



Best Management Practices for Water Quality in Lake Communities

Some Gilbert residents enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunities that being part of a lake community brings. By helping to maintain a healthy shoreline and lake, lake community members help to preserve water quality for fish, birds as well as for human uses. Poor water quality can affect recreation in or on the water and degrade wildlife habitat.

How you can help:

Shoreline Homeowners:

1. Maintain healthy plants on the shore line. Plants slow runoff of soil and nutrients found in your yard. This can protect the water quality of the lake. Plants also enhance water infiltration in your yard and takes up nutrients dissolved in runoff and ground water which make for a healthier yard. Shoreline plants also dampen wave action which protects the shoreline from erosion.
2. If you decide to alter your waterfront by landscaping, develop a plan that uses existing natural features of your shoreline instead of requiring major alteration. Plan to preserve or reestablish existing vegetation, install appropriate erosion control methods, and reduce runoff to protect your shore property and water quality. Fish, ducks and other life depend on vegetation for food, spawning and shelter.



Fishermen:

1. Follow the rule “pack it in, pack it out.” Don’t leave fish parts, extra bait, or scrap fishing line or hooks. This can negatively affect the water quality as well as wildlife.

Doc Builders:

1. Use naturally water resistant woods (cedar, tamarack, or redwood), metals, or plastic instead of treated wood. Treated wood may leach chemicals that can negatively impact water quality.
2. Construct docs to allow free flow underneath them to prevent erosion and sedimentation along the shore.
3. Construct the smallest possible doc to meet your needs.

Lawns and Terraces

1. When using pesticides or herbicides in your yard, use only the amount listed in the directions.
2. Eliminate paths that cut directly up and down slope to the waterline. These types of paths will allow for more soil erosion. Steps and terraces will help decrease erosion.
3. Try not to allow leaves or other yard waste to enter the water. This can cause unhealthy nutrient fluxes.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain