

This brochure was made possible through the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Education Program, a partnership between:



## The Chautauqua Lake Management Commission

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<http://www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/legis/legisframe.htm>



## Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

413 North Main Street  
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(716) 664-2166

<http://www.chautauquawatershed.org>



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3542 Turner Road  
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<http://chautauquacce.shutterfly.com>

For more information on ways  
you can help your watershed, please visit:

<http://chautauquacce.shutterfly.com/watershed>

or

<http://www.chautauquawatershed.org>

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*"In the end we will conserve only what we love;  
we will love only what we understand;  
and we will understand only what  
we have been taught."*

(-Baba Dioum)

# Watershed Stewardship



## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is all the land area that drains into a particular body of water.  
Every lake, river, stream and ocean has a watershed.



Did you know...  
The water in Chautauqua Lake will travel nearly 2,200 miles on its way to the Gulf of Mexico!

## Watersheds of Chautauqua County



## Why Care About Watersheds?

# Water Quality!

Everything we do on the land affects the quality of the water in our streams & lakes.



When water runs off the land, it takes fertilizers, loose soil, litter and other pollutants with it.



Runoff Pollution in Chautauqua Lake

## Water Quality Affects:

- ◆ Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ Aquatic Plant Growth
- ◆ Recreational Activities
- ◆ Human Health
- ◆ Water Treatment Costs
- ◆ Tourism



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# STEWARDSHIP: 10 Ways To Be A Watershed Hero



Photo by Jeff Carlson

Boat trails through excessive aquatic plant growth in Chautauqua Lake.

## 10. Minimize What & Where You Fertilize:

Phosphorus & nitrogen are nutrients that promote the growth of nuisance plants and algae, so minimize your use of fertilizers and maintain a fertilizer free buffer strip along waterways.



## 9. Slow it Down, Spread it Out, Soak it In:

Reduce runoff by redirecting downspouts, reducing impervious surfaces & installing rain barrels or planting a rain garden—a beautiful solution to runoff pollution!



www.carolstream.org

## 8. Be a Pooper-Scooper:

Pet waste left on road sides & sidewalks can get washed into our lakes & streams adding millions of bacteria to the water.



## 7. Go Native:

Add native plants to your landscape that are naturally adapted to local conditions. They require less maintenance and attract beneficial insects to your garden.



Photo by Betsy Hite

Purple Coneflower

## 6. Make the Connection:

Most storm drains lead directly into our waterways, so properly dispose of hazardous household materials and keep lawn clippings and leaves from entering our waterways.



## 5. Get Buff:

Establish a “No-Mow” Zone along streambanks and shorelines to create buffer strips that control erosion, provide essential fish & wildlife habitat and filter runoff.



Photo Courtesy of Michigan State University Extension

A Beautiful Shoreline Buffer

## 4. Compost & Mulch:

Turn your kitchen and yard wastes into compost that fertilizes your plants & improves your soil; and let your grass clippings lie to fertilize your lawn naturally.



www.cawrecycles.org

## 3. Be Water Wise:

Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, install low flow fixtures and fix leaky faucets. You will be conserving water and saving money.



Soil is washed down Prendergast Creek & into Chautauqua Lake.

## 2. Control Erosion:

Soil that gets washed into our waterways blocks out sunlight, smothers essential spawning & nesting grounds and increases drinking water treatment costs.



## 1. Show up, Speak Up, Get Involved!



Photo by Peg Hite

***The health and quality of our waterways depend on US!***