

A ravine-friendly approach to landscaping to support the integrity of one of the City's key ecosystems, the Lake Michigan watershed, can create and maintain healthy, beautiful and vibrant landscapes by:

- Landscaping in harmony with the natural conditions of the Lake Michigan watershed
- Reducing waste and recycling materials
- Nurturing healthy soils while reducing fertilizer use
- Conserving water, energy and topsoil.
- Using integrated pest management to minimize chemical use
- Reducing stormwater runoff
- Creating wildlife habitat

A well-designed and maintained ravine-friendly landscape can cost less to maintain in the long run by consuming fewer resources.



**R A V I N E S A R E
O U R L E G A C Y**



The City of Lake Forest

Parks & Forestry

800 North Field Drive
Lake Forest, IL 60045

www.cityoflakeforest.com

847-810-3565

myersc@cityoflakeforest.com

While the City and nonprofit groups are actively restoring ravines on public property, homeowners own most of the ravines in Lake Forest. Whether your home is next to a ravine or your property extends all the way down into a ravine, there are important actions you can take to keep Lake Forest's ravines healthy and beautiful.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

BUFFERS

- Add a buffer of native plants along the entire length of your property adjacent to the ravine. Use native savanna and prairie plants with a diverse selection of species.
- Keep turf grass, play sets and pools at least 10 feet from the top edge of a ravine to prevent erosion.
- Keep fences out of the ravines; they not only ruin the beautiful vistas that ravines provide, but also increase the potential for erosion and limit natural animal migrations.

DRAINAGE

- Reduce stormwater running off your property into the ravine by planting rain gardens and using rain barrels.

- Minimize water use with irrigation sprinklers, especially near the top edge of a ravine.

SURFACES

- Limit paved areas along ravines. Use porous paving or permeable materials wherever possible.

YARD WASTE

- Never dump yard waste like leaves, branches, grass clipping or mulch into ravines. Compost yard wastes yourself or dispose of at the City Compost Center.

LAWN CARE

- Let grass height reach at least 3 inches before mowing.
- Hand pick weeds, rather than using herbicides.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly and only when necessary. If you must fertilize, only use fertilizers that are phosphorous-free.
- Aerate your lawn on a regular basis.

