



Clean Lake Check-Up is a good way to help the downstream or downhill lake, beautify your property, and save the continual costs of maintenance. Here are the basics:

- Start at the top of the property and watch for locations where runoff enters. Wait until a rainstorm for best observation.
- Note the channel(s) that runoff takes as it travels through your property.
- Locate permanent features like buildings, walkways, parking areas, and roadways. Draw a rough site plan showing drainage patterns and permanent features. Usually, problems will be associated with those features.
- Beginning at the highest point on the property, select locations where runoff can be diverted into woods or vegetated areas. Depending on the slope and the area being drained, diversion can be accomplished by a simple berm (speed bump) or may require water bars (open-topped culverts) or even modification of the topography to drain to a ditch(es).
- Wherever concentrated flows leave a diversion, they should feed to a stone-lined pit (sump) with a level overflow rim. Sumps are intended to break the velocity of the water and convert flows leaving the sump from channelizing back into sheet flow to be absorbed by vegetation.
- Breaking up and diverting the runoff to vegetated areas at every point possible is the key to low-cost erosion control. Use every opportunity that the topography allows and think in terms of protecting yourself from a downpour.
- Vegetate or stabilize all “dirt” surfaces possible. Even roadways, particularly those prone to erosion, can be armored with recycled asphalt or crushed

rock. Vegetation is your best friend, and non-vegetated areas need to be adequately armored.

- Infiltration ditches around building drip edges will help control runoff from scouring backfill or lawns. These are typically 18 to 24 inches in width and depth and are filled with crushed stone.
- Be sure that any activities within 100 feet of a waterbody are done with proper permits.

Use common sense as your guide. Once you switch yourself into “erosion control mode” and observe your land with this perspective, a number of relatively easy fixes will occur to you.