



From Shoreline to Solution

Lake-Friendly Fixes You Can Do Yourself

June 5, 2026

Kat Kelleher, Conservation Program Coordinator, NH LAKES



Today's Agenda

What Makes a BMP
Lake-Friendly?

Best Management Practices

Plantings We Pick

Resources (throughout)

Questions





What Does BMP Mean?

Best management practices (BMPs)

are conventional and innovative strategies that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing sediment and nutrient pollution from stormwater runoff.

Conventional: the use of features and projects installed to manage stormwater runoff.

Innovative: the use of and care for soil, plants, and natural resources to manage stormwater runoff.



What Makes a BMP Lake-Friendly?

- Mimics the natural hydrology of the area
- Cools, slows down, and captures stormwater
- Keeps added nutrients from making it to the lake
- Prevents erosion of soils





Cyanobacteria in the Lake

Blooms:

- Threaten public health
- Impair recreation
- Harm pets and wildlife
- Affect business revenues
- Discourage tourism
- Decrease property values





What “Feeds” Cyanobacteria

Sunshine

+

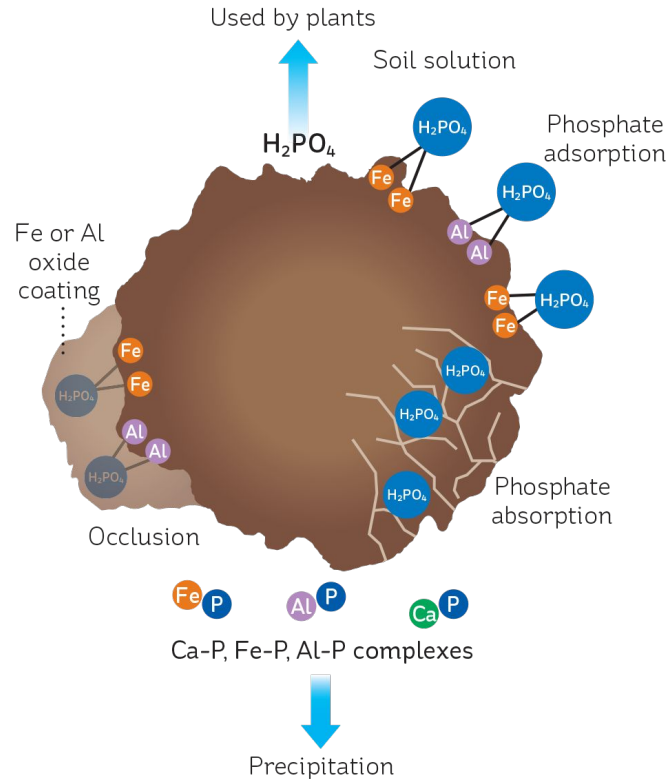
Increase Nutrients (P+N) = Cyanobacteria Bloom

+

Warm Water

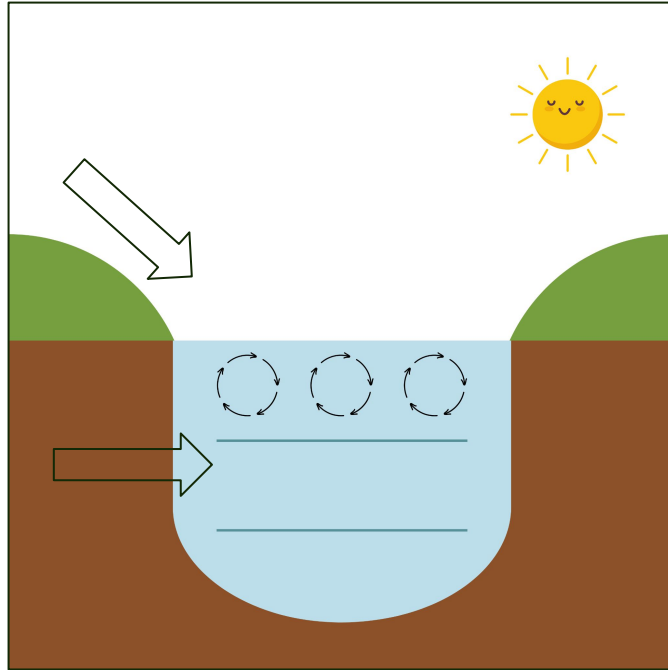


What “Feeds” Cyanobacteria





What “Feeds” Cyanobacteria





Polluted Runoff is More Than Water

- Nutrients
- Sand and Soil
- Pollutants
- Heat

Me, getting ready to sweep up excess salt after a snow storm:



Where can we make a difference?



