FACT SHEET

Gorgeous Greenbelt Gardens

A greenbelt is a buffer of vegetation between the water’s edge and a waterfront owner’s lawn. Greenbelt gardens are a gorgeous way to help protect Grand Traverse Bay’s water quality.

Benefits of Greenbelt Gardens:

♦ Protect water quality by controlling stormwater runoff, absorbing excess sediments and nutrients such as phosphorus, and minimizing soil erosion

♦ Add beauty, value, privacy and quiet to shoreline properties

♦ Less costly to maintain than traditional lawns

♦ Attract beautiful birds, butterflies and wildlife

♦ Encourage fish spawning

♦ Deter geese

How to install a greenbelt garden:

♦ The quickest start is to establish a no-mow zone; native grasses and wildflowers will blossom

♦ An effective greenbelt should span at least 75 percent of your shoreline length, and be 20 to 50 feet wide

♦ Plant native plants, which have longer roots to absorb more runoff and pollutants, reduce erosion, and require little if any fertilizers, pesticides and maintenance. Some varieties include Purple Coneflower, Black-Eyed Susans, Dwarf Lilacs, River Birch and Juniper.

♦ Consult local nursery experts