

Lake-Friendly Landscapes

How to Get the Landscape You'll Love & Protect Our Lakes



The biggest influence on lake water from landscapes: Runoff

Runoff mitigation: sediment and chemicals pollute the lake

Good landscaping practices are **aware**, **careful**, and **creative**.

- Be **aware** of how our current landscape may be effecting the lake, and aware of how changes may effect the lake.
- Make **careful** decisions and take care in our actions (both legal and socially responsible).
- Be **creative**: Find solutions which give us desired outcomes while being mindful of the lake.



The Department of Environmental Services has rules and regulations designed to protect the lake. These are enforced through the permitting and site review process for landscape construction, and application and practices parameters for maintenance services.

Permits and parameters are not optional (regardless of who is doing the work), and the state can and will issue penalties to the property owner, service providers, and equipment operators when these laws are broken.

A quality contractor or service provider can assist, and in some cases completely handle all permitting requirements. (We handle all permitting for our projects)

For the DIYer permitting information can be found at <https://www.des.nh.gov/>



Entertaining Spaces

Patios, Kitchens, Fire Pits, and more...

Consider the size and location of your entertainment space

Build your entertaining spaces for their most common use and allow for flexibility of use in the design.

Avoid building too close to the lake. Many types of entertaining spaces are more functional when built closer to the home.

In instances where a feature is built close to the lake, additional care and runoff mitigation steps should be a paramount concern in the design.

Hardscape features tend to look more attractive when accompanied by softscapes or natural plant life.



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Drainage Matters

A water runoff management plan is the best way to isolate runoff from entertaining spaces.

Runoff can be redirected through the use of other landscape features like dry river beds, planting berms, swales, or French drains.

Redirected water can be absorbed into the landscape through thoughtful land management practices including the addition of a rain garden, forested areas, and basins.



Entertaining Spaces

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Construction Materials and Methods

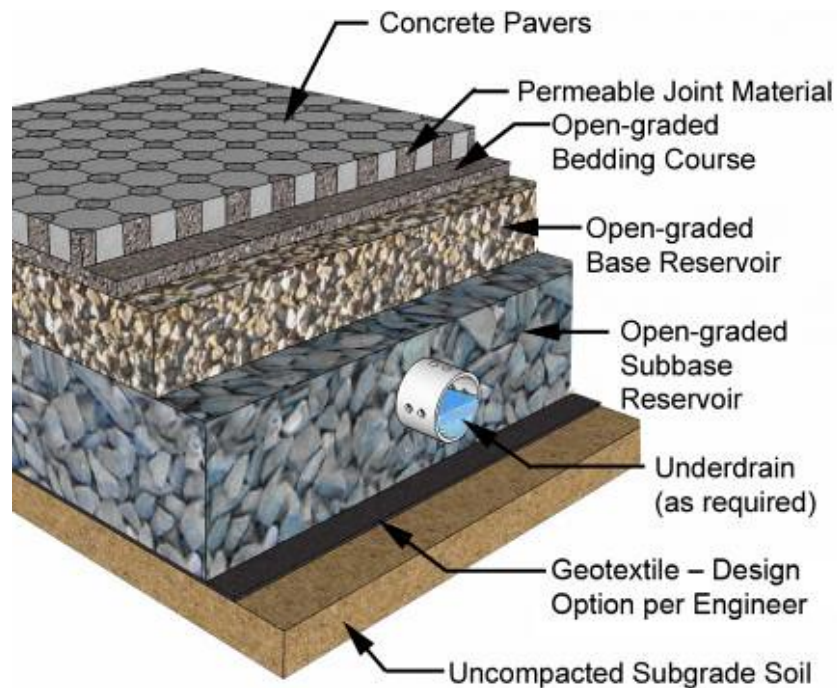
Consider the use of a permeable paver

Allow for permeable space between pavers.

Grade the hardscape away from the lake

Many pavers can offer the same benefits as true permeable pavers if the base is prepared and the pavers are installed with spacing to allow for drainage.

Grassy Pavers are an under-utilized option that provide a durable, firm ground cover while retaining good permeability



Lake Views

Removing Trees and Plant Life increases the likelihood of harmful runoff and erosion. Do so sparingly.

In many instances professional pruning can achieve a lake view without the removal of trees. Consult a professional arborist.

If you remove a tree or plant, consider replacing it with another species. In many cases a different species may provide similar runoff and erosion protection while also allowing for clearer lake views. Consider dwarf species, or shorter shrubs and bushes.

Utilize trees and plants to accentuate your view.



Lawns

Proper Lawn Care is one of the top things you can do to help reduce runoff from your lawn. A annual program of dethatching, proper mowing and watering, and general maintenance will allow your lawn to grow deep, healthy roots, facilitating water absorption.

Follow all DES regulations regarding the application of lawn chemicals. Avoid over-application. Apply only when needed, and never when windy or prior to rain.

The installation of buffers such as planting berms or natural forest is ideal in reducing runoff from a lawn.

Qualified lawn care providers have access to products not commonly available to homeowners. These products may be more lake-friendly, and provide better results.