- **Your Property:** areas of your land influencing the lake
- **Your Home:** structures and systems, possible sources of polluted water
- **Your Lifestyle:** everyday life and personal practices at the lake





Maintain your septic system

- Plan your winter storage
- Keep your leach field clear of woody vegetation
- Get regular pump-outs AND inspections
- Don't park vehicles on your leach field
- Know what to flush





Preventing and Detecting Failure



How can we plan our for our homes to be lake-friendly ?



**Slow it Down
Cool it Off
Soak it Up**





A Local Resource: Soak Up the Rain New Hampshire

Soak UP the Rain.
New Hampshire

www.soaknh.des.nh.gov



New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions

- Sizing and design
- Installation
- Maintenance



NEW HAMPSHIRE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

DO-IT-YOURSELF STORMWATER SOLUTIONS
FOR YOUR HOME



NOVEMBER 2019

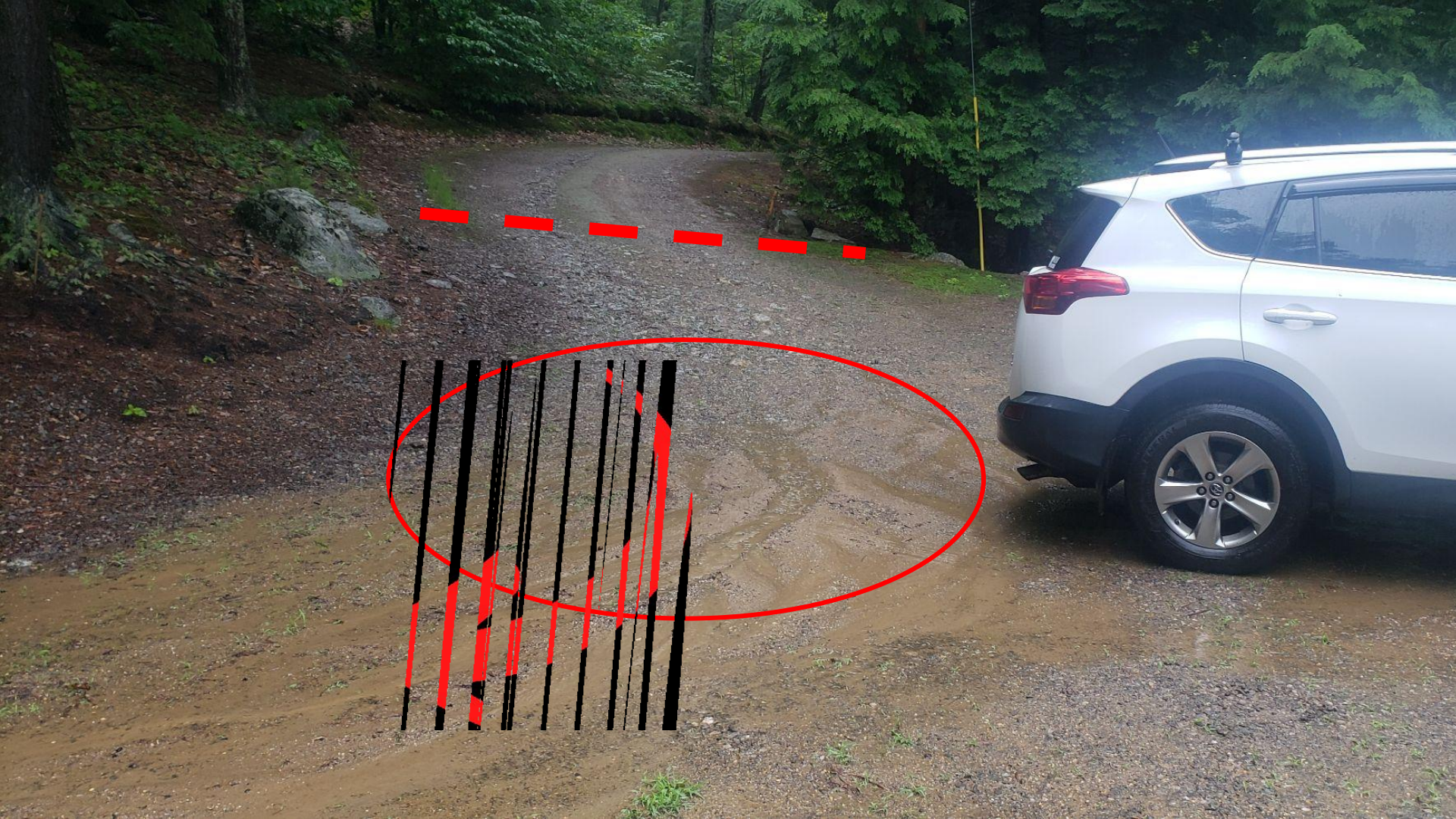


How do we approach new designs?



