

## Keep an eye out for exotics

By controlling exotic species we can protect our native plant communities

- Exotic plants provide little benefit to wildlife.
- Exotic plants may look harmless, but they can crowd out native plants.
- If you would like additional information on identifying and controlling exotic species, please contact the City of Lakeville's Environmental Resources Department.

### Watch out for . . .



Purple  
Loosestrife



Common  
Buckthorn

Minnesota DNR

A few things you can do to improve water quality in Lakeville



**For more information:**

**City of Lakeville**

**Environmental Resources Department**

**20195 Holyoke Ave.**

**Lakeville, MN 55044**

**Phone: (952) 985-4528**



# Keep chemicals out

Anything that enters a storm drain goes directly to local ponds, wetlands, lakes, and streams; it does not go to a waste water treatment facility

- It is illegal to dump chemicals such as paint, motor oil, and cleaning solutions into the storm drains.

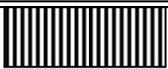
🌐 Visit the Dakota County Environmental Mgmt. Website for information on household hazardous waste at:

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/EnvironmentRoads/EnvirProtect/HazardousWaste/default.htm>

🌐 Call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit [www.cleanup.org](http://www.cleanup.org) to find a place near you to dispose of your leftover chemicals.

🌐 Storm drain stenciling kits are available from the City to raise awareness in your neighborhood.

DUMP NO WASTE  
DRAINS TO LAKE



DUMP NO WASTE  
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Things you can do to improve water quality in Lakeville

## Practice good lawn care

Your lawn care choices directly affect water quality

- Yard waste should not be dumped into or near waterbodies. Yard waste contains phosphorus that will affect water quality.

🌐 Keep in mind that leaving grass clippings on your lawn is equal to one application of fertilizer.



Blueflag Iris

- Limit the amount of chemicals you use on your lawn. Those excess chemicals will eventually make their way into the water.

🌐 Remember that fertilizers containing phosphorus are no longer allowed.

- Keep the pavement clean. Sweep all grass clippings and fertilizer off driveways, sidewalks, and streets; then spread them back on your lawn.



Butterfly Milkweed

## Plant native plants

Native species of plants are beautiful and help the environment

- Native plants are hardiest in our climate; therefore they will last through the winter and will be able to live through conditions that each season brings.
- Once the plants are established they require low maintenance.
- Native plants are resistant to most diseases and pests.
- Your native plants will attract many beautiful birds, butterflies and other insects.



Swallowtail on Beebalm

## Leave a buffer

A buffer is a strip of tall native vegetation that will improve water quality in many ways

- A buffer filters contaminants from your yard and driveway prior to reaching the water.
- The vegetation will stabilize the soil to help prevent erosion.
- A buffer will discourage geese and ducks from using your property as a gathering place.