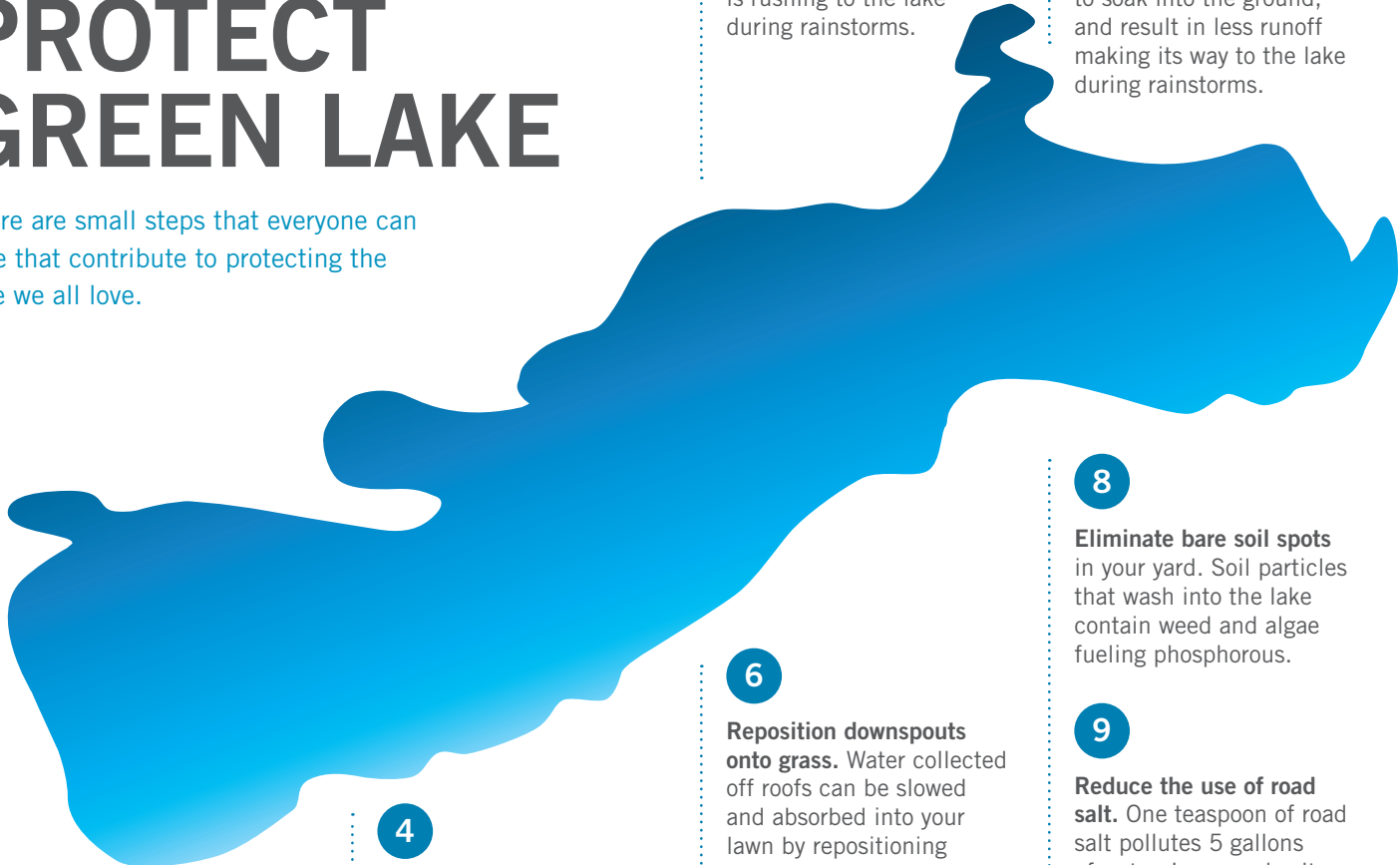


10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP PROTECT GREEN LAKE

There are small steps that everyone can take that contribute to protecting the lake we all love.



3

Limit fertilizer use on lawns and fields. Fertilizer on land helps things grow, but it also does the same in the water. Just one pound of phosphorus can fuel the growth of 500 pounds of weeds and algae. Limiting fertilizer use on your yard, garden or field directly helps the lake's water quality.

4

Don't mow right down to the lakeshore. By leaving a taller grass buffer strip at the edge of the shoreline, it helps slow pollutants from making their way into the water, and can help prevent geese from making your yard their favorite summer hangout spot.

5

Clean up after your pets. Pet waste contains nutrients like phosphorus. If not cleaned up properly, those nutrients make their way to the lake during rainstorms where it fuels weed and algae growth.

1

Use rain barrels. Rain barrels help capture and slow the amount of storm water (and any pollution flowing with it) that is rushing to the lake during rainstorms.

2

Install a rain garden in your yard using native plants. Rain gardens can slow water flowing off the landscape, encourage it to soak into the ground, and result in less runoff making its way to the lake during rainstorms.

8

Eliminate bare soil spots in your yard. Soil particles that wash into the lake contain weed and algae fueling phosphorous.

6

Reposition downspouts onto grass. Water collected off roofs can be slowed and absorbed into your lawn by repositioning downspouts away from driveways and toward grass. This helps prevent excess nutrients from washing into Green Lake.

9

Reduce the use of road salt. One teaspoon of road salt pollutes 5 gallons of water. Increased salt concentrations can hurt aquatic life. Use salt sparingly in the winter and look into other methods to reduce slippery surfaces.

7

Don't flush anything besides waste and toilet paper. The Ripon Wastewater Treatment Facility cleans wastewater before it is discharged back into Silver Creek. Keep that water even cleaner by never flushing medication, synthetic chemicals, or anything else besides waste and toilet paper.

10

Don't rake leaves into the road or lake. Leaves raked into the road can act like a brewing cup of phosphorous tea. Water that makes its way through those leaves carries weed fueling phosphorous that flows directly into the lake through storm drains.