Driveway Infiltration Trenches



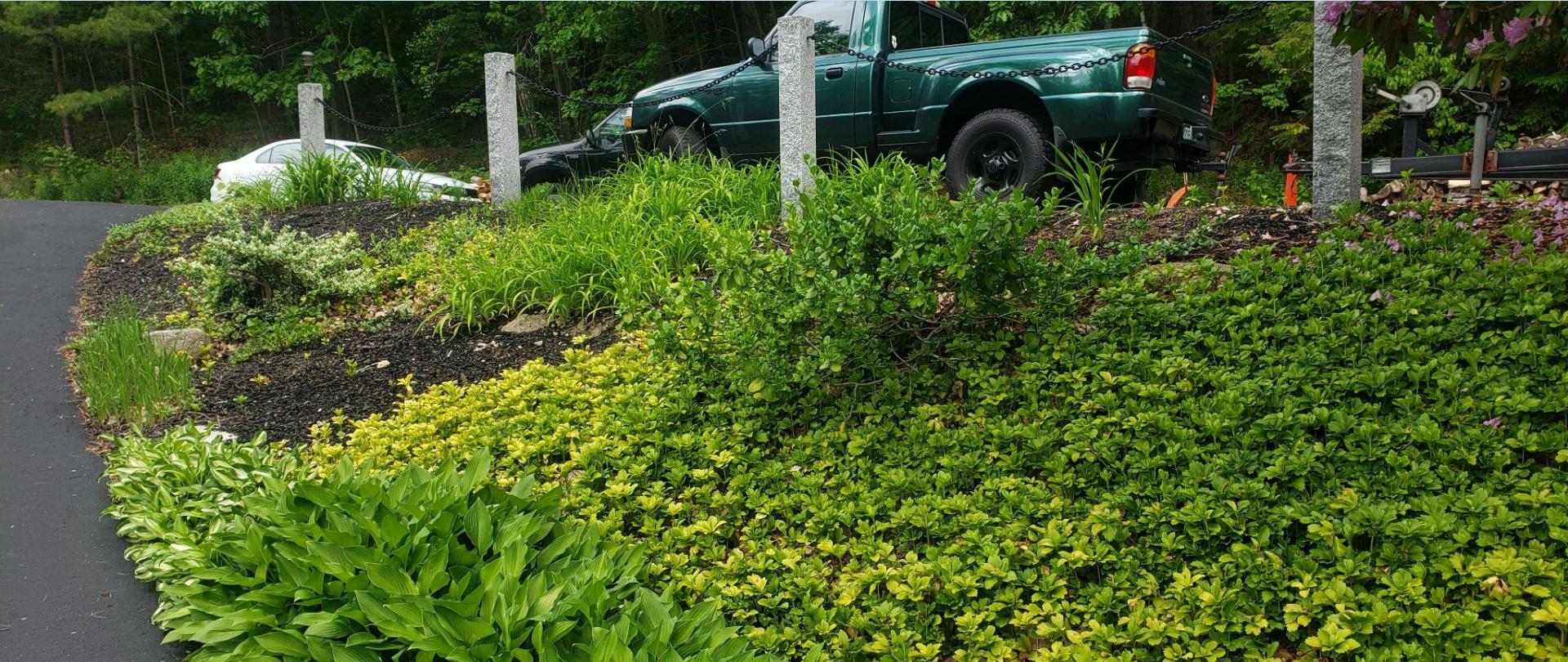




Rubber Razors, Waterbars, and Firehose Diverters



Driveway Vegetation





Dripline Infiltration Trenches





Gutters Generate Energy



Rain Barrels and Rain Chains





Downspout Management





Drywells





Drywells





Infiltration Steps, Paths, and Walkways





Define, Curve, and Stabilized Walkways





Pervious Pavers and Patios



Dry Creek Beds and Stone Gardens



Rain Gardens



To Garden or Not To Garden...

1. Does water soak into the ground here?
2. What water problem is the garden solving?
3. Is there room for a garden of the appropriate size?
4. Will the garden survive a drought?

Infiltration Test



- Dig a 12-inch deep hole.
- Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain completely.
- If it does not drain in 24 hours, or fills with water, find a new location.
