

# Best Management Practices to Keep our Lakes Clean

By the 30 Mile River Watershed Association



Have you ever noticed exposed roots, gullies, undercut banks, or accumulated sediment on your property or camp road? These are all common signs of erosion, which is defined as the gradual removal and transportation of rocks or soil in a particular area. Erosion poses a significant risk to water quality because it has the potential to pollute stormwater runoff. Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the largest threats to the water quality of our lakes, ponds, and streams.

As stormwater flows, it can erode away bare ground, picking up pollutants along the way, such as fertilizers, bacteria, grease, and soil. This polluted runoff adds phosphorus, a nutrient that feeds algae, to our lakes. Therefore, as phosphorus increases, the likelihood of harmful algal blooms also increases. These algal blooms cause a decline in water quality and hurt property values, recreation, and aquatic organisms.

The good news is that there are often simple, low cost fixes you can implement on your own property to help mitigate erosion and capture polluted stormwater runoff on land BEFORE it reaches the lake. Through stabilization, infiltration, and diversion, these fixes, or Best Management Practices (BMPs), help prevent excess phosphorus from getting into our lakes and streams.



*Riprap installed by 30MRWA's YCC stabilizes the soil and prevents it from washing into the stream.*



*Infiltration steps installed by 30MRWA's YCC allow stormwater to soak in, filtering it and reducing erosion.*

**Stabilization** BMPs hold the soil in place, preventing it from rushing down into the lake. Plantings, erosion control mix, and crushed rock can all hold the soil in place. Riprap can also be used to stabilize the shoreline.

**Infiltration** BMPs capture runoff and allow it to soak into the ground, filtering out pollutants before the water enters the lake. Infiltration steps, roof dripline trenches, and rain gardens all capture stormwater runoff and allow this to happen.

**Diversion** BMPs direct the flow of stormwater runoff to a vegetated area, allowing the runoff to infiltrate the soil, where it is subsequently filtered. Rubber razors, open-top culverts, and crowned surfaces (driveways and roads) all help divert stormwater runoff.

If you do have erosion on your property and would like

to install any of these BMPs, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association is here to help. Back for its 8<sup>th</sup> season, our YCC crew works throughout the 30 Mile River Watershed to install the BMPs discussed here, with the ultimate goal of protecting water quality. All work is strictly cooperative with landowners and provided at a much reduced cost. To learn more or to submit a project request, visit [www.30mileriver.org/programs/youth-conservation-corps/](http://www.30mileriver.org/programs/youth-conservation-corps/), email [steward@30mileriver.org](mailto:steward@30mileriver.org) or call us at 207-860-4043.