

FIFTH ARTICLE IN OUR SERIES OF
Keeping Our Water Environment Clean and Well

Landscaping For A Healthy Environment

The way in which residential landscaping is designed and maintained directly affects the amount of runoff that enters storm drains and, ultimately, our lakes and rivers.

Runoff is the result of rainstorms, snowmelts and lawn and garden watering. Pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, soil erosion, pet waste, oil and grease can enter storm drains and find their way into our lakes and rivers.

Landscapes can and should be designed to avoid pollution problems. Some of these steps include:

- ✓ **Design** landscapes to retain water onsite that encourages water infiltration.
- ✓ **Select** low maintenance trees, shrubs, and ground covers to put in your garden or around your property. This practice not only saves water but also reduces the amount of pesticides or fertilizers that can enter storm drains.
- ✓ **Reduce** the amount of paved surfaces that come in contact with water around your home. For new homebuilders, this process includes decreasing paved paths or patios and drives that serve as an express route for water and pollutants to enter storm drains.
- ✓ **Create** buffer zones of vegetation for storm water. The velocity of storm water can cause excess soil erosion that is degrading to water quality in our lakes and rivers. .