

A **riparian** is a person who owns a parcel of land which borders a natural body of water within the boundaries of the State of Michigan.

## Riparian Responsibilities

Riparians have a special responsibility to prevent pollutants from entering the lake or stream. Some common pollutants include: lawn fertilizers, runoff from driveways, roofs and walkways, lawn clippings and leaves, soil from the shoreline or streambank, lawn & garden pesticides, oil & gas from autos (and boats), and septic system effluent.

What you can do to prevent pollution from entering the waters:



### If you have a septic system -

- Have your tank pumped out & inspected at least every 3-5 years
- Consider installing an effluent filter (talk with your septic service technician)
- Spread out laundry loads – doing many consecutive loads can overload system
- Practice water conservation – a good rule for everyone whether their home is served by a septic system or sanitary sewer
- Fix leaks – one drop per second from a leaking faucet can add up to 113 gallons of water wasted each month!
- Dispose of hazardous household chemicals properly- not down the drain
- Keep accurate records of maintenance and location of septic system
- Divert roof & footing drains and surface water away from the septic system
- Do not use commercial septic tank additives
- Keep antibiotics and antibacterial soaps out of system- your septic tank is a place where you actually want bacteria to live!
- Do not use a garbage disposal – grinded food from a garbage disposal decomposes more slowly than liquid waste and adds to the solids in the tank

### Practice healthy lawn and garden practices -

- Maintain a minimum 15-foot no-mow, fertilizer-free buffer area adjacent to water body.
- When using fertilizer, choose a slow-release nitrogen and no-phosphorus formula (depending on the results of the soil test).
- Mow grass high- a 2/12-3 inch blade is optimum for water conservation and promoting root growth.
- Avoid weed-n-feed products- combination products often add unnecessary herbicides to the environment. A better approach is to identify the weed of concern and selectively spot treat the weed(s) with appropriate herbicide.
- Dispose of yard waste properly per Township requirements or try home composting - NEVER DUMP YARD WASTE IN WATERCOURSES!