

Greenbelt Cost Share Project

If you own property along Burt, Crooked, Pickerel, or Douglas Lakes, you have a unique chance to help protect your shoreline and the entire lake ecosystem through the Burt Lake Watershed Greenbelt Cost Share Project. Many homeowners may not realize the long-term benefits of establishing greenbelts—strips of native plants along the shoreline that act as natural defenders for the lake.

Greenbelts play a vital role in protecting water quality. When rainwater runs off lawns or driveways, it often carries pollutants like fertilizers, pesticides, and sediments into the lake. These can harm fish and wildlife and degrade water quality over time. By planting native species that act as a filter, greenbelts help trap these pollutants before they reach the water, while also reducing erosion along the shoreline. In addition, greenbelts provide valuable habitats for birds, fish, and other wildlife, contributing to a healthier lake ecosystem.

Through the Greenbelt Cost Share Program, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is making it easier for property owners to implement these natural solutions. The program offers up to 50% reimbursement (up to \$2,000) to homeowners who restore or create greenbelts using native plants. It's a great opportunity to enhance your property while directly supporting the lake's health. Whether your shoreline has suffered erosion, or you want to improve your land's ecological impact, this program can help offset costs and provide guidance.

Homeowners can participate by following a simple process: apply for the program, develop a planting plan, complete the project, and receive reimbursement. You don't have to be an expert, either—the Watershed Council provides resources and advice to help you choose the right plants and design a greenbelt that works for your property.

Protecting the lakes we love is a community effort, and programs like this one are key to keeping our waters clean for generations to come. If you've ever considered making improvements to your shoreline, now is the time! Not only will you enhance your property, but you'll also play an important role in preserving the natural beauty and health of the entire Burt Lake Watershed.

Learn more about how to apply for the program and start planning your greenbelt:
<https://watershedcouncil.org/projects/burt-lake-watershed-greenbelt-cost-share-project/>