



# Conserving Lakeshores

Ensuring long-term shorefront quality

Lake friendly living  
means using lakeshore  
BEST MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES

## BMP

Conserving Lakeshores

## STANDARDS

### Shorefront

- Natural conditions
- Minimum of 15 ft width of vegetation area for developed sites
- Minimum of 100 ft width for undeveloped sites
- Stable bank
- No unfiltered runoff to the lake
- Shallow water areas natural and not “cleaned up”

## LAKE BENEFITS

Conserving your shorefront for the long-term ensures that the efforts you make to protect, restore or enhance your lakeshore will continue into the future. As a result, wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational uses continue to be provided for generations to come.

## Conserving Lakeshores

**Description:** Protecting your shorefront land to maintain its many values for your family and future generations.

**Purpose:** Conserving your land does not mean giving up landowner rights. Though we may agree that lakeshore conservation is a worthy goal, each of us holds a very personal view of what that means and how it is best achieved. There are opportunities to define your goals for protection and ensure that they are active well into the future.

### How to:

**Document and Communicate Your Vision.** Whether the property will remain in the family, be sold at some future date, or become part of a larger preservation project, take the time to clearly state values, goals and objectives for your conservation efforts.

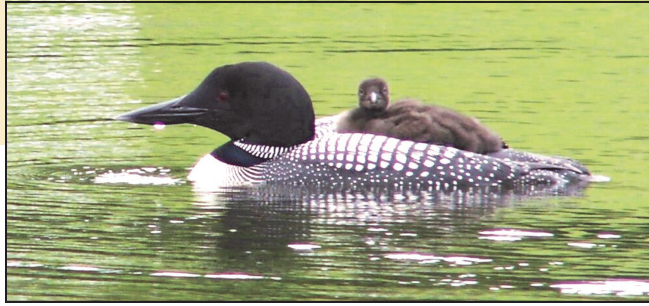
- ◆ Consider the property in its entirety as well as planning for individual goals. How might a provision for the construction of an additional cabin to accommodate future growth of the family affect storm water flow? The viewshed?
- ◆ Be specific and clear about what you want to achieve. Compare the statement ‘Preserve the natural beauty of the area in perpetuity’ with ‘preserve a 100ft buffer of natural native vegetation along the lakeshore’.
- ◆ Take the time to share your ideas with the people who will be affected by your choices early on—family members, the community, conservation groups. Their input can provide valuable insight, gain support and avoid pitfalls.



Conserving your shorefront for the long-term ensures that the efforts you make to protect, restore or enhance your lakeshore will continue into the future.



Lakeshore conservation benefits people of all ages who enjoy the recreational opportunities that lakes offer.



# Conserving Lakeshores

## Ensuring long-term shorefront quality

### Making Your Plan Permanent.

1. *Conservation Easements*—these are voluntary legal agreements between land owners and an outside entity to regulate future development of the land while retaining ownership. There can be tax advantages associated with this type of agreement. Easements may be donated or sold.
2. *Family Trusts, Deeds and Wills*—it is possible to incorporate conservation goals into family trusts, wills or deeds. In most cases, these are not permanent restrictions and can altered by the future land owners.
3. *Selling or Donating Land* to Conservation organizations

### Partnerships and Opportunities in Vermont.

#### Federal

- ◆ [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \(CREP\)](#)
- ◆ [Agricultural Management Assistance Program \(AMA\)](#)
- ◆ [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#)
- ◆ [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)
- ◆ [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
- ◆ [Partners for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration program \(PFW\)](#)
- ◆ [Wetlands Reserve program \(WRP\)](#)
- ◆ [Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program \(WHIP\)](#)

#### State

- ◆ [Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program \(VABP\)](#)
- ◆ [Water Source Protection Loans](#)
- ◆ [Vermont Clean Water Initiative](#)
- ◆ [Land and Water conservation fund](#)
- ◆ [Current Use Program](#)

#### Private

- ◆ [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- ◆ [Vermont Land Trust](#)
- ◆ [Vermont Community Foundation](#)
- ◆ [Local Land Trusts](#)
- ◆ Local Planning Commissions
- ◆ Local Conservation Commissions



Conserving your "Lake Wise" shorefront ensures long-term quality.

### BENEFITS OF CONSERVING YOUR LAKESHORE

- You decide how your land will be used in the future when your voice cannot be heard.
- Protects a natural resources that filter air and water, reducing air and water quality alerts.
- Increases property values near greenbelts, lowers property taxes, saves tax dollars by encouraging more efficient development, and reduces the need for expensive water filtration facilities.
- Helps your community by protecting water, wildlife, and places for recreation and reflection.
- Keeps your favorite places safe from development.
- Some conservation groups are willing to purchase land if it provides a large benefits to wildlife, recreation, and/or water quality.