



It's Your Lake. Its health depends on you.

A healthy lake means a wonderful recreational resource, a strong & vibrant economy and a healthy & prosperous agricultural industry.

Consider that every action you take affects the lake.

- Decrease lawn size and runoff by installing rain gardens and buffer strips of native plants.
- Always test your soil before fertilizing or treating for pests, it is often not necessary.
- Use natural methods to fertilize and keep your lawn healthy.
- Keep toxic chemicals off your lawn and out of your septic system.
- Have your septic system inspected regularly.
- Keep hard, impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks to a minimum.
- Clean your boat and trailer when going to or from other lakes.
- Use bilge "socks" or "pillows" to keep oil and gas out of the lake.
- Check with the Town or Village before digging or disturbing vegetation.

Don't forget...everyone in the watershed plays a role in the lake's health.

- Don't underestimate the damage done by phosphorus entering the lake.
- Don't pollute your well water by letting your septic system fail.
- Don't stress your septic system by using too much water, or a garbage disposal.
- Don't pour additives into your septic tank. They do more harm than good.
- Don't plant trees or drive over your leach field.
- Don't let soil or pollutants flow into the lake from your property.
- Don't use thawing salt unless it's absolutely necessary. Birdseed or sand works just as well!
- Don't build patios or other paved surfaces before checking with the Town or Village.
- Don't use storm drains as chemical dumps.
- Don't throw grass clippings into the water, wetlands, or drainage ditches. Compost.
- Don't drain your boat's bilge water into the lake.
- Don't risk a fine or jail term by violating Town or Village lake laws.

Resources for Lawn Care and Septic Maintenance:

NYS DEC - Sustainable Landscaping

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/44290.html>

Landscaping for Water Quality in the Fingerlakes

<http://ccetompkins.org/resources/finger-lakes-landscapes-landscaping-for-water-quality-in-the-finger-lakes-region>

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society - Ithaca-based

<http://flnps.org/>

Chemical Free Lawncare Products

<https://eartheasy.com/yard-garden/natural-weed-control/burnout-weed-grass-killer-concentrate-32-oz>

Septic System Maintenance - NYS DOH

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/3208/>