



## **7 Easy Ways to Protect Itasca County's Waters**

- Safely dispose of toxic materials such as gasoline, antifreeze, and paint thinner at the Itasca County Transfer Station. Drop off old and unused medications at the Itasca County Sheriff's Office or Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital Pharmacy.
- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains. These outlets drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- Slow down water that flows into our waters. This helps control soil erosion and allows for natural filtration. Slow the flow by planting more trees, creating rain gardens, reducing lawns near the water, and by replacing lawn grass with plants that have large root systems.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides on lawns sparingly or not at all as they can flow into our waters and harm our earth, animals, and people.
- Have your septic inspected annually and pumped out at least every three years.
- Clean, drain, and dry your boat after each lake you visit to prevent aquatic invasive species from spreading into our lakes.
- Talk with others about ways we can help keep Itasca waters clean.