



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