

Tips for Lake-Friendly Living

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Lakes Congress 2023



We are the voice for all of New Hampshire's 1,000 lakes.





**Our mission is to
restore and
preserve the lakes
we all love!**



Photo Credit: D. Clark



New Hampshire is home to some of the cleanest & healthiest lakes & ponds in the country.



It's not just environmental...

A healthy lake
protects your quality
of life, tourism
industry, and local
economy.





One of the most irrational things we can do is pretend our lakes will take care of themselves.





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 choices.

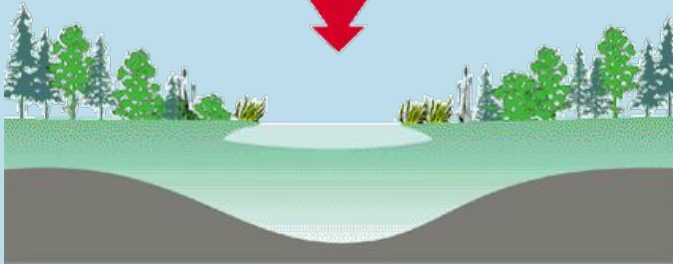
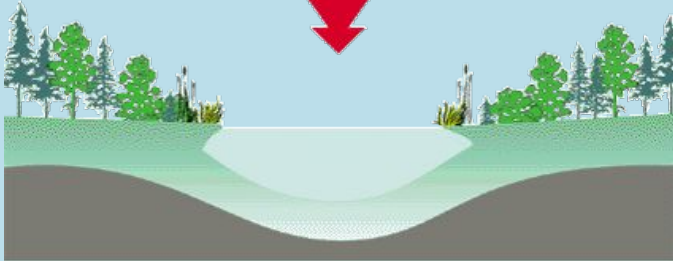
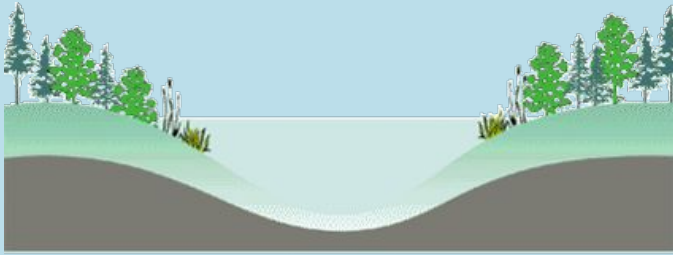


Did you know?

Lakes age over time...

Just like us!





Decaying plants, algae,
and sediment...

**Your lake will fill in
overtime!**

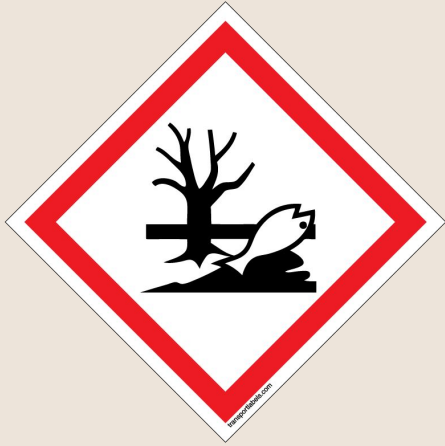
But human activities
speed up this process.

Dirt and sand....



- Smother aquatic habitats.
- Carry phosphorus that encourages growth of plants, algae, and toxic cyanobacteria.
- Fill in the lake and makes it shallower.
- Makes the lake mucky!

Hidden sources of the nutrients that fertilize our lakes and cause toxic cyanobacteria:



- Rain and snow runoff
- Wind
- Compost and cow manure
- Organic or “all natural” garden amendments
- Dyed mulch
- Hydro-seeding
- Urine from pets and people
- Septic systems
- Cleaning products



...it's no wonder our lakes are suffering.