To find out more read our article from this months NH Lakes News Letter or visit our blog at belknaplandscape.com/blog/



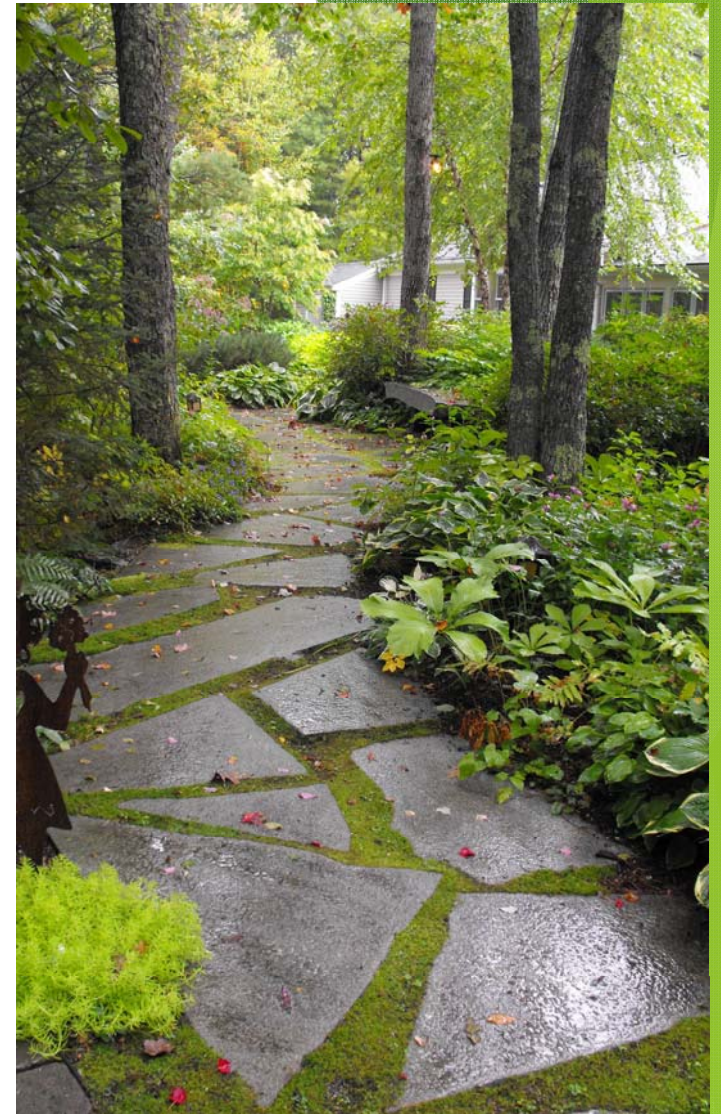
Lake Access

By nature, lake access can create a means of easy conveyance for runoff and pollutants to make their way into the lake. As a result, additional care in the construction of pathways and access points is important.

Consider the use of stepping stone pathways as they allow for better water absorption and stand up to wear reducing erosion.

Pathways should meander. Look to reduce straightaways.

Pathway elevation should change gradually whenever possible. The use of single steps, spread apart over distance is preferentially to stairways.



Sandy Beaches

Do not add sand to the lake. In the vast majority of cases this is illegal. You may incur fines and be required to remove the sand.

If you do not have an existing sandy beach already, your property is likely not conducive to one based upon environmental factors. If you introduce sand, these factors will cause the sand to eventually wash away to other areas in the lake.

Consider a perched beach. Perched beaches can be constructed in a way that combats introduction of sand into the water, yet provides most of the benefits of a beach.

Only use clean, washed beach sand free of debris.

Follow Department of Environmental Services guidelines



Colorful Plant Life

When considering plants on or near the lakeside, hardiness, water needs and sunlight are primary considerations.

Is the plant sun-loving? Most plantings near the lake will receive considerable sun.

Can the plant resist strong and consistent winds?

How will you water them without creating runoff? Can you install drip irrigation?

Select plants which are known for deep roots. This will reduce the need to water them, and assist in absorbing runoff.

Native plants tend to be the most viable along the lakefront. They typically require less watering and maintenance, and are well suited for the conditions.

DES likes 25' buffer of planting bed along the shoreline.



How to Get Started

For Do-It-Yourselfers



Get educated: Visit the NH Department of Environmental Services, and the NH Department of Agriculture websites to learn about state rules and regulations.

Permitting is a requirement.

Participate in the LakeSmart program to learn about changes you can make to your property.

Local engineers or surveys with working knowledge of your area.

Utilize the available resources on nhlakes.org

How to Get Started

Hire a Professional

Not all professionals are qualified to work responsibly on waterfront or watershed properties.

Choose a landscape contractor who will proactively handle the permitting process.

Landscape firms which design, permit, and build landscapes have the wholistic understanding needed to create successful, and lake-friendly landscapes.

Professionals must hold and maintain licenses to apply any chemicals they may apply to your property. This is a state requirement and shows a demonstrated understanding of how to apply chemicals in accordance with water quality regulations.

Experience matters. Look for a provider with a proven track record of successful and responsible service of water front and water shed properties.

Quality landscape firms will be insured, hold multiple certifications, and show a willingness to answer your questions about their qualifications.



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About Us

Belknap Landscape Company

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Winner of 2 NH Home Magazine Design Awards

Winner of 17 NH Home Builders Cornerstone Awards

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Certifications from

- NH Landscape Association
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- International Concrete Paver Institute
- International Society of Arborists
- Tree Care Industry Association
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