Lake Forest is home to 15 ancient and incredibly unique landscape features called ravines. These tree-covered slopes are part of a dynamic landscape that defines Lake Forest as more than just a city—it is a family-friendly community, blessed with green lands and blue waters.

Lake Forest has grown into today’s vibrant community because generations of residents have embraced our natural surroundings. The flow of our landscape, the natural highs and lows of our lands, is reflected in the curve of our streets and the architecture of our built surroundings.
OUR ACTIONS MATTER

When restored and healthy, our ravines and Lake Michigan beaches are beautiful assets, an integral part of our community’s character, and part of what sets Lake Forest apart.

No matter where you live in Lake Forest, water you use to sprinkle the lawn or wash your car can travel through our ravines and end up in Lake Michigan, our source for drinking water. There are important actions you can take to keep Lake Forest’s ravines—and our Lake Michigan beaches—healthy and beautiful.

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and only when necessary. If you must fertilize, only use fertilizers that are phosphorous-free.
- Reduce stormwater running off your property (and eventually into the ravine) by planting rain gardens and using rain barrels.
- If you wash your car at home, wash on your grass so the hose water will soak into the ground and not wash into the street or gutters.

You can help the City of Lake Forest and partners restore and protect our unique ravine systems and Lake Michigan beaches by volunteering at a work day! These workdays are great opportunities to get your hands dirty while improving our community.

Most of our volunteer efforts will focus on Seminary Ravine, which will serve as a cornerstone demonstration site to further expand ravine education efforts. It will be a working demonstration of the important role ravines play in water quality. To volunteer, visit the Lake Forest Open Lands Association website at www.lfola.org/getinvolved/workinapreserve.aspx.