

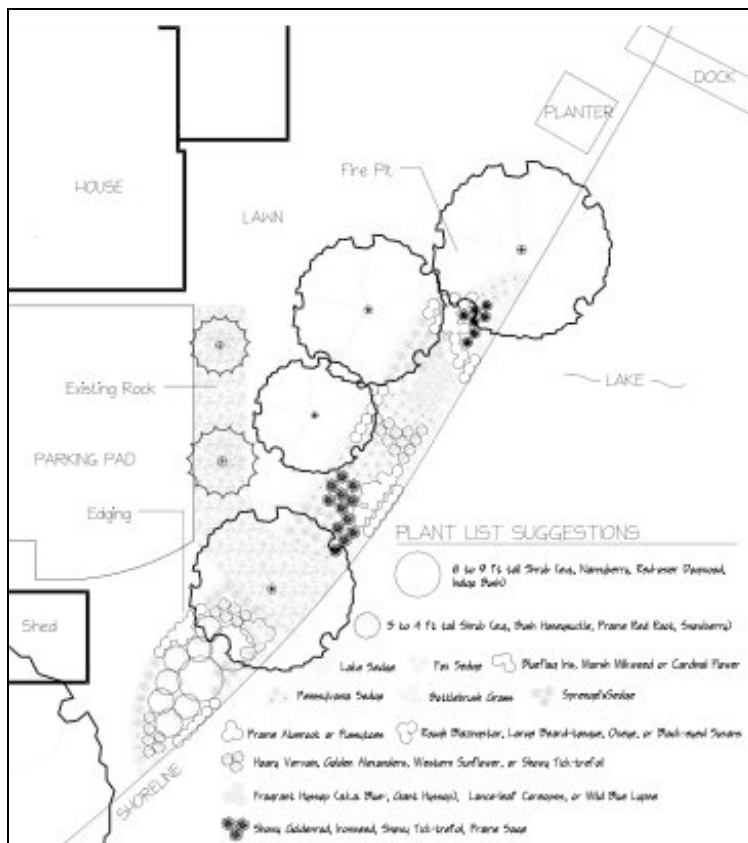
An Affordable Way to Restore Your Shoreline or Build a Rain Garden

Dear Fellow
Lakeshore Owners,

There's a wonderful grant program available that makes it affordable for you as an individual homeowner to help reduce pollutant runoff into our lake.

I just received a cost-sharing grant from the Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District to restore about 60 feet of my shoreline back to natural plants.

I'm doing it because our property has two areas with a lot of runoff going directly into the lake, and runoff is the No. 1 culprit driving up our lake's phosphorous levels – which contribute to weeds and algae.



Forest Lake currently has 35-38 parts per billion (ppb) of phosphorous, which is close to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's threshold of 40 ppb for lakes in our region. Any lake 40 or higher is considered impaired. The best way for us to keep pollutant levels down is to eliminate runoff through shoreland buffers and rain gardens. You don't have to do your entire shoreland; we're just restoring the part we don't use for recreation.

The grant program is great, because experts help you with design and give you plant options, so you don't have to do a lot of research. (Sample plan shown.) If your project is approved, they cover half your materials and half your labor costs, whether you hire it out or do it yourself. Attached is information about the grant program, along with an application. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 464-2181.

Sincerely,
Laurie Kumerow