



NH LAKES LakeSmart

A Lake-Friendly Living Program

NH LAKES 2019 Lakes Congress
May 31, 2019

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Lakes & ponds are an integral part of New Hampshire's quality of life, economy, & natural heritage.



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



But, the health & our enjoyment of NH's lakes are threatened by:



Invasive species,



polluted runoff water,



changing weather patterns,

...and more.



The most irrational thing we can do is pretend
our lakes will take care of themselves.



NH LAKES Story:



Founded in 1992, we're a nonprofit organization that is the voice for all of New Hampshire's 1,000 lakes.



Our mission is to...



...keep NH's lakes, clean and healthy, now and in the future.



We work with local groups, state legislators, and individuals to develop programs and policies and to inspire action to keep our lakes clean and healthy.



NH LAKES Story:



We're different from a local lake association because we work for clean lakes all across the state.



A few years ago, we asked our members, partners, and friends...



If we continue what we are doing, will our lakes be cleaner and healthier in 25 years that they are today?



The resounding answer was NO!



More needs to be done to reduce polluted runoff water.
More needs to be done to encourage a culture of lake-friendly living.



The Campaign for New Hampshire Lakes was launched to grow our staff.



\$554,000 was pledged by 40 individuals & families!



We secured grants to expand our Conservation Programs...



Jane's Trust

and embarked upon developing a lake-friendly living program for New Hampshire.



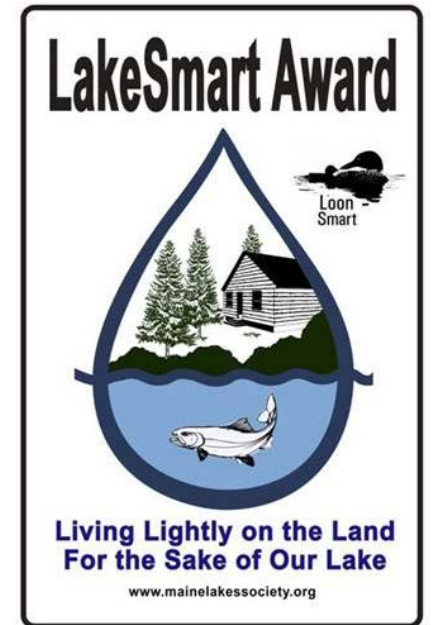
We researched programs in other states.



Michigan Natural Shoreline
Partnership



VT Dept. Natural
Resources



Maine Lakes
Society



We met with the Maine Lakes Society & the Lakes Environmental Association of Maine.



We're grateful for all the information sharing & advice!
(And, thank you for the photos!)



Launching in July 2019!



NH LAKES LakeSmart:
A Lake-Friendly Living Program



What is lake-friendly living?



What is lake-friendly living?





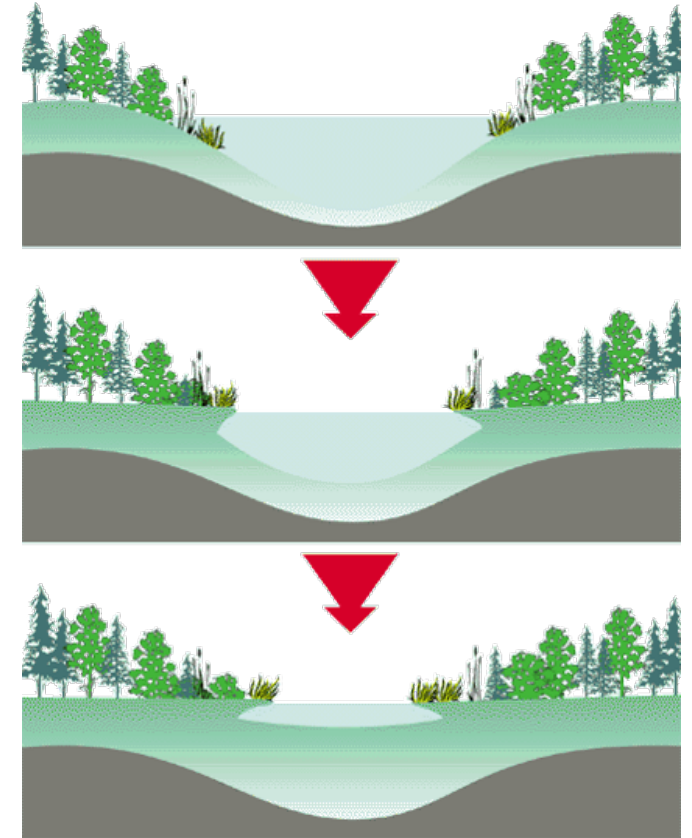
It is living in a way that minimizes your
contribution to lake aging.



