

Native Species for Naturalization in Richmond Hill

Coniferous Trees (Evergreens)

- White Spruce
- Eastern Hemlock
- White or Red Pine (NOT Austrian Pine)
- Eastern White Cedar
- Tamarack

Deciduous Trees

- Red, Silver or Sugar Maple
- Red, White or Burr Oak
- Balsam Poplar
- Trembling or Large-Tooth Aspen
- White, Blue, Black or Green Ash
- Basswood
- Paper Birch
- Pin or Black Cherry

Wildflowers

- Purple or Yellow Coneflower
- Flat-topped, Heath, Smooth or Silky Aster
- Ox-Eyed or Black-Eyed Susan
- Bluebeard, Wood or Trout Lily
- Common Strawberry or Common Milkweed
- Blazing Star, Fireweed, or Star Flower
- Wild Columbine or Wild Bergamot

Aquatic Plants

- Bullrushes and Cattails
- Water Arum, Water Plantain, Water Lily
- Arrowheads
- Blue-flag Iris
- Smartweed or Pickerel Weed

Shrubs

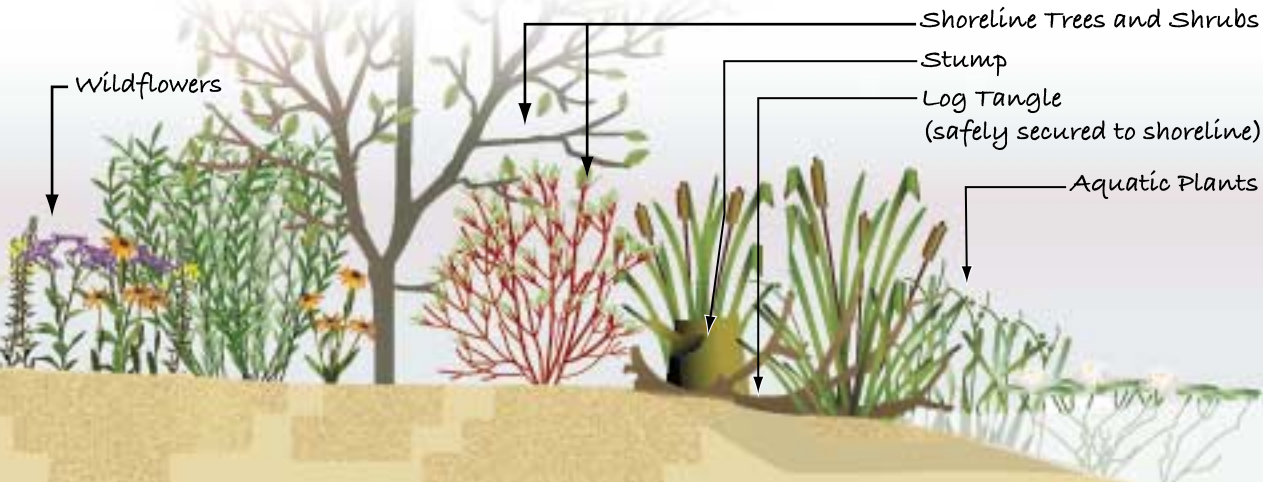
- Speckled Alder
- Smooth or Allegheny Serviceberry
- Nannyberry and Serviceberry
- Red Osier, Grey or Silky Dogwood
- Broad-leaved Meadowsweet
- Swamp Rose
- Spicebush or Buttonbush
- Shining, Slender, Black or Pussy Willow

Avoid Planting These Invasive Species

- Purple Loosestrife
- Norway Maples (all varieties including: King Crimson, Royal Red, Autumn Blaze, Schwedler, Crimson Sentry, Emerald Queen and Parkway)
- Scot's Pine or Scotch Pine
- White Poplar
- Black Locust
- European White Birch
- European and Glossy Buckthorn
- Tartarian, Amur, Japanese or Morrow's Honeysuckle
- Periwinkle
- Goutweed or Snow-on-the-mountain
- Dame's Rocket



