Clean Water Begins in Your Yard
Reduce HABs, flooding, sequester carbon, increase biodiversity

Your landscaping practices may be contributing to harmful algal blooms or HABs.

What to Do in Your Own Yard to Help

- don't use lawn fertilizers with phosphates
- reduce turf grass by planting no-mow native species lawns, areas of native plants, native trees & shrubs
- plant rain gardens
- disconnect downspouts or redirect them into yards or rain barrels
- install permeable pavement
- pick up pet waste
- keep dead leaves and other yard debris out of stormwater drains

Resources:
- www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/what-you-can-do-soak-rain
- www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure
- homegrownnationalpark.org
- www.cleanlakesalliance.org/leaves/

Keep Rain and Snow Where It Falls

In developed areas, impervious surfaces (pavement, roofs, etc.) and turf grass prevent precipitation from soaking into the ground where it can be filtered and replenish aquifers or flow into waterways. Instead, stormwater runs rapidly into storm drains, sewer systems and drainage ditches and can cause:

- Downstream flooding and infrastructure damage
- Stream bank erosion and water turbidity
- Combined storm and sanitary sewer system overflows
- Contaminated streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal water
- Nutrient pollution and resulting HABs- Harmful Algal Blooms

Contact: Gloria Charland
Sierra Club Toxics Team
HABs Sub-team
gloria.charland@illinois.sierraclub.org

Rain garden at the VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System facility in Leeds, MA (Photo Credit - U.S. Air Force)