

Make a difference for your lake

4 Simple Things you can do

- 1 Manage runoff from impervious surfaces**

Impervious surfaces are anything that prevents water from soaking into the soil. Since most of the unwanted sediment, nutrients, and contaminants is found in the first 1" of runoff from impervious surfaces, simply landscaping your property to direct this first flush of stormwater to rain gardens, berms, or natural depressions will make a huge difference for the water quality of our surface waters.
- 2 Preserve vegetated shorelines and slopes**

Not only do vegetated slopes and shoreline buffers prevent erosion from runoff and wave action, they also add value for fish and wildlife. Buffers can be as simple as a no-mow/maintenance buffer or planted with native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees from a local vendor or the Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District.
- 3 Maintain your septic system**

Routine maintenance for a septic system can not only protect our groundwater, but it can also extend the life of the system. Crow Wing County recommends having your septic tank pumped every three years and inspected periodically to ensure that it is functioning as designed.
- 4 Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS)**

Making sure your boat, motor, and trailer is clean of all aquatic plants and zebra mussels before you enter and exit public waters will help prevent the spread of AIS. Boats and tanks, including livewells, should be drained and plugs left out during transport. Live bait cannot be released back into any waterbody.



More information can be found online at www.crowwing.us
(Go to the Land Services Department, then to Environmental Services, then to Water & Wetlands)