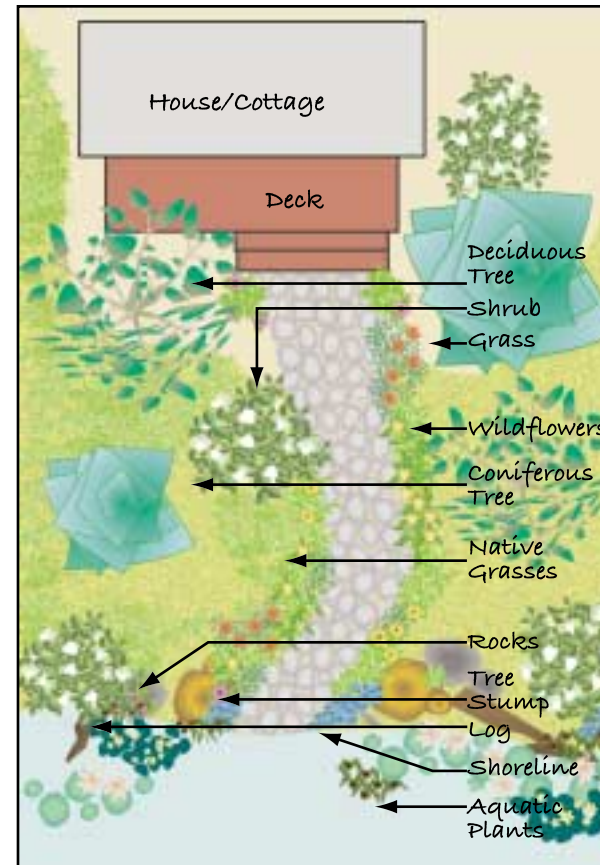
Detail of a Naturalized Shoreline



5 Simple Ways You Can Help Protect Lake Wilcox

1. Naturalize Your Property
2. Reduce Your Use of Chemicals
3. Be a Responsible Pet Owner
4. Get Involved in Community Events
5. Fish and Boat Responsibly

Plan for a Naturalized Backyard



Town of
RICHMOND HILL
Parks, Recreation & Culture
Building Stronger Communities

Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
P.O. Box 300
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 4Y5
(905) 771-8870

www.richmondhill.ca

Lake Wilcox & You



Together we can ensure a healthy future for our Lake!



Lake Wilcox & You

Together we can ensure a healthy future for our Lake!

Situated in the northern part of the Town of Richmond Hill in the community of Oak Ridges, Lake Wilcox is both a significant environmental resource and a popular recreational amenity. As the largest kettle lake on the Oak Ridges Moraine, Lake Wilcox supports diverse and sensitive biological communities while being used for swimming, fishing and water sports.

The health of Lake Wilcox is a high priority. Therefore, a Remediation Strategy was completed in 1997 to ensure that the Lake is managed and cared for appropriately. The following recommendations of the Strategy have already been implemented:

- ❖ Septic systems draining to the Lake have been taken out of service and the associated homes hooked into the Town sewer system
- ❖ Up to date stormwater controls have been implemented in all new developments
- ❖ Biological habitats have been monitored and enhanced
- ❖ Public awareness of issues has been increased through the distribution of fact sheets and newsletters, and the facilitation of public meetings and community events
- ❖ The Town has purchased property around the Lake to protect it from development
- ❖ From 1999-2001, the Lake Lungs mixed oxygen into the bottom waters of Lake Wilcox

Hypolimnetic Withdrawal ❖ A process to remove excess phosphorus from the bottom of lakes

Phosphorus ❖ An element found in fertilizers, sewage and pet waste; at high levels phosphorus causes algae blooms and dense aquatic plant growth



Bird's-Eye View of Lake Wilcox

Monitoring data collected between 1995 and 2003 shows that:

- ❖ Water clarity (an indication of Lake health) has stabilized over the past few years
- ❖ Fisheries have improved and desirable game fish populations (eg. Northern Pike and Largemouth Bass) have returned to normal levels

While Lake Wilcox seems to be doing better, our work is not yet complete. High phosphorus levels in bottom sediments continue to contribute to algae and aquatic plant growth and cause low oxygen levels in the water. The next steps of the Remediation Strategy will involve:

- ❖ Installation of a system to remove phosphorus from the Lake (Hypolimnetic Withdrawal)
- ❖ Naturalization of shorelines on Town property
- ❖ Improvements to the outflow channel
- ❖ Encouraging residents to adopt stewardship strategies for their own land

Simple Steps That Will Help Protect Our Lake

Naturalization of Your Property

You can help to improve the natural environment by naturalizing some of your property. Replacing your grass, gravel or pavement with native plants will enhance the ability of your land to absorb, filter and clean stormwater before it gets to natural waterbodies like Lake Wilcox and the Rouge, Don and Humber Rivers. Naturalizing your property will slow the speed of runoff water so that it has a better chance of being absorbed by the land to replenish groundwater systems.

Restoring the ability of the land to absorb water is particularly important if you live on the Oak Ridges Moraine. In addition, a yard full of native plants will provide natural food and shelter for wildlife that you and your family can enjoy watching. (Note that you should never feed wildlife directly — it encourages animals to display more brazen behaviours and can contribute to higher populations of nest predators). If you live on the shoreline of Lake Wilcox, restoring natural areas on your property can be even more beneficial. Restoring the shoreline helps to:

- ❖ provide habitat for fish and amphibian species,
- ❖ prevent erosion of the banks, and
- ❖ keep nuisance waterfowl such as Canada Geese off your property.

The figure on the back panel of the brochure describes how you can create an optimal shoreline environment.

Naturalization ❖ Any effort which aims to convert managed landscapes into more natural areas that function ecologically and do not require a lot of maintenance



A shoreline which could use some naturalization



Shoreline landscaping that is good for the Lake



Lake Wilcox Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary



Simple Steps That Will Help Protect Our Lake — Continued

Reductions in Chemical Use

If you received this brochure in the mail you live in the Lake Wilcox subwatershed; water running off your property eventually drains into Lake Wilcox. That means that if you use chemical lawn fertilizers on your grass, or wash your car on your driveway, you are potentially accelerating the growth of aquatic plants and algae in the Lake. Similarly, if you use pesticides, you could be poisoning fish and zooplankton communities, as well as other wildlife. If your property does not drain to Lake Wilcox you're not off the hook — all urban runoff eventually drains into one natural area or another. Luckily, there are lots of ways that you can enjoy a beautiful yard and a clean car without threatening the health of Richmond Hill's lakes, rivers, ponds and wetlands.

Zooplankton ❖ *Microscopic animals in the water that eat algae*

Wash your car at a car wash (all of which direct soap and chemicals to the sewer system rather than the stormwater system). Naturalize part of your lawn to reduce the need for harmful chemicals. Determined to have grass? Then try hand pulling weeds and using good lawn care practices — do not mow the lawn shorter than 8 cm, water only in the morning, avoid cutting the grass on hot days, reseed your lawn in spring and fall, leave mulched lawn clippings on the grass, apply compost (50 kg/100 m²) in the spring, and aerate your lawn once every 1-2 years. If you are still not happy with your lawn, there are many biodegradable and organic home-made solutions and commercial products that you can find out about on the Internet, in magazines or at your local garden store or nursery. With a bit of research, you're sure to find something that will safely meet your needs!

Responsible Pet Ownership

Municipal “stoop and scoop” by-laws are not only enacted to keep our communities clean, they are also important for environmental and health reasons. Pet waste raises phosphorus levels in the Lake contributing to excessive growth of aquatic plants and algae. In addition, coliform bacteria in pet wastes can be transported to the Lake by stormwater runoff, potentially making the water unsafe for swimming.