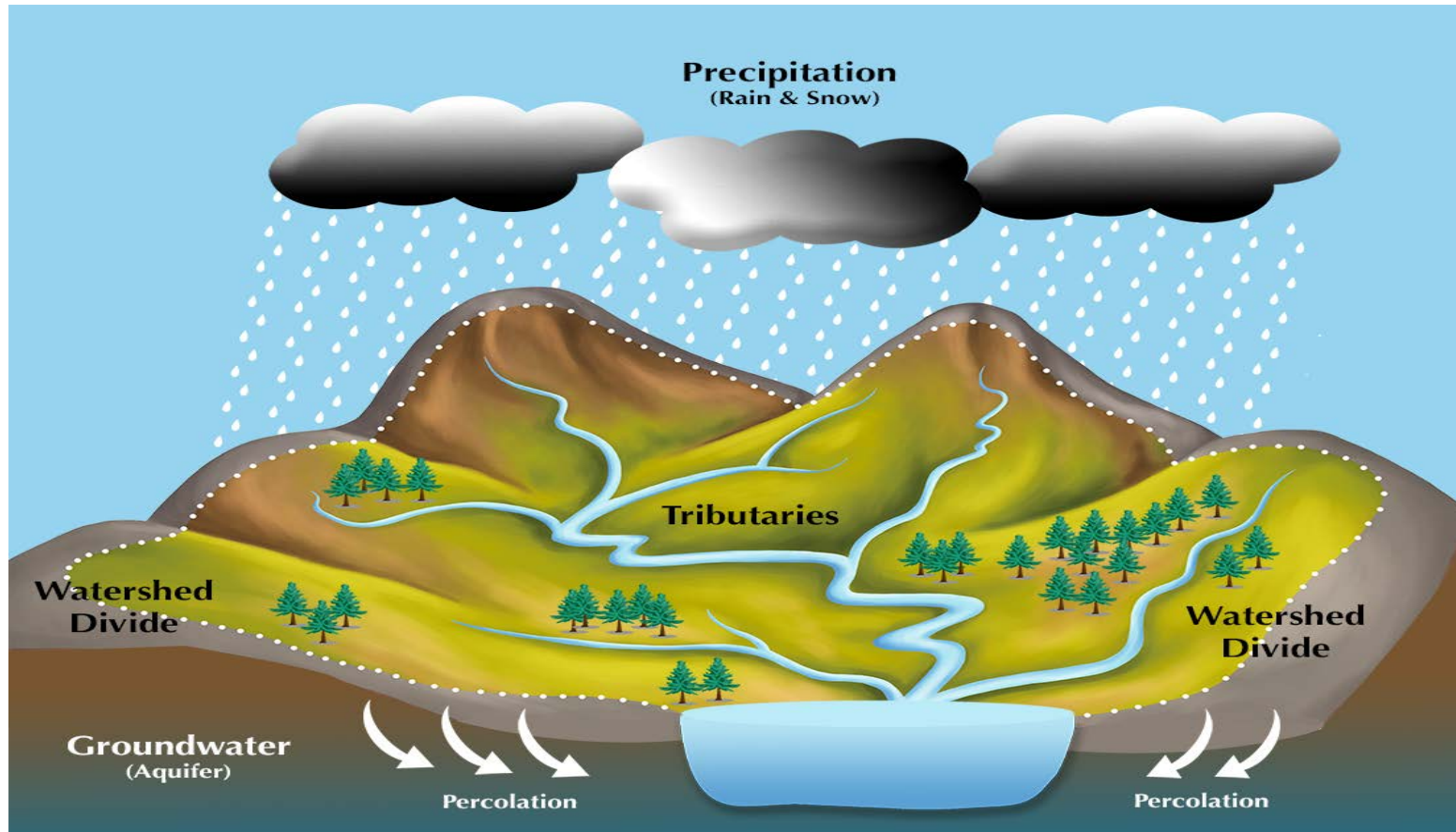
Did you know?!

Lakes, like people, age over time!

They naturally fill in with decayed plants, algae, and sediment.



But, human activities speed up the lake-aging process.



Whether you live next the lake (or far from it), what you do in your home and on your property will impact the lake.

We have found that...



...most people aren't aware of how their actions contribute to lake aging.



We have also found that...



...most people want to help keep the lakes they live near and enjoy clean and healthy!



What is LakeSmart?



LakeSmart is an education, evaluation, and recognition program.
It is free, voluntary, and nonregulatory.



LakeSmart



Helps keep lakes clean and healthy.
Helps protect wildlife and your lakeside investment.
Helps support local businesses and the local economy.



LakeSmart creates a conservation ethic across lake communities.



Once 15% of a population partakes in an action,
a trend is set and others will follow.



Two ways for a property owner to participate:

1. On their own
(on-line self-assessment with NH LAKES)

★ 2. On their own (on-line self-assessment) followed
by in-person evaluation from trained local group

*NH LAKES staff reviews all submitted information
and photos and makes final award determinations.*





The LakeSmart Property Evaluation

EVALUATION AREAS

1. Driveway & Parking
2. Structures & Septic
3. Yard, Recreation Areas & Footpaths
- ★ 4. Shoreline & Water Access

Diverting, soaking up, and reducing runoff water is a main focus.
Other aspects of lake-friendly living are also addressed.



The LakeSmart Scoring System:

- LakeSmart 'Standards of Excellence' are designated for each aspect of the four categories.
- The closer to the standard, the higher the points.

Approx. 70% in
each section =





Following are some examples of evaluation areas and standards of excellence from the self-evaluation and local group evaluation...



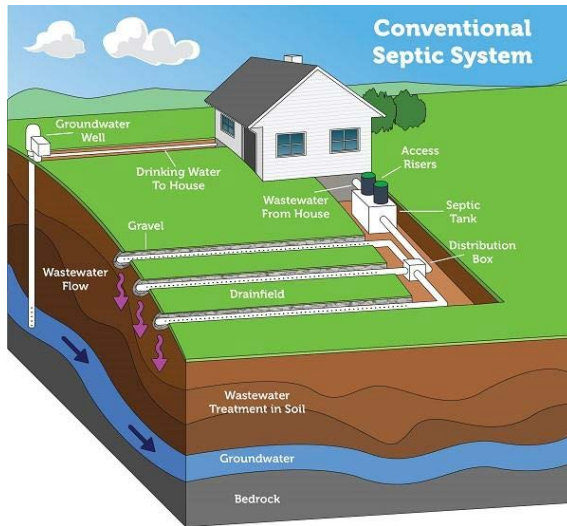
Section 1: Driveway & Parking Areas



Driveway and parking areas are minimized.
Water is diverted into stable areas where it soaks into the ground.
Winter de-icing products are minimized and swept up.



Section 2: Structures & Septic Systems



Septic systems are regularly maintained & appropriately sized.
Phosphate-free cleaning products & salt-free water softeners are used.
Water runoff from roof soaks into the ground.



Section 3: Yard, Recreation Areas, & Footpaths



Lawn area is minimized. Fertilizers, pesticides, & herbicides not used.
Size & number of footpaths are minimized. They are stable & curved.
Areas for socializing & recreation are identified & minimized.



Section 4: Shoreline & Water Access



Healthy and diverse strip of vegetation along the entire shoreline.
Paths are stable and do not funnel runoff water.
Boat storage areas are defined and limited.



