



# Communities Making Lake-Friendly Living The Norm

Lakes Congress, June 5, 2025

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Beth Olshansky, Mendums Pond Community



## Agenda

1. Lake-friendly living in numbers: Community-based action matters - Brea Arvidson, NH LAKES
2. LakeSmart Community Program - Kat Kelleher, NH LAKES
3. Setting an example: Mendums Pond Community - Beth Olshansky



In 2019, we launched the LakeSmart Program to teach people, like you, how to save the lake they love.







The goal? Educate and equip property owners with the knowledge to make informed, lake-friendly choices on their property.



# What Does The LakeSmart Program Look At?



- Driveways and parking areas
- Yard, recreation areas, and footpaths
- Shoreline and water access
- Structures and wastewater treatment system
- Your lake-friendly habits





**Lake-friendly projects: Defined, stabilized walkways**





**Lake-friendly projects: drainage for hard surfaces**





**Lake-friendly projects: Planted, stabilized shoreland area**





In 5 years, we've seen neighbors come together to build a culture around lake-friendly living.





## **Regarding LakeSmart:**

“I have lived on this road for 13 years and this is the first time I have seen the neighbors communicating with each other...”.

- Beth Olshansky





## Community-based action works.

- Cost-share projects or purchases with neighbors
- Build relationships with local businesses, supporting your local economy
- Build a relationship with your municipality - they're community members too!





## Community-based action works.

- Apply for local, state, and federal funding
- Celebrate achievements
- Create a community to work with







## Communities in Action: Septic system improvements



- AWWA and Province Lake have been running septic-replacement cost sharing programs for the last few years
- NHDES Section 319 grant funds are dispersed to the community via sub-grants
- Homeowners receive up to ~\$5,000



## Become a LakeSmart Community

**LakeSmart is a community driven program:** Through the LakeSmart Community Program, neighbors come together to build a culture of lake-friendly living.







**LakeSmart Community Award:** When 15% of individual property owners in the community have earned the LakeSmart Award.







## LakeSmart Ambassador

LakeSmart Ambassadors help promote lake-friendly living and support their community's efforts to earn the LakeSmart Community Award.







## LakeSmart Ambassador Duties

- Community Engagement
- Program Promotion and Outreach
- Event Planning and Coordination





**Starting Your LakeSmart Community**





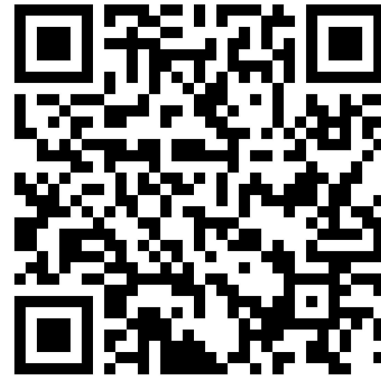
## Apply to be a LakeSmart Community

- Provide leadership information
- Confirm or establish your community's geographic boundary
- Set additional Community Goals



LakeSmart

Lake-friendly living for  
clean and healthy lakes.





## Get Your Community Involved:

- LakeSmart Ambassadors promote the LakeSmart Program.
- Property owners learn about lake-friendly living practices, and work to achieve the individual LakeSmart Award.

NH LAKES Recognizes this Community  
Dedicated to Lake-Friendly Living



LakeSmart is a NH LAKES program.  
Learn more at [nhlakes.org](https://nhlakes.org)







## LakeSmart Portal

- Personalized Profile
- Interactive action items
- Online LakeSmart Resource Library







# Plan a Property Tour Day!

Ambassadors work  
with NH LAKES to plan  
a day of LakeSmart  
property tours in your  
community.





# Beth Olshansky and the Mendums Pond Community





# Don't forget!

- LakeSmart is FREE
- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory
- And, it's fun!





# Contact us

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**Get started at [nhlakes.org/lakesmart](https://nhlakes.org/lakesmart)**