- Fill a second time and place a ruler in the hole. Find the rate of infiltration. We want at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch/hour.



Rain Gardens and Site Constraints



- Rocks
- Roots
- Utilities





Lake-Friendly Lawn Care

- Water from the lake
- Test your soil
- Allow native flowers to naturalize the lawn
- Surround lawn areas with plantings
- Let corners regrow for privacy and extra roots!





No Mow and Flower Garden Areas



Planted, stabilized shoreland area



Small Changes Have Large Impacts



Vegetated Buffers and Maintaining Viewsheds Thoughtfully





Selecting Plants To Do It All

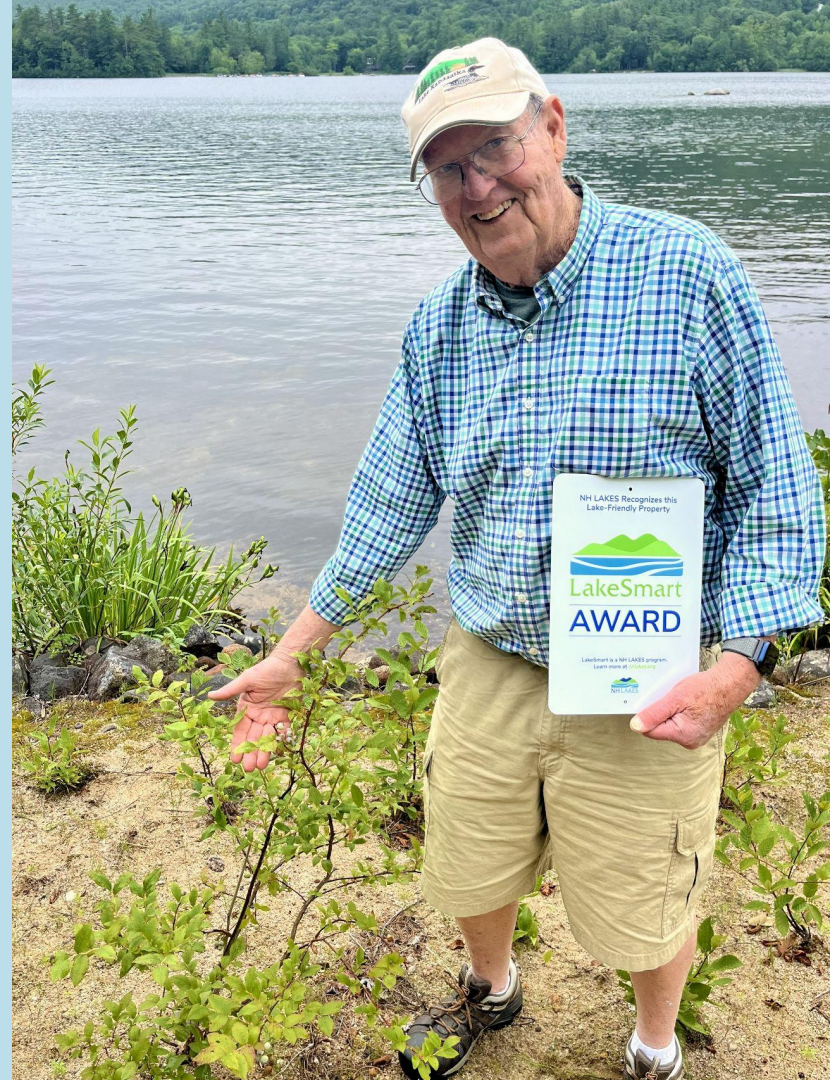
- Healthy root systems to create paths for water infiltration
- Grow without added fertilizers, pesticides, or other inputs
- Native and adapted for low inputs
- Fit the needs of the homeowner
- Fit the requirements of the site