Stormwater Runoff ❖ *Water from rain or melting snow that drains off the land, roofs, driveways, streets, etc., carrying accumulated pollutants like fertilizers, metals, oil and salt*

Responsible pet ownership also includes keeping your dogs on leash and your cats indoors. Dogs and cats are not naturally part of the local ecosystem and their hunting activities threaten the survival of sensitive species in the area. Cats which are allowed to roam outside threaten local bird populations and free-running dogs damage the understory of forests and make meadow and shrub habitats unsuitable for small animals. Help to protect the Town's environmental health and beauty by keeping your family pet inside or on leash — it's safer for them too!



Get Involved in Community Events

The Town's Natural Heritage Section coordinates community tree planting and clean-up events that help improve the health of natural ecosystems across the Town. With the Town supplying the materials and the community providing the labour, these events are a great way for everyone to work together to improve the environment. If you know of a piece of Town property that you would like to see cleaned-up or restored with native plants, and you can get some of your neighbours to lend a hand, give us a call and we will get an event organized.



Responsible Fishing and Boating

Fishing and boating are popular recreational activities that cause minimal harm to the Lake when they are undertaken responsibly. To ensure healthy fish stocks and prevent being prosecuted, always obey the Ministry of Natural Resources fishing regulations by obtaining a fishing license and fishing only in season. In addition, please be considerate of other people and the health of the Lake: fish away from the beach, do not leave any of your hooks or fishing line behind, keep boating speeds below the regulated speed limit of 9 km/hr, and make sure that your boat is not leaking any petroleum. You will note that there is no public boat launch at Lake Wilcox — the Town and residents of the area agree that use of motors on the Lake should not be encouraged.



Lake Wilcox Statistics

Maximum Depth	17.4 m
Surface Area	55.6 ha
Watershed Area	489 ha
Volume	3,152,800 m ³
Perimeter	2.9 km
Water Retention Time	4 years
Subwatershed	Humber River
Average Water Clarity	2.5 m

These critters are residents at Lake Wilcox

Keep track of the animals that your family sees

Amphibians & Reptiles

- Bullfrog
- Northern Leopard Frog
- Painted Turtle
- Garter Snake
- American Toad

Birds

- Red-winged Blackbird
- Osprey
- Great Horned Owl
- Mallard Duck
- Ring-Billed Gull
- Great Blue Heron
- Blue Jay

Mammals

- Eastern Grey Squirrel
- Muskrat
- Mink
- Beaver

Fish

- Northern Pike
- Large-Mouth Bass
- Bluntnose Minnow
- Brown Bullhead
- Sunfish
- Black Crappie



LEGEND:

- Park (Hours of Operation - 7 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.)
 - Open Space
 - Pedestrian Trail
 - On Road Bicycle Route
 - Proposed Trail
 - Dam
 - Lake Wilcox Community Centre
 - No Boating
 - No Fishing
 - Picnic Area
 - Parking
 - School
 - Skating Area
 - Swimming Area
 - Storm Water Management Facility
 - Washrooms
 - Water Monitoring Station
- (* NOT OFFICIALLY NAMED)



Lake Wilcox Contact Numbers

Water Quality, Remediation Strategy
Environmental Coordinator(905) 771-8800
Community Events, Naturalization, Wildlife
Natural Heritage Specialist(905) 771-8870
York Regional Police(905) 773-1221
Emergencies911

Tree Pruning, Tree Disease
Urban Forestry Supervisor(905) 884-8013
Park Maintenance, Security
Parks Area Supervisor(905) 884-8013
Beach Lifeguarding
Manager of Aquatics(905) 508-5995
Boating Safety, Boat Driver Licensing
Lifesaving Society(416) 490-8844

Water Bacteria Testing
York Region Water Line1-877-464-9675
Environmental Spill Reporting
Ministry of the Environment1-800-268-6060
Fishing
Ministry of Natural Resources(905) 713-7400
Parking Enforcement
Parking Control Coordinator(905) 771-8860

