

Seymour Lake Needs Your Help

The fifteen feet closest to the lake are the most important for preventing sediments and phosphorus from entering the lake. These contaminants, when carried into the lake, lead to a mucky bottom, increased aquatic plant growth and sometimes even algae blooms.

You can help maintain or improve Seymour Lake's water quality by replanting a natural buffer along the shore. Natural vegetation consists of four layers: trees, shrubs, groundcover and duff. Trees, shrubs and groundcover slow down falling raindrops and absorb their energy. The reduced energy gives a better chance for the raindrops to soak into the ground rather than carrying sediment and phosphorus into the lake. In addition, natural vegetation on a lakeshore is home to creatures that eat algae and serve as food for tiny fish.



So, what is duff? Duff is the layer of natural plant materials such as leaves and twigs that collect under the trees, shrubs and groundcover. Duff acts like a sponge to soak up the rain or melting snow. This allows all those plant roots to use the water. Duff is the fourth line of defense against runoff of sediment and phosphorus into the lake. Duff filters out the phosphorus and sediments.

Try to think of ways you can increase the amount of duff on your property while still enjoying the view and your waterfront.