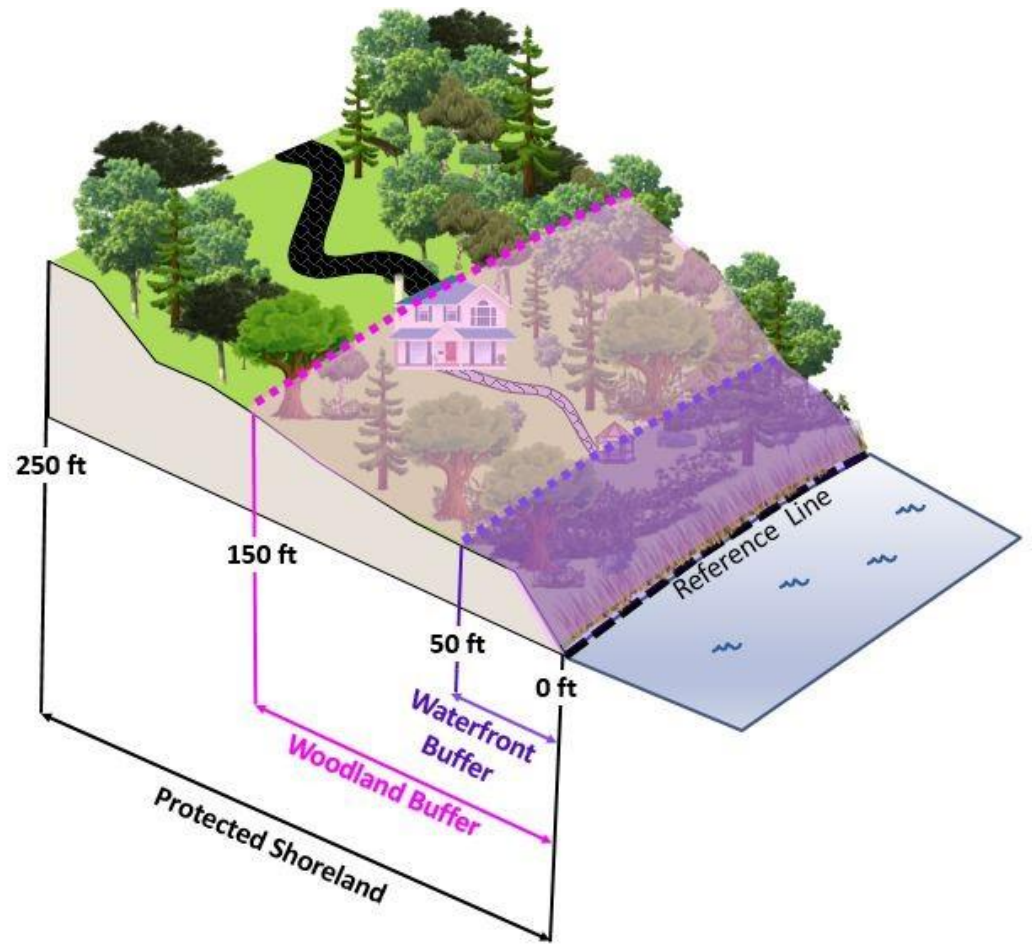
You can protect your lake year-round with a lake-friendly lifestyle.





250 feet Protected Shoreland Area

The Protected Shoreland Area is broken down into segments with unique rules aimed at keeping your lake healthy.





