

Riparian Responsibilities

What is a riparian? A riparian is a person who owns a parcel of land which borders a natural body of water. Riparians have a special responsibility to prevent pollutants from entering the water. Some common pollutants include: lawn fertilizers, runoff from driveways, roofs and walkways, lawn clippings, leaves, and other lawn debris, soil from the shoreline or streambank, oil & gas from autos (and boats), and septic system effluent.

You can prevent pollution from entering the waters by:

- **Maintaining a Buffer** – Maintain a minimum 10 to 25-foot buffer area adjacent to your water body where no fertilizer is applied. Consider planting native wildflowers, grasses and/or shrubs in this area which trap soil and other pollutants.
- **Soil testing Your Lawn** – Soil test your lawn prior to adding fertilizer to see what your lawn actually needs. Soil tests are available at local retailers and through the Oakland County MSU Extension at (248) 858-0902.
- **Apply Earth-Friendly Fertilizers** – When using fertilizer, choose a slow-release nitrogen and low-or no phosphorus formula (depending on the results of the soil test). A list of appropriate fertilizers can be found at www.HealthyLandscapes.com.
- **Mow Grass High** – A 2 ½ - 3inch blade is optimum for water conservation and promoting root growth.
- **Disposing of Yard Waste Properly** – Dispose yard clippings and debris properly per Village requirements or try home composting. Lawn clippings and leaves can contribute excess phosphorus and other nutrients into the water system. NEVER DUMP YARD WASTE IN WATERCOURSES!