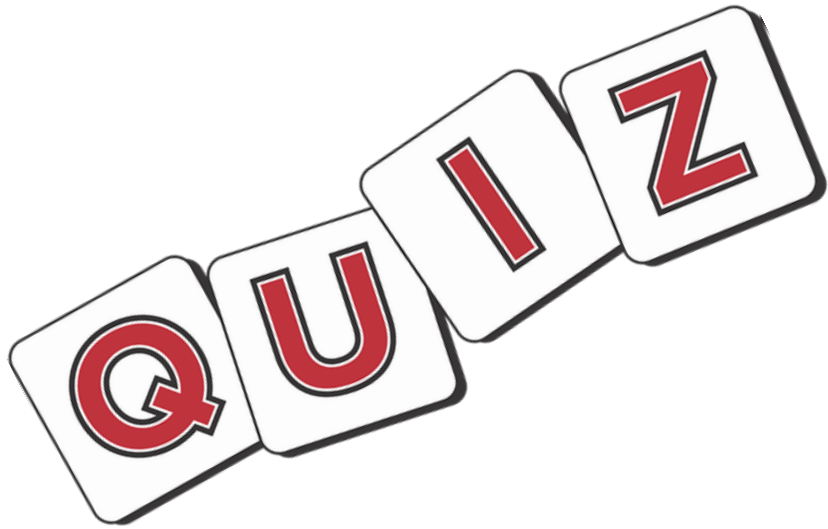
Section 4: Shoreline & Water Access (in the water, too!)



The shallow water area is left natural.
Ducks, geese, and wildlife are not fed.
During the winter, bubblers only open small areas of water.



The keys to being 'Lake-Friendly' include:



- ✓ Diverting runoff water
- ✓ Soaking up runoff water
- ✓ Stabilizing surfaces
- ✓ Leaving natural areas natural
- ✓ Minimizing the use of products that pollute



No property will be 100% lake-friendly!



Property owners are provided with recommendations to become more lake-friendly.



Some property owners will achieve LakeSmart status on their first evaluation.



If a property owner doesn't achieve LakeSmart status, they can make improvements, and participate in the evaluation again!



Some properties will not be eligible to be NH LAKES LakeSmart:


- x Unable to locate septic system or leach field
- x Primary structure setbacks are not met
- x Sandy beaches are not grandfathered or permitted
- x Structures are not grandfathered or permitted
- x Shoreline vegetation does not meet minimum criteria





Two ways for a property owner to participate:

1. On their own
(on-line self-assessment with NH LAKES)
Will be available in July at nhlakes.org/lakesmart

2.  On their own (on-line self-assessment) followed by in-person evaluation from trained local group.
Group trainings will begin in July!





We are preparing to train & provide technical support to 10 local groups to deliver the LakeSmart Program in their community this year.



Local Groups would need to:

- ✓ Identify a team of at least 3 volunteers (Local Coordinator, 2 evaluators)
- ✓ Participate in a one-day local training session with NH LAKES (classroom & field work)
- ✓ Identify 3 local properties for evaluation during training
- ✓ Commit to conduct 3 additional evaluations this season



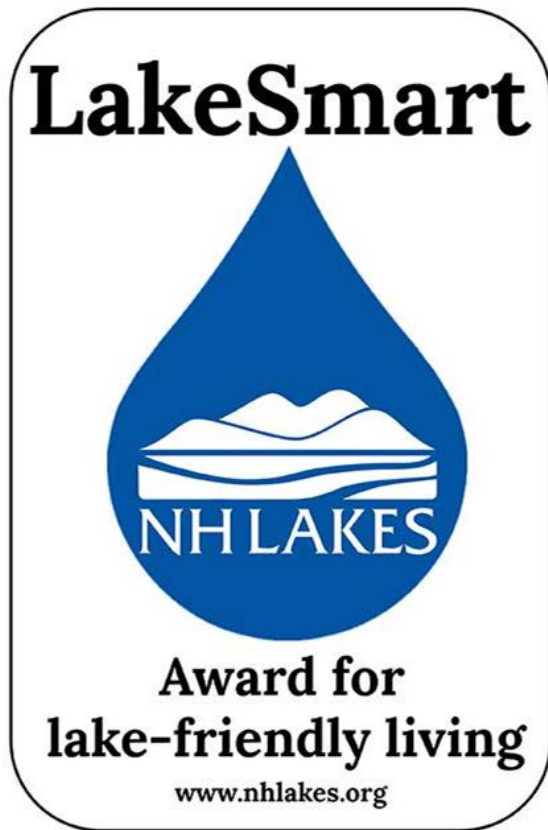
By living in a lake-friendly way & encouraging others to do so, too...



...our lakes will be cleaner and healthier, for our enjoyment today, and in the future.



Please help make lake-friendly living the cultural norm in NH!



Call us: 603-226-0299

Email us: info@nhlakes.org

Visit www.nhlakes.org/lakesmart

Invite us to speak to your local group