Planting Considerations

- Adaptable to the site and soil conditions
- Wildlife value
- Color, form, and texture
- Growth habit
- Ornamental interest
- Rain garden zones



Welcome to Garden Plant Finder!
Here you can discover plants native to New England that will thrive in your garden and meet your needs.

Search for plants by name using "quick search," or narrow your results based on plant type, flower color, [New England Level 3 ecoregion](#), exposure, moisture, bloom season, and even [cultivation status](#). Specify whether to show results that meet *all* or *any* of your search criteria by toggling the box at the bottom of the page. You can also use our search tool range of plants sold at Garden in the Woods and Nasami Farm.

Check out our [Important Definitions](#) page to learn more about ecoregions, cultivation status, and why certain plants are included in this database.

Note: This site is still under development, and is being regularly updated and improved to make it a more comprehensive resource. To alert us of site functionality problems, please contact ulorimer@nativeplanttrust.org.

 Quick Search

Plant Type/Program:

- ANY TYPE
- Annual
- Biennial
- Edible
- Fern
- Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes
- Groundcover
- Ornamental Grass
- Perennial
- Shrub

Ctrl-click (Mac users ⌘ click) to select multiple types to include in the search.

Flower Color:

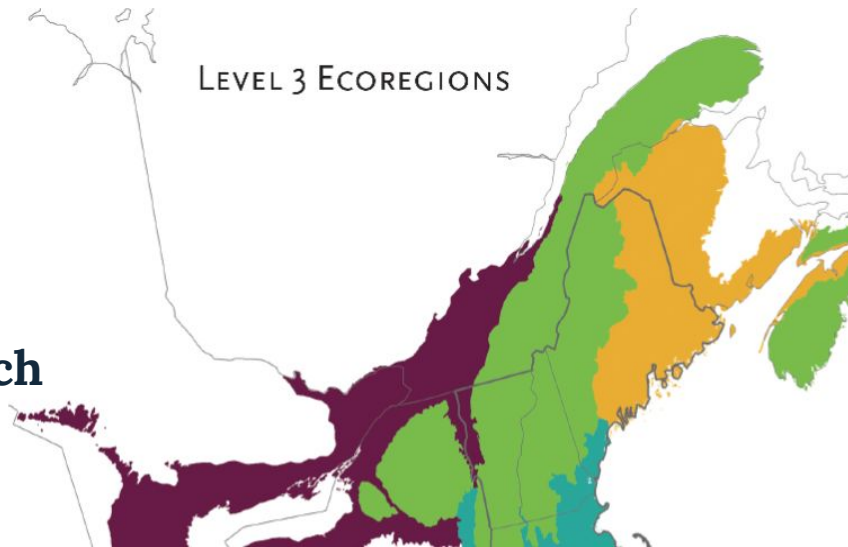
- ANY TYPE
- Blue
- Green
- Insignificant
- Maroon
- Non-Flowering
- Orange
- Pink
- Purple
- Red

Ctrl-click (Mac users ⌘ click) to select multiple types to include in the search.

