15 WAYS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

1 Pick up pet waste from your yard **2** Use only phosphorus-free fertilizer **3** Know the rules and permits required before you build, dig, or clear vegetation in shoreland areas **4** Restore and maintain your shore with a thirty-five-foot vegetative buffer **5** Learn the value of native aquatic plants and keep them in place **6** Keep roadside ditches clear of debris, grass clippings and leaves **7** Prevent sediments from reaching waterways **8** Control storm runoff by installing rain barrels, rain gardens, or splash blocks **9** Respect slow and no-wake zones when boating **10** Inspect and maintain your septic system regularly **11** Fire pit ashes contain phosphorus: prevent them from reaching the water **12** Remind visitors of water use and recreation regulations **13** Inform new neighbors of water quality issues **14** Be a good shoreland steward **15** Get involved!

Photo © 2004 University of Wisconsin Extension. All rights reserved.

One reason why

This message brought to you by Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers in association with Polk County Land and Water Resources Department and Wisconsin Association of Lakes, with funding from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
© 2004 Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers (PCALR). All rights reserved. **Posters and digital copies for reproduction are available: call 715-485-8637 or visit http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater**