

Don't litter.

Discarded refuse may be washed into the lakes with storm water runoff. Join the Ecology Committee in the spring to help clean up the roads and public areas.



Clean up after your dog.

It's the law. Just do it and dispose of it properly.

For more information on what native species to plant and phosphate-free dishwashing products to use, contact the Ecology Committee.

Presented By

**The Ecology Committee
Highland Lakes Country Club
and
Community Association
PO Box 578
Highland Lakes, NJ 07422
Phone: 973-764-4366
Website: www.hlcc.org
Email: hlcc@warwick.net**



FOR THE LAKES' SAKE

You love living in the beautiful natural surroundings of Highland Lakes! Keeping the lakes healthy and lovely requires constant vigilance and care by all who live here.

Ecology tips for homeowners

In an effort to encourage everyone in our community to become good stewards of the lakes and the surrounding watershed, the Ecology Committee has developed this brochure. In it you will find useful tips and information on what you can do to keep our lakes healthy.

To gain a better understanding and appreciation of the ecology and management of our lakes and streams, the Ecology Committee invites community members to join their discussions on the second Thursday of the month at their regular meeting in the Clubhouse. We welcome your ideas and your help.

Phosphorus – Just a little is too much for our lakes.

When combined with sunlight phosphates feed algae which can cause “blooms” which lead to deteriorating lake water quality. Blooms often cause scum, murky water and odors.

Sources of phosphorus include:

- * storm water runoff from roads and driveways
- * leaky septic systems
- * fertilizer runoff
- * waterfowl droppings
- * dishwasher detergents

To protect our lakes you should:

1. Pump out septic tanks every three years. Make sure that septic fields are working properly.
2. Use no fertilizer or phosphate-free fertilizer. Better yet, minimize your lawns. Instead, plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers which will attract birds and butterflies to your yard.

3. Use phosphate-free automatic dishwasher detergent. By law most detergents do not contain phosphates but dishwasher detergents still do because they are not yet regulated.

Plant a natural buffer at the lake’s edge.

A vegetative buffer of ten feet will slow down storm water runoff flowing into the lakes. Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Geese don’t like this barrier!



Mountain Laurel is indigenous to our area and acts as a great barrier to runoff.

Keep your trees.

In addition to being beautiful, trees prevent erosion, filter groundwater, cool the environment and clean the air.



Don’t pave your driveway.

Instead of asphalt, consider using crushed stone or pavers for your driveway. Storm water runoff will then seep through the stones into the soil instead of rushing over the asphalt and into the lake. By naturally filtering the storm water runoff in this way, fewer impurities will enter our lakes.

