



ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET:

Wetland Buffers are good for water quality, good for wildlife and save a homeowner time



Mowing down to the edge of a lake, pond, or creek is not a good practice for many reasons. If you are fortunate enough to live adjacent to a wetland, here are 4 excellent reasons why you should maintain a minimum of 10 feet of natural buffer:

- 1) Fertilizer and other lawn chemicals will be trapped by the buffer before they run off into the wetland. Fertilizers, pet wastes and other chemicals cause algae blooms that produce poor, unhealthy water.
- 2) Canada Geese relish freshly mowed grass, but they do not like taller vegetation that might hide a predator. A natural buffer will discourage geese from leaving the lake and coming up on your lawn to leave their unpleasant droppings.
- 3) A buffer creates important wildlife nesting and cover habitat attracting wildlife such as birds, frogs, and butterflies. One of the benefits of living in Medina is being able to enjoy its wildlife. Golf-course type lawns are sterile and provide little healthy habitat for wildlife.
- 4) Less mowing and less yard work mean more time for you to enjoy the beautiful surroundings we live in!

For much more information, see *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*, published by the Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources available at Minnesota's Bookstore at 1-800-657-3757. Or, visit websites such as www.minnehahacreek.org or www.eminnetonka.com to learn more about creating and maintaining a natural buffer to help protect our valuable wetlands.