

# Landscape Challenges

Typical residential development removes the native forest vegetation and replaces it with impervious surface areas (buildings, driveways, patios, etc.) and lawn. As a result surface runoff increases, bringing with it an increase in sediment, nutrient and bacterial loads.

The photographs here are examples of the types of properties where “lakescaping” techniques should be encouraged to capture and filter runoff and provide improved wildlife habitat.

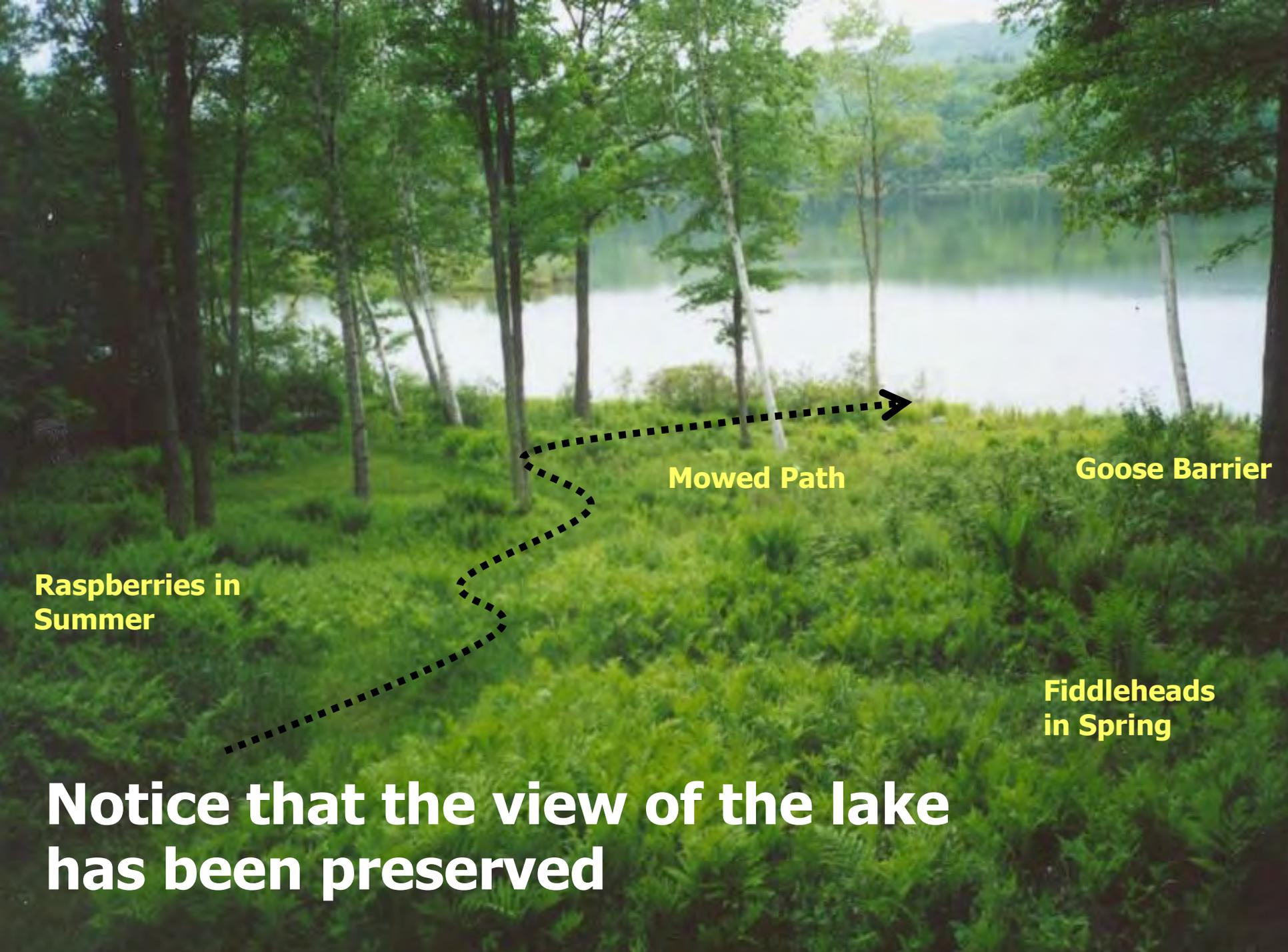
# Shoreline vegetation is important

- Plants physically filter and traps sediment by slowing down the velocity of stormwater runoff abating increased stormwater runoff (the enemy)
- This allows better infiltration of water into the soil. Pollutants such as nutrients and bacteria are filtered through soils and captured by soil organisms and plant root systems.
- Groundwater recharge. Rain warmed by impervious surfaces and lawns are cooled in the soils before flowing into the lake as subsurface flow.
- Plant root systems stabilize eroding banks.
- Plants contribute to the aquatic food chain – leaves, twigs, insects
- A mix of trees, shrubs and ground cover provide wildlife habitat, shade and travel corridors

A photograph showing a person from behind, walking through a dense field of tall green grasses and ferns. In the background, a white house with a porch is visible through a line of trees, including several white-barked trees in the foreground. The scene is set in a lush, green landscape.

**We can  
landscape  
our land  
differently**

**With a richer  
mix of vegetation**



**Raspberries in Summer**

**Mowed Path**

**Goose Barrier**

**Fiddleheads in Spring**

**Notice that the view of the lake has been preserved**



**Nice mix of shoreline vegetation. Note the lawn in the background for family use.**



**Lawn lined with a simple shoreline mix of shrubs that are more friendly to wildlife than grass alone.**



**Shoreline vegetation mix provide filtering for runoff, important for sites that slope down to the lake from the road. Also provides cover for wildlife along the water's edge.**



**This shoreline is a good start – maintaining shoreline trees and some other ground vegetation. Lawn around the house with access to the lake. Planting of permanent groundcover to hold soil in place is needed to complete the work.**



**This property has a diverse mix of lawn, plantings and trees. Unfortunately, this goose family congregates on the shoreline lawn for easy access to and from the water. In general, plant taller vegetation along the shore to deter geese and locate lawns closer to the house.**



**A creative mix of lawn, tall groundcover and shrubs that provide better filtering than lawn alone.. This is especially important on a sloped site such as this. Water access is maintained while providing a mix of shrubs and trees along the shoreline**



The property to the left of the dock has some shoreline vegetation, but the wall prohibits movement of wildlife such as frogs and turtles.

The property to the right of the dock has no native shoreline vegetation at all. Easy access to the lawn for grazing by geese.



**This property owner could consider vegetating a portion of their shoreline like their neighbors.**



**These property owners show that shoreline vegetation can work on even small parcels. Lake access is maintained with small lawn sections leading to docks and the water.**



**Unmown grasses here provide better filtering of runoff and wildlife habitat. Planting of wildflowers and tall grasses along the shoreline can provide more color. Mix in a few shrubs or trees for added layering and texture.**



**A long section of shoreline lacking vegetation**



**The picnic area soils are compacted,  
resisting infiltration.**



**Landscaping select areas with shrubs or groundcover  
would reduce runoff**

# **Bonus: Shoreline Vegetation can act as a Goose Barrier**

- Grass is goose junk food
- Creatures of habit
- Young geese return home to breed
- On shore, geese want unobstructed view of water as escape route
- Will not go through tall or dense vegetation with flightless young



**Break the cycle – create a barrier**