

PROTECTING LAKE POCOTOPAUG

Do you appreciate Connecticut's clear, clean lakes? What does the beautiful panorama of our lake, the sounds of playful aquatic life, or a boundless summer day of boating mean to you? Will you help protect Lake Pocotopaug so your children and grandchildren will be able to experience the lake benefits you enjoy?



Protecting Lake Pocotopaug preserves water quality and property values while safeguarding wildlife and the outstanding recreation our lake provides.



Look inside for tips and the **PROTECTING LAKE POCOTOPAUG** poster

What You Do in the Watershed Affects the Lake!

Have you ever seen a muddy stream during a rainstorm? When we develop the landscape, we expose bare soil that gets washed down hill during a rainstorm. This means that any activity in the lake's watershed, all land uphill of a lake, has potential to affect the lake. In undeveloped watersheds, natural vegetation slows the flow of rainwater and filters out nutrients that can pollute lakes.



Substituting lawns for native trees and shrubs removes nature's natural filtration system. If too much of this occurs, the rain becomes runoff that carries pollution downhill to lakes. The **PROTECTING LAKE POCOTOPAUG** Program shows you how to capture rain and convert it into groundwater so it is filtered before it flows into the lake. **Good Idea!**



For more information:

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[www.EastHamptonCT.gov/
Pages/EastHamptonCT_BComm/LPC](http://www.EastHamptonCT.gov/Pages/EastHamptonCT_BComm/LPC)



Now You're PROTECTING LAKE POCOTOPAUG

Enjoy the lake, relax, appreciate nature
and your family ~

NOT mow the lawn and rake the yard!

What is Harming Our Lake?

PHOSPHORUS! It is not just in fertilizer. All the pollutants pictured here contain phosphorus. Eroded soil from yards and particularly from roads is the number one water pollutant.

Phosphorus in soil and fertilizer promotes plant growth in your garden and in our lake! In lakes, however, the crop is algae, rather than garden vegetables. Algal blooms smell terrible, turn water green and use up oxygen. Lower oxygen levels in the water “choke” fish. Swimming, fishing and lakeside living lose their appeal and the value of your property goes down. You may think that just a little pet waste or extra fertilizer won’t make a difference; but a little pollution from you, from your neighbor, from others around the lake, year after year, does add up to a polluted lake.



You Can Make A Difference

During a rainstorm, observe where the stormwater flows. Next, direct the stormwater flow to a vegetated area called a “buffer”. A buffer is a landscape with an abundance of trees, shrubs, ground cover and “duff”. Duff is all the twigs, leaves, and pine needles that our culture believes is messy and needs to be raked up. Leave it alone. Duff is nature’s mulch; it nourishes the vegetation and holds moisture during a dry spell. When stormwater enters a buffer, it slows and seeps into the ground where soil particles bind phosphorus and hold it for use by plants.



Lakes Like Less Lawn

Determine what parts of the lawn you actually use for recreation and stop mowing the rarely used areas. You can supplement the no-mow areas with beautiful native shrubs and flowering plants that enhance visual appeal and property value.



Frame your view of the lake with native plants that attract wildlife and provide privacy for your family. **A lush, wide ribbon of trees and shrubs is the number one tool in PROTECTING LAKE POCOTOPAUG.**



Rain Garden