Height:
 Inches ▼

Spread:
 Inches ▼

LEVEL 3 ECOREGIONS



plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search



Native Plant Trust Garden Plant Finder

Cultivation Status

- Cultivar
- Selection
- Species

Ornamental Interest

- Spring Bloom
- Summer Bloom
- Fall Bloom
- Summer Fruit
- Fall/Winter Fruit
- Fall Foliage
- Winter Interest and/or Evergreen

Growth Habit

- Compact/Clumping
- Spreading/Suckering
- Show only plants having **ALL** checked characteristics above
- Show plants having **ANY** checked characteristics above

Exposure

- Sun
- Part Shade
- Shade

Attracts Wildlife

- Attracts Bees
- Pollinator Powerhouse Plant
- Attracts Butterflies
- Host Plant
- Attracts Songbirds
- Attracts Hummingbirds
- Other Pollinators/Wildlife

Soil Moisture

- Dry
- Average
- Wet

Tolerance

- Deer/Rabbit Resistant
- Drought Tolerant
- Salt Tolerant
- Urban Environment
- Compaction Tolerant

Landscape Use

- Groundcover
- Hedge/screening
- Massing
- Specimen
- Rain Garden
- Meadow garden
- Naturalize
- Rock garden

Ecoregion

- (58) Northeastern Highlands
- (59) Northeastern Coastal Zone
- (82) Acadian Plains and Hills
- (83) Eastern Great Lakes Lowlands
- (84) Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens
- Not Ecotypic in New England

Additional Attributes

- Edible
- Low Maintenance
- Spring Ephemeral
- Dioecious (fruits only on female plants)
- Fragrant
- Erosion Control/Soil Stabilization

Attractive Fall Foliage and/or Ornamental Fruit

- Red Fruit
- Red to Purple Fall Foliage
- Orange to Brown Fall Foliage
- Bright Yellow to Bronze Fall Foliage
- Blue Fruit
- Multi Color Fall Foliage
- Purple to Black Fruit
- White Fruit
- Orange to Yellow Fruit









NH State Forest Nursery

an official NEW HAMPSHIRE government website

NH STATE FOREST NURSERY
QUALITY SEEDLINGS SINCE 1910

Home Online Store About Us Links Shipping Contact Us

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS
www.nh.gov/nhdfl

Common Winterberry Holly Seedling

Search This Website

WELCOME...
to one of New Hampshire's treasures. We exist under authority of RSA 227-H:2 to raise and sell seedlings to "...persons who desire to plant them". Our goal is to provide customers with the highest quality, bare-root seedlings for forestry, conservation and education purposes at attractive prices. We believe we have achieved that goal.

Me, excitedly ordering native plants from the state nursery before spring:





