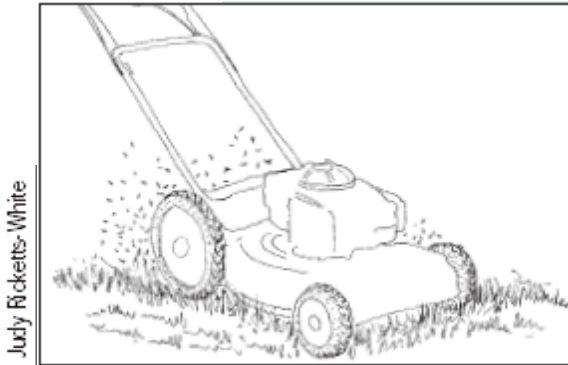


Conservation Landscaping for Water Quality - Lawn Alternatives



Conservation Landscaping promotes landscape management techniques and philosophies that work with nature to reduce pollution and encourage wildlife habitat. It encourages yard care practices that include using less fertilizers and pesticides, reducing lawn areas, and utilizing native plants. The results are less overall maintenance and less water use.

Lawn Alternatives

In many landscape situations, grass may not be the best choice as a vegetative cover. It may have a hard time growing successfully or it may be hard to mow and maintain, so a different ground cover may be more suitable. Excellent locations for alternative ground covers include areas with steep slopes, wet or shady areas and sites with easily erodible soils. When carefully selected and planted, ground covers can improve infiltration of water into the soil, slow stormwater runoff and reduce landscape maintenance needs. Ground covers come in a variety of textures and colors, many with beautiful blooms. In addition to ground covers, other landscaping techniques help reduce total lawn area, including:

- Plant a wildflower meadow to provide a colorful, low-maintenance alternative to lawns while creating habitat for birds, butterflies and small animals.
- Wood decks and brick-on-sand patios offer cozy outdoor seating while allowing water to filter through to the underlying soil.
- Flowing water features introduce sound and texture into the landscape and attract wildlife.

To learn more or report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at (708) 946-2261.

(Source: Clean Water Fact Sheet, produced by NEMO and Sea Grant Connecticut)