

Planting species native to North Carolina & Virginia in your yard provides food and cover to a wide range of native wildlife, and can attract beautiful birds and pollinators to your property.

GET IN TOUCH

LAKE GASTON

Here are a few beneficial examples that would aid in the effectiveness of a vegetated buffer:

- Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Solidaster (*Solidaster luteus*)
- Sage (*Salvia* sp.)
- Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)
- Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
- Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
- Striped Maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*)
- Lilac (*Syringa* sp.)
- Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

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REFERENCES

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- * Hardesty, Phoebe, and C. Kuhns. 1998. A Guide to Creating Vegetated Buffers for Lakefront Properties. Androscoggin Valley Soil & Water Conservation District.
- * McCarthy, Jillian. 2011. New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Watershed Assistance Section.

Here is a specific example of what a vegetated buffer could look like. Different variations are great for encouraging plant diversity.

BENEFITS OF MANAGING YOUR SHORELINE



VEGETATED BUFFERS

Buffer zones provide a vegetated region of land between a water body and developed property. The goal of these zones is to limit the amount of debris and runoff added to the water from urban areas.

Effective buffer zones improve and/or maintain overall water quality by preventing nutrient loading and sedimentation. This decreases the chances of noxious algal blooms.

CREATE YOUR OWN BUFFER

Vegetated buffers can look very different depending upon plant composition and personal taste. The height and width of your buffer does not have to be uniform across the entire shoreline, nor does the species planted.

WAYS TO CREATE YOUR OWN

Pick a section of your lawn along the shoreline and allow it to grow without intense mowing. (Occasional maintenance is ok!)

Plant seeds or mature vegetation along the shoreline in a desired manner. Mulching around these plants can aid in their efficiency.

LAWN CARE

WHEN CARING FOR YOUR LAWN, THERE ARE SOME KEY WAYS YOU CAN HELP KEEP THE LAKE CLEAN!

Debris such as twigs, leaves, and lawn clippings should NOT be disposed of in the lake. These can instead be composted or placed back on your lawn. Distributing lawn clippings throughout your yard will provide your grass with a natural fertilizer.

AVOID ADDING NUTRIENTS

Lawn debris and fertilizers contain nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus that can alter the natural balance of the lake's chemical composition. Having increased levels of these nutrients often results in a process known as eutrophication which can lead to algal blooms.

ALGAL BLOOMS CAN CAUSE

- * Negative impacts to human health
- * Decreases in water quality
- * Deadly crashes in oxygen levels
- * Aesthetically unappealing growth

BEST FERTILIZER PRACTICES

FERTILIZERS, WHEN APPLIED INAPPROPRIATELY, CAN LEAD TO NUTRIENT LOADING AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON WATER QUALITY.

Ways that you can ensure you are safely using fertilizers on your lakefront property:

Ensure time of application follows instructions provided by fertilizer company, plants typically have a harder time absorbing nutrients in the winter months.

Don't fertilize prior to major weather events, rain can wash fertilizers into the lake.

Check that the type of fertilizer you are using is appropriate for your lawn/garden.



DO YOUR PART TO KEEP LAKE GASTON BEAUTIFUL!!