Don't Neglect Your Overstory



Consider the layers of the property

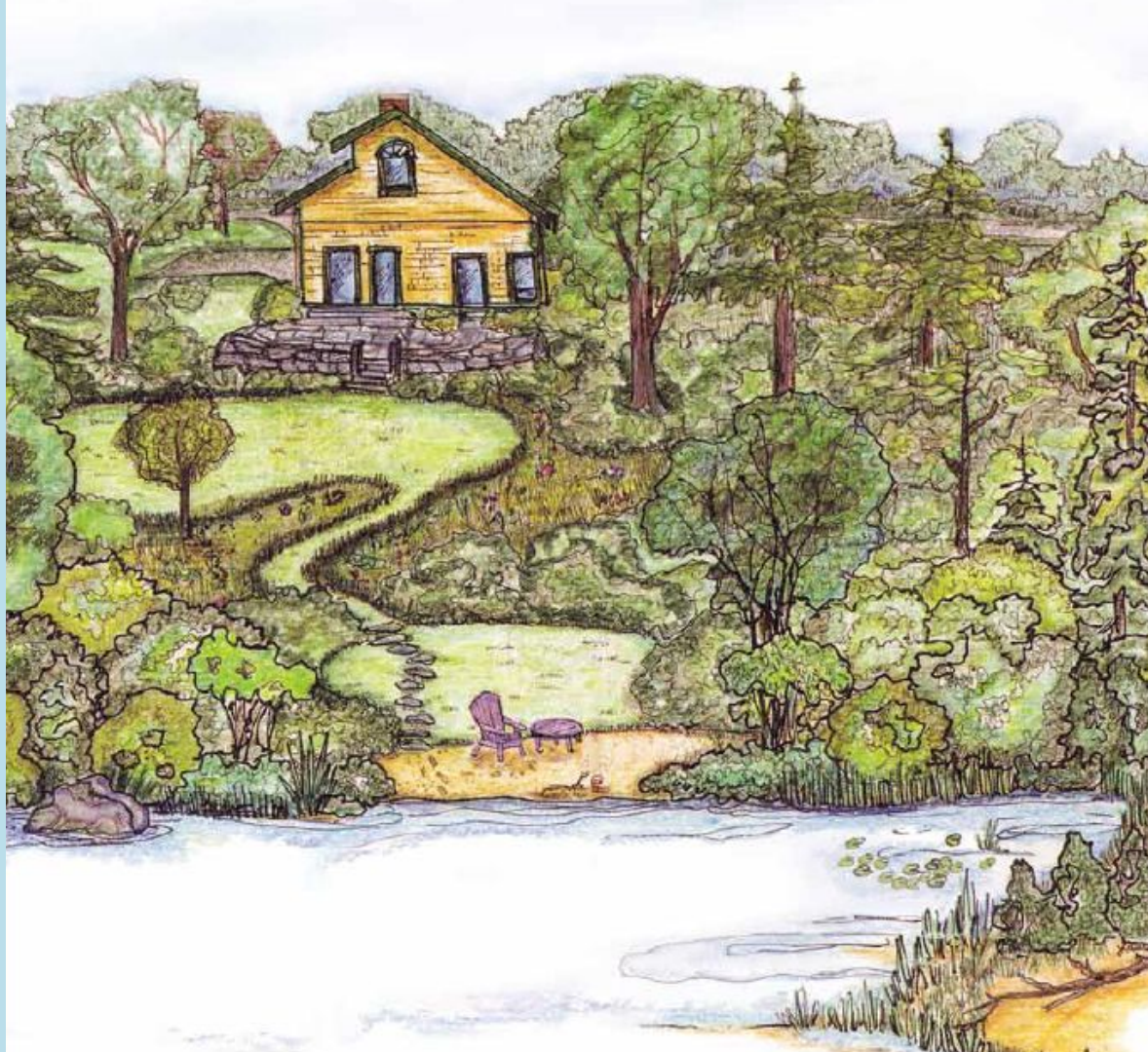
- Canopy (overstory) trees
- Understory trees
- Shrubs
- Herbaceous plants
- Ground covers
- Litter layer





Landscaping at the Water's Edge

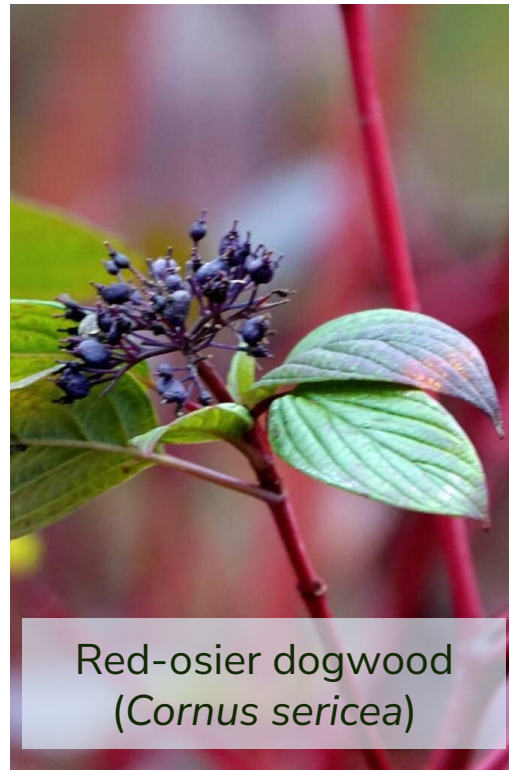
- How water moves on the property
- Design and planting processes
- How to approach developing a property's ecological health





