

What is a BUFFER?

A buffer is a sturdy strip of mixed vegetation along the lakeshore. The trees, shrubs, groundcovers and duff of a sturdy buffer shield the lake from rainwater runoff which otherwise would carry nutrients and other pollutants into the water.

Did you know that raindrops can travel 35 mph?

Plant stems and tree trunks slow runoff so rainwater is more likely to soak into the earth than washing over it. Buffer trees act as umbrellas, protecting soil from the impact of raindrops. Twigs, branches, and leaves blanket the soil with an absorbant layer called **duff**.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

Too much rainwater washing into a lake will load it with phosphorus. ***This is not a good thing!***

Phosphorus feeds algae and turns lakes green. Fish kills, unpleasant odors, loss of recreational opportunities and falling property values follow.

PHOSPHORUS, THE GREEN MACHINE

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element. It readily attaches to soil particles. It's also a plant food. One muddy rivulet in one rainstorm may not seem too important, but if you add up all the muddy rivulets in one rainstorm, multiply that by the number of rain events per year, then run the calculation out 20 years, you'll see how rainwater runoff can ruin a lake. Lake experts call the outcome ***Death by a Thousand Cuts***.



WHY TARGET SHOREFRONT OWNERS?

Lakefront shorelands have a disproportionate effect on water quality. As all development within a lake watershed can cause harm to water quality, the shorefront is key to ensuring a long and healthy life for lakes. Well-buffered shorelands are the lake's last and best defense.

THE SDLA BUFFER PROJECT – PHASE I

The SDLA will offer matching funds as an incentive for lakefront property owners to purchase buffer plants that prevent runoff. Site plan forms are available for property owners to develop plans for projects. The site plan forms are then submitted to the SDLA Buffer Project Committee for evaluation, review and approval. The amount of the matching funds will be determined when the SDLA board meets in June.

Forms will be available at the July SDLA meeting or by email request to Diantha Grant at dondigrant@gmail.com

Stay tuned to our website for more information.

Sabbathday Lake Association



www.sabbathdaylakeassoc.org