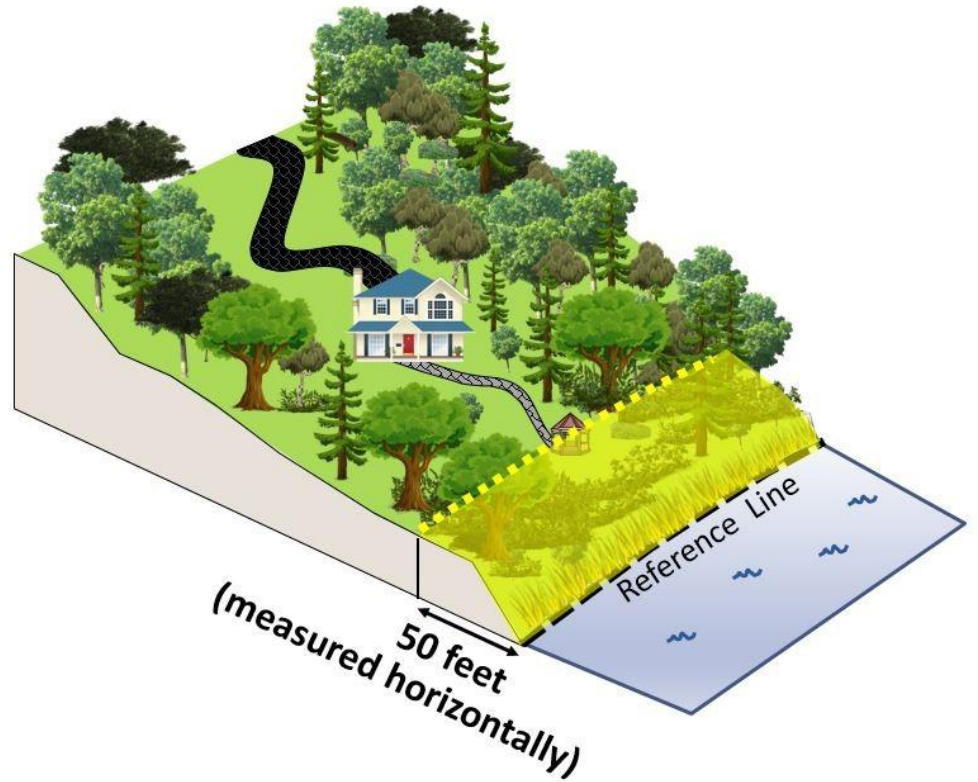
Within 50 feet of the water

No pesticides.

No herbicides.

No fertilizers.

Not even “natural” ones!





Extension

[Agriculture & Gardens](#) › [Pest, Disease & Growing Tools](#) › [Soil Testing Services](#)

**AGRICULTURE &
GARDENS**

Farmer Support
Networks +

Agricultural Business
Management +

Dairy, Livestock &
Forage Crops +

Food Safety in
Agriculture & Business

Fruit & Vegetable +

Soil Testing Services



**The soil testing service is open! Please
read below for important sample
submission updates.**

UNH Cooperative Extension provides soil analysis and fertilizer



When in doubt? Test your soil!

What else can you do to slow down
lake aging?





**Design your landscapes to capture, cool,
and filter rain and snow melt.**





Strengthen your shoreline with New Hampshire natives.



Elderberry



Joe Pye Weed



Sweet Pepperbush

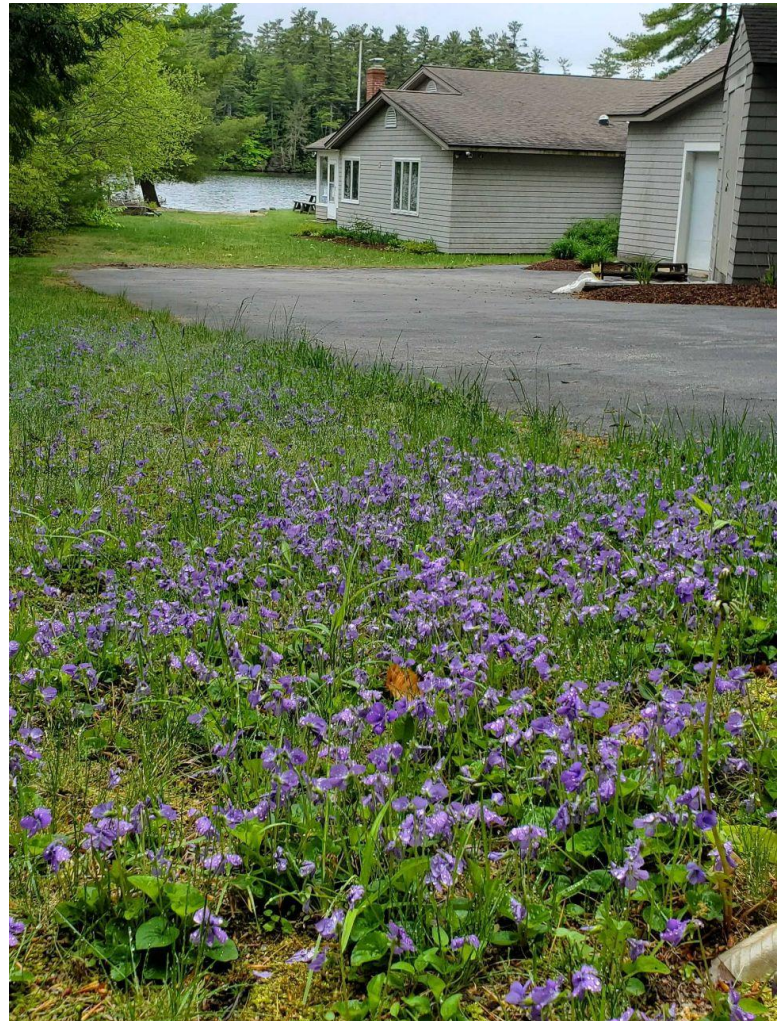
A scenic view of a lake with trees in the foreground and background, and a blue sky. The foreground is filled with lush green foliage, including large-leafed plants and several thin tree trunks. In the background, the calm blue water of the lake stretches towards a distant shoreline under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing text.

