiltration.**

*The development of riparian (adjacent to a body of water) property increases water runoff and nutrient inputs to Wisconsin's lakes. Allowing the runoff to filter into the ground instead of flowing over it directly to the lake is key to protecting water quality. As it filters through the ground, excess nutrients and other pollutants are trapped by the soil. Directing downspouts or other water flows to natural depressions or constructed rain gardens allows the water to slow down and infiltrate into the ground. This also stops possible soil erosion caused by water flowing over the land and depositing silt into the lake.*

**3. Use lawn fertilizers which have no phosphorus.**

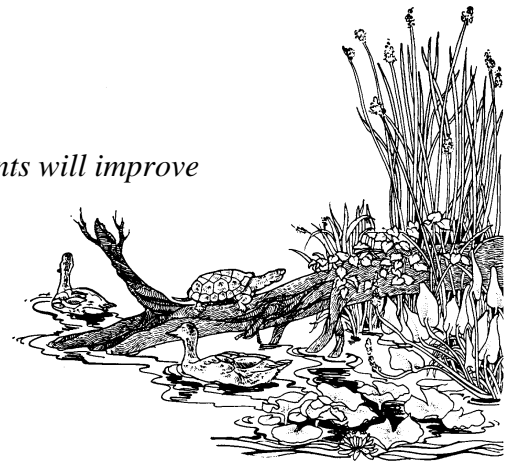
*Phosphorus is the nutrient responsible for stimulating algae growth in Lower Long Lake and most other lakes in Wisconsin. The major sources of phosphorus to Northern Wisconsin lakes are lawn fertilizers and increased runoff from roof tops, roadways and other impervious surfaces associated with developed lake lots. Maintaining or slightly decreasing phosphorus inputs to Lower Long Lake will protect water quality.*

## **In-Lake Standard**

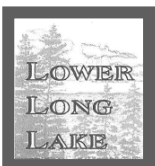
**1. Retain aquatic vegetation, trees, dead falls, or woody debris in the water for aquatic insect, fish, and wildlife habitat, except as necessary to:**

- a. Establish a 35-foot corridor to allow for dock placement, swimming, or boat access, or
- b. Provide for public safety.

*Leaving fallen trees in the water and protecting high quality aquatic plants will improve fish and wildlife habitat. Aquatic insects and small fish are attracted to this type of structure for cover and food. Larger fish also use these areas to hunt for the insects and small fish. Then, in turn, fish-eating birds such as great blue heron, bald eagles, osprey and kingfisher frequent these spots in search of food. Also remember that when fish habitat improves, so does recreational fishing.*



To learn more about Lower Long Lake's water quality, sensitive areas, fisheries, and the District's goals to protect them, look for the 2007 Lower Long Lake Management Plan and information about the ongoing grants and shoreline protection projects on the LLLPRD website: [www.llprd.org](http://www.llprd.org).



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