



# Macatawa Watershed Project

Macatawa Watershed Project is a program of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council.

**Watershed:** an area of land that drains to a common point.

**Macatawa Watershed:** All the land that drains to Lake Macatawa, including all or part of Laketown, Fillmore, Overisel, Holland, Park, Zeeland, Port Sheldon, Olive and Blendon Townships and the cities of Holland and Zeeland. The Macatawa watershed is experiencing hazardous levels of phosphorus, a naturally occurring element present in fertilizer and plant decay. Excess phosphorus causes too many plants to grow in the water. These plants mature and die, robbing the water of oxygen, causing fish and plants to die which creates more phosphorus. The cycle continues and the water quality deteriorates.

**Macatawa Watershed Project:** A nonprofit project administered by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council with the goal to reduce the amount of phosphorus in Lake Macatawa by approximately 70% by 2009.

## 2010 Lawn Care & Landscaping Companies Awarded The Macatawa Watershed Seal Of Approval

AAA Lawn Care

Aesthetic Gardener LLC

Brookview Lawn Care

Carefree Lawn Service

Hollandia Gardens

Landscape Design Services, Inc.

Mr. Greenthumb Landscaping & Lawn Care

Perma Green Lawn Care, Inc.



To receive the Seal of Approval, a lawn care or landscaping company must complete the following list of criteria:

- The company makes every attempt to use no phosphorus fertilizer, limiting the use of phosphorus fertilizer to cases of (1) starting a new lawn from seed, (2) patching/repairing a lawn with seed, (3) after a soil test has shown a phosphorus deficiency and it is required for the health of the lawn.
- Prior to applying fertilizer, the lawn is measured and the resident or property owner is given a diagram of the lawn to ensure the correct amount of fertilizer is applied.
- Grass is cut no shorter than three inches.
- On property near bodies of water a three-foot buffer strip to the body of water is designated to receive no fertilizer.
- All grass clippings and fertilizer are swept or blown off impervious surfaces back onto lawns to prevent runoff into storm drains.
- If grass clippings are taken off site, they are stored properly in an area that is not susceptible to runoff.
- Company makes customer aware of best management practices for water quality (native plants, waterfront landscaping, Best Practices).
- In the case that the resident participates in the maintenance of their lawn, a schedule for watering and mowing is provided by the company.
- If the company is required to be licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture they are in good standing with them.