



# Checklist of Lake Protection Actions

This checklist provides guidance on actions that help protect Vermont lakes and is based on the [Lake Score Card](#).

Check-off all the helpful actions occurring around your lake. For those items not checked, decide which steps to take to maintain or help improve lake conditions. For more information, follow the links below, or contact the Lakes and Ponds Program at 802-828-1535.

<b>Water Quality and Shoreland Conditions Management Programs and Actions</b>	
<p><b>Does your lake have a Lake Association?</b>            Many lakes and ponds have associations dedicated to taking care of the lake. They are involved in projects such as water sampling, landowner education, boating safety and watershed management.</p>	
<p><b>Do you know if your lake is sampled under the Spring Phosphorus or other monitoring programs?</b>            Spring phosphorus data help lake stewards predict the amount of algal growth that will occur in the lake during the summer and these long-term spring trends can show if a lake's water quality is changing over time. <a href="#">To learn more, click here.</a></p>	
<p><b>Does your lake participate in the Lay Monitoring Program?</b>            Collecting nutrient enrichment data during the summer documents the conditions of the lake and can show if the lake is changing over time. <a href="#">Read more.</a></p>	
<p><b>Does your lake community work with the local town officials?</b>            Town Select Boards, Planning and Conservation Commissions make good partners for lakes.</p>	
<p><b>Are your lake residents informed on the Shoreland Protection Act?</b>            Vermont's Shoreland Protection Act regulates land use within 250 feet of the lake's mean water level. <a href="#">Click here to learn more.</a></p>	
<p><b>Does your lake participate in the Lake Wise Program?</b>            Shoreland owners are taught lake friendly practices which leads to earning the Lake Wise Award for excellent shoreland management. <a href="#">To learn more, click here.</a></p>	
<p><b>Does your lake community practice Shoreland BMPs?</b>            Shoreland Best Management Practices and Fact Sheets are available to explain the best techniques for developing and living along a lake. <a href="#">Click here for BMPs.</a></p>	
<p>Are lake residents aware of the cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) monitoring and community guidance protocols? <a href="#">Check out cyanobacteria in Vermont here.</a></p>	
<p><b>Are private roads and driveways maintained according to the standards of the Better Back Roads Program?</b> <a href="#">Read more.</a></p>	
<p><b>Are most septic tanks around the lake pumped every 3 to 5 years?</b>            A poor or overloaded system can introduce disease-causing organisms into the lake, resulting in a human health threat and can introduce nutrients into the lake, causing algae blooms and excessive weed growth. <a href="#">Here's more.</a></p>	
<p><b>Has your lake held a Septic Social?</b>            Septic socials are fun gatherings designed to show case the options for making septic system improvements.</p>	
<p>Do your lake association members follow the <a href="#">Watershed Management Division's Blog</a>?</p>	

<b>Aquatic Invasive Species Management Programs and Actions</b>	✓
<p><b>Does your lake participate in aquatic invasive species spread prevention?</b> To learn more about why spread prevention actions are important. <a href="#">Click here.</a></p>	
<p><b>Is there a VIP (Vermont Invasive Patroller) on your lake?</b> <a href="#">Here's How and Why to Get Trained</a></p>	
<p><b>At public access locations, does your lake have Aquatic Invasive Species signs posted?</b> To request signs, <a href="#">click here.</a></p>	
<p><b>Is there a Public Access Greeter Program at your lake?</b> <a href="#">Here's more information.</a></p>	
<p><b>If your lake has an aquatic invasive species, is there a Management Program underway?</b> <a href="#">Management programs</a> are essential for controlling an invasive infestation and for preventing further spread to other areas.</p>	

<b>Atmospheric Pollution Management Programs and Actions</b>	✓
<p>Are lake residents tracking ice-in and ice-out dates? To learn how to participate in monitoring your lake's seasonal ice coverage, contact <a href="#">Bethany Sargent</a> with Vermont's lake volunteer monitoring programs.</p>	
<p><b>Does the Regional Planning Conservation Commission offer hazardous waste pick-up?</b> Although the majority of mercury entering a lake comes from the atmosphere, mercury is also found in many household items and