



# Sunrise River

## Watershed Management Organization

July 28, 2011

Fawn Lake Homeowner,

Fawn Lake edges out East Twin Lake (City of Nowthen) for the best water quality among all Anoka County lakes. Water clarity ranges from 15+ feet in spring to 7-8 feet in late summer. Nutrients are low, and therefore so is the amount of algae. There is good aquatic plant diversity, which helps both water quality and fish.

This mailing includes information about keeping the lake in great shape and your property looking beautiful through lake-friendly landscaping. We hope you will find it interesting. Please do not hesitate to call upon our local experts who provide free consultations. We also offer grants for projects that benefit the lake.

Because Fawn Lake's watershed is so small, each homeowner's actions have a relatively large effect on the lake. Most lakes have large watersheds with hundreds or thousands of landowners. At Fawn Lake, it's basically just the lakeshore homes. What homeowners do on their property, and especially the lakeshore, can make or break Fawn Lake.

One thing you can do to help is landscape in lake-friendly ways near the water's edge. Shoreline that is not actively used for the dock, swimming, or other recreational purposes is a good place to consider native plants.

Native plants can be in a formal garden or a more "natural" arrangement. Native plants along the water's edge:

- Filter pollutants,
- Attract fish and wildlife,
- Prevent erosion problems, and
- Are beautiful.

Mowing to the edge or trying to create a sand beach across your entire lakeshore isn't doing the lake any favors.



Blue Thumb is a great source for more information on shoreline stabilization with native plants. The website is [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org). It's a coalition of landscapers, plant nurseries, government agencies, and others. Their website includes photos, how-to videos, project cost calculators, an interactive plant selection tool, suppliers, grant information, and more.

Locally, the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) and Anoka Conservation District (ACD) offer help to homeowners. Grants are available from the SRWMO to help pay for plants and other materials (see [www.AnokaSWCD.org](http://www.AnokaSWCD.org), financial assistance section). Experts at the ACD offer free on-site consultations and can help you put together a project design. This help, along with Blue Thumb, make it easy to landscape in lake-friendly ways. Requests for assistance are handled by Nate Zwonitzer at the Anoka Conservation District - 763-434-2030 ext. 11 or [nate.zwonitzer@anokaswcd.org](mailto:nate.zwonitzer@anokaswcd.org).

Let's keep Fawn Lake great!

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On behalf of the Sunrise River Watershed Management  
Organization

*The Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) is a joint powers special purpose unit of government whose boundaries are based on watershed boundaries. This arrangement recognizes that water-related issues rarely stop at municipal boundaries. The SRWMO includes all of Linwood Township and portions of Columbus, Ham Lake, and East Bethel. Learn more at [www.AnokaNaturalResources.com/SRWMO](http://www.AnokaNaturalResources.com/SRWMO)*