

# You can help protect our waters.

How to protect our waters — starting with your lake-shore property.



## Permeable solutions for impervious Surfaces.

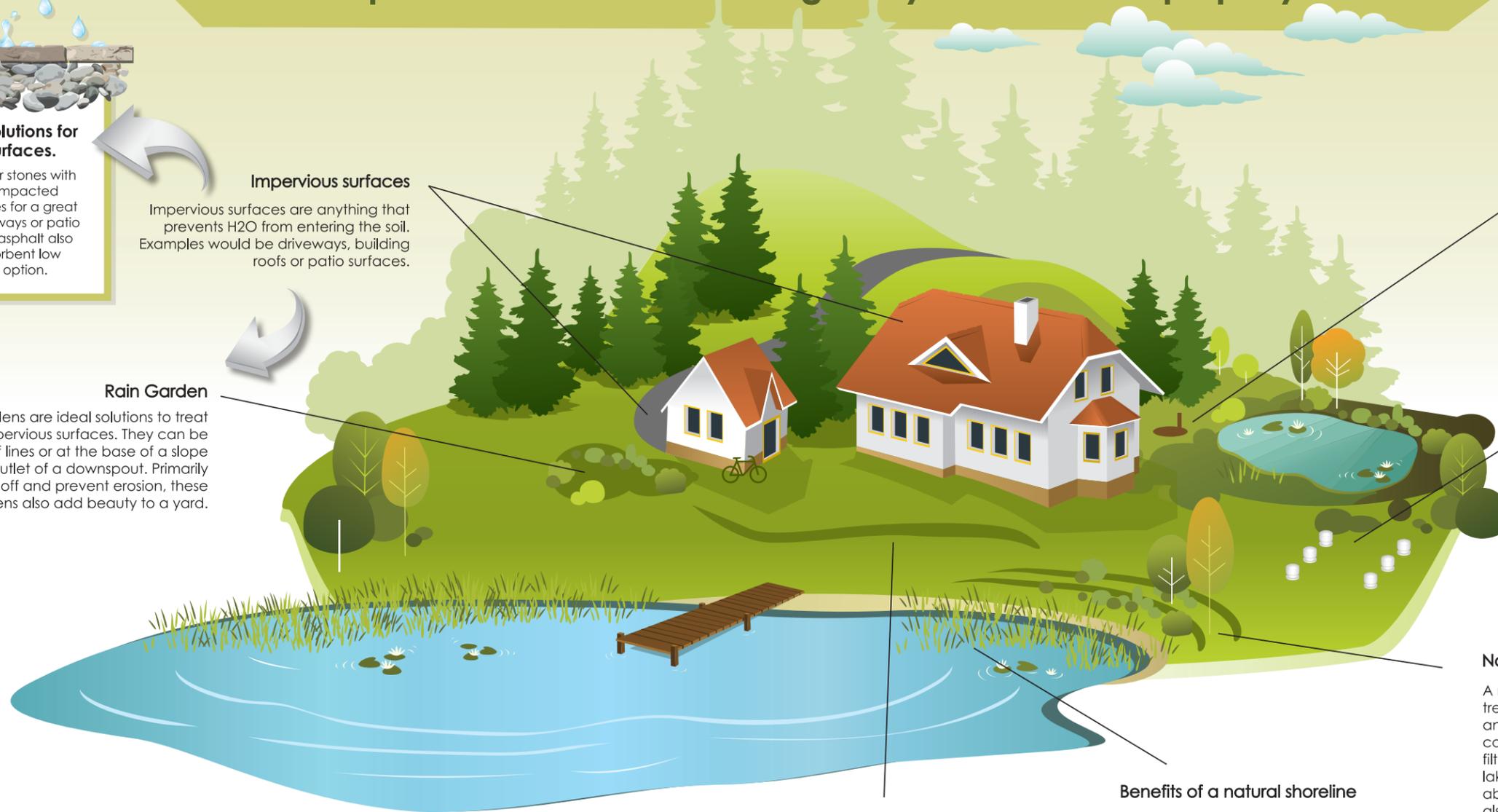
Permeable paver stones with a sub layer of compacted aggregate makes for a great solution for driveways or patio surfaces. Porous asphalt also provides an absorbent low impact driveway option.

## Impervious surfaces

Impervious surfaces are anything that prevents H<sub>2</sub>O from entering the soil. Examples would be driveways, building roofs or patio surfaces.

## Rain Garden

Rain gardens are ideal solutions to treat runoff from impervious surfaces. They can be placed near roof lines or at the base of a slope or even at the outlet of a downspout. Primarily built to catch runoff and prevent erosion, these gardens also add beauty to a yard.



## Abandoned wells

Crow Wing County participates on local wellhead protection planning teams and also helps to identify unused and abandoned wells in sensitive groundwater areas. We encourage and offer incentives for landowners to properly seal unused wells.

## Septic system maintenance.

Crow Wing County encourages landowners with septic systems to have their systems assessed for maintenance every three years. We promote proper septic and waste disposal practices. We also provide landowners with helpful information on available financial assistance programs for septic system upgrades.

## Natural buffer to prevent run-off

A natural buffer can be the placement of shrubs, trees and other native plants along a lakeshore or simply an area that is not mowed or maintained. These buffers can reinforce the natural shoreline buffers as an additional filter for runoff and lawn pollutants before it reaches your lakeshore. The roots from larger shrubs and trees can absorb nutrients and serve to slow erosion. The leaves will also shade your shoreline keeping water temperatures cooler for amphibians, fish, and aquatic insects.

## Benefits of a natural shoreline

Natural shorelines are essential to the ecosystems that sustains wildlife and fish. A natural shoreline also reduces runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. These plants provide shelter for songbirds, waterfowl and other animals. Natural shorelines will also minimize erosion from wave action and help to maintain lake water quality.

## Berm to catch run-off

A berm or a slightly raised ridge can be used to limit and store rain runoff from steep slopes and/or direct water to a rain garden.

# CROW WING COUNTY 2013-2023 WATER PLAN

A Watershed Protection Approach to Local Water Management