Healthy shorelines absorb wave energy, slow down/filter runoff, and provide wildlife habitat.



“Living” lawns:

- Violets
- Yarrow
- Wild phlox
- Dandelions
- Clover
- Milkweed
- Mullein
- Ajuga
- Etc.



Dedicate an area of your unused lawn for a meadow and watch all of the wildflowers and wildlife pop up!





Learn what threatens to take your soil and dump it into the lake!

Wind

Water

Boat traffic

Natural disasters

Invasive species





Cover and protect your precious soil! Use undyed mulch, woodchips, stones, leaves, etc.



Mulch your exposed tree roots too!

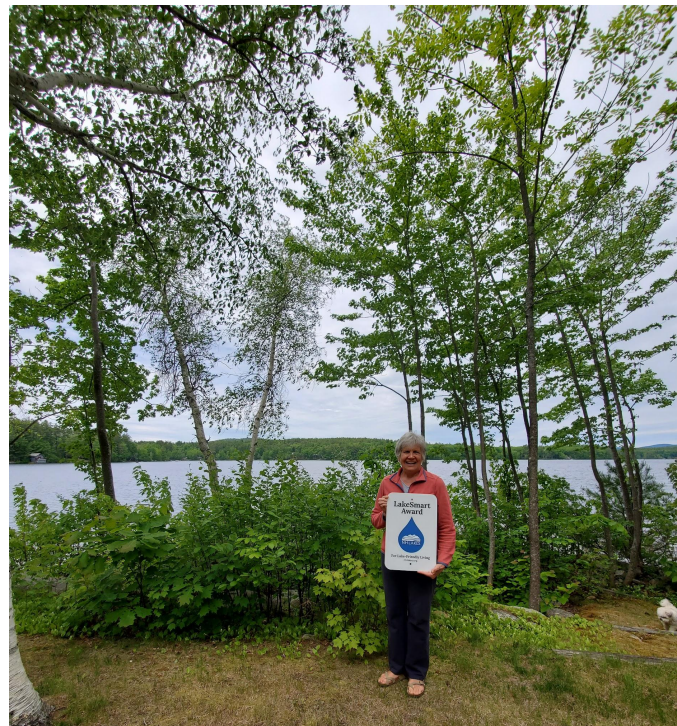
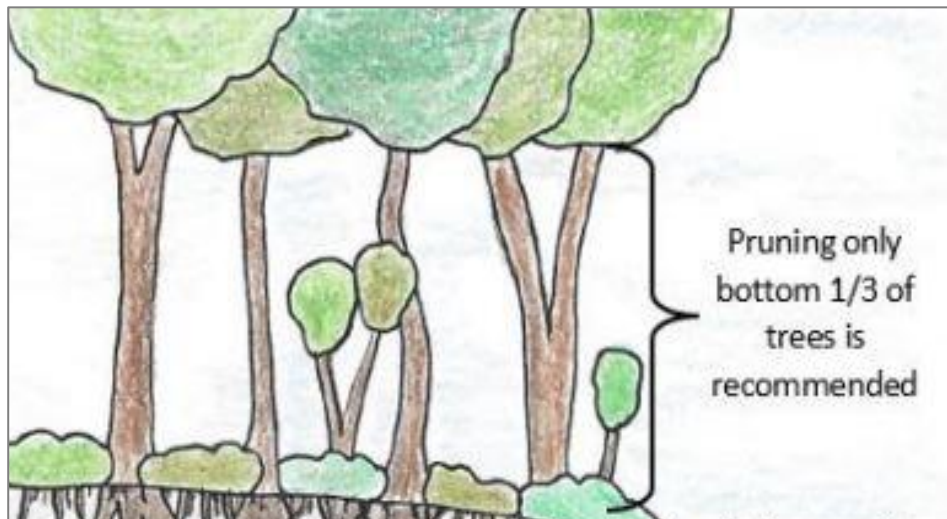




