

Looking to take action and make a positive impact on the lake?

Participate in the **Lake Wise** program!

Lake Wise was developed through the Vermont DEC and is meant to provide technical assistance for shoreline landowners looking to incorporate lake friendly living practices on their properties. The Lake Wise assessment focuses on four portions of your property; driveway, structure, recreation area, and shoreline. The follow-up report gives recommendations on which stormwater management practices would be best for your property and the lake.

Awards and certificates are given to properties that receive high scores during their assessment and demonstrate exemplary lake friendly living.



To schedule a site visit or assessment contact PMNRCD.

For more information about Lake Wise visit DEC's website:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/bmp>

Lake Friendly Living

Help protect our valuable natural resources through conscious decision making



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Funding for this project was provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program through the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

Go Native!

Vegetated buffers are one way to help control the stormwater on your property while enhancing your shoreline with beautiful native plants.

Buffers help to filter runoff, infiltrate stormwater, stabilize the soil, and prevent bank erosion. The ideal natural buffer is made up of five layers of vegetation: canopy, understory, shrub, ground cover, and duff layer.



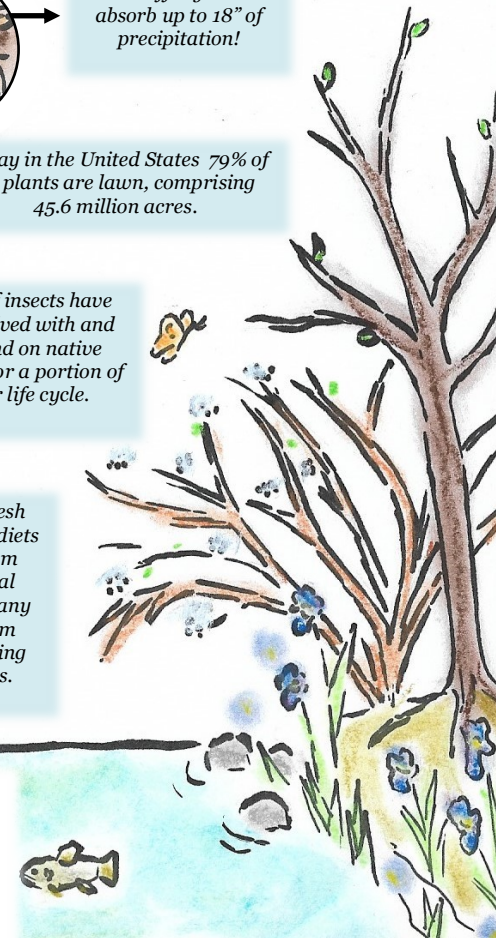
The duff layer can absorb up to 18" of precipitation!

Today in the United States 79% of all plants are lawn, comprising 45.6 million acres.

90% of insects have co-evolved with and depend on native plants for a portion of their life cycle.

60% of fresh water fish diets come from terrestrial insects, many drop from overhanging branches.

Shoreline vegetation creates shade and cooler water which promotes fish health.



Your Essential Role Within The Watershed

Stormwater has a widespread environmental impact which makes it a growing concern in Vermont. In a statewide effort, towns, and local organizations are working to implement large scale projects to help clean stormwater before it enters water bodies. Work is being done from the headwaters all the way down to the stream outlets.

As a shoreline property owner, you have the access and the ability to control what is happening directly at the water's edge.

While small-scale improvements on individual properties may not seem like they have much impact, collectively the implementation of many small projects will have a positive benefit on the water quality in the lake and the surrounding watershed.

Actions now will promote a healthy lake environment that will continue to support swimming, fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing in the future.

THINK Slow, Infiltrate, and Filter

As stormwater travels across impervious surfaces it carries with it pollutants such as; pesticides, herbicides, oils, road salt, sediment, and nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. These pollutants have a negative impact on water quality and local wildlife.

Excess nutrients in the water contribute to problems which affect both human and wildlife health including; lower oxygen levels in the water, toxic algae blooms, and excessive plant growth.

By adding gutters, a gravel curtain, or small gardens along the edge of your house you can treat roof runoff.

Adding shade trees can cool your home and make it more energy efficient.

Lawns over a 6% grade do not allow for infiltration to occur.

Adding vegetation or establishing no-mow zones on your lawn can help to filter stormwater before it makes it to the shoreline

Driveway and parking lot runoff contributes to sediment buildup within the waterbody.

A lack of vegetation on your shoreline can cause bank erosion.