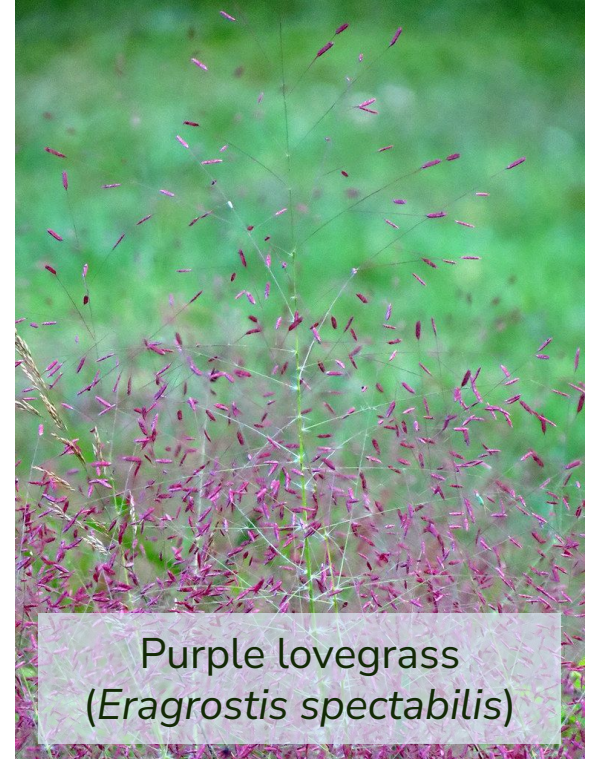


Salt Tolerant Plants Near Roadways and Snow Storage

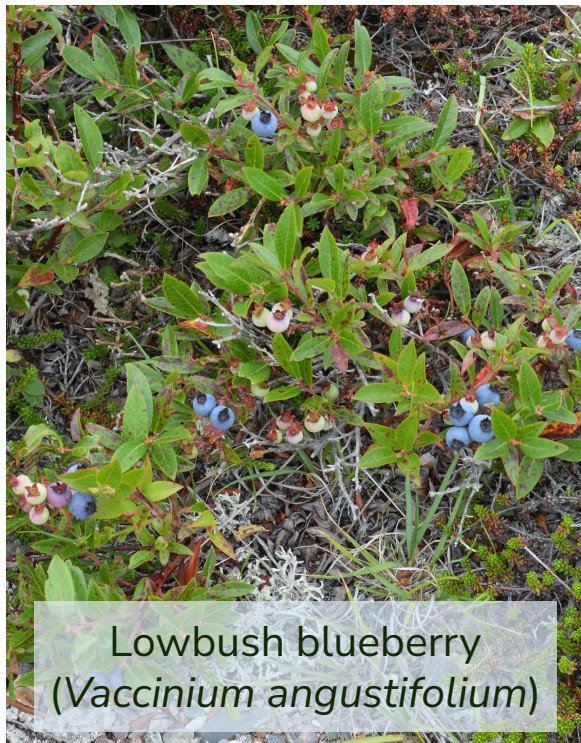




Ornamental Grasses



Beloved Shrubs



Lowbush blueberry
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)



Sweet pepper-bush
(*Clethra alnifolia*)



Buttonbush
(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



Planting the Slopes of New Hampshire



Perennials



Marsh marigold
(*Caltha palustris*)



Blue flag iris
(*Iris versicolor*)



Joe-pye weed
(*Eutrochium maculatum*)



New England aster
(*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)



Turtlehead
(*Chelone*)





Questions?





Contact us

Kat Kelleher (they/them)
Conservation Program Coordinator
NH LAKES

kkelleher@nhlakes.org

603.226.0299

Get homeowners started at nhlakes.org/lakesmart