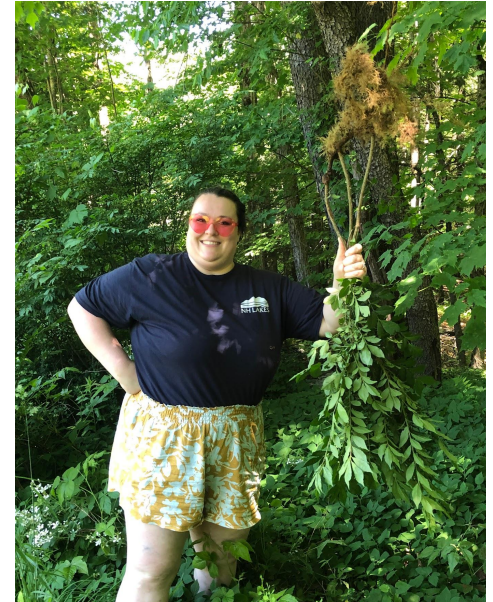
Protect “duff” by combating misinformation...
Pine needles do not acidify soil.



Practice mindful pruning.



Watch out for invasive species!



Report bugs to nhbugs.org
Remove invasive plants and burn on site



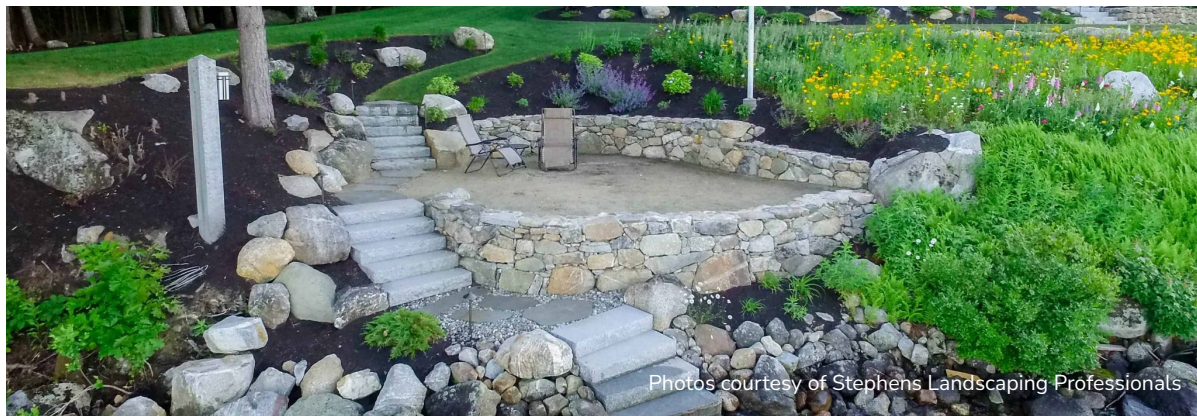
You can have a beach and still be LakeSmart!

- Focus on reducing size if possible.
- Start by finding corners and edges that aren't used.
- “Decommission” these areas by allowing them to revegetate.





Upgrade to a perched beach!





- Don't be fooled by “greenwashing.”
- Always read product labels!
- Never use “DIY” herbicides.
- Practice water conservation to protect your septic system.
- Look for the Safer Choice label for lake-friendly products.





Consider an alternative pest control plan.



Treatments for mosquitos, ticks, etc. are toxic to aquatic organisms and travel into our lakes through wind and rain.



**Know who you are hiring well enough to
know if they love the lake as much as you do!**



Find resources on our website!

nhlakes.org/lakesmart



THE LAKESMART BOOK

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WATER

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DRIVEWAYS, PARKING AREAS, AND
PLOWING

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FIND A LAKESMART SERVICE PROVIDER
PARTNER

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Don't forget!

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





**Focus on progress
not perfection.**

Go to nhlakes.org/lakesmart

Your personalized
lake-friendly living plan will
guide you on how to
become LakeSmart!





**Thank you for restoring
and preserving New
Hampshire's lakes!**





Contact us

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Get started at nhlakes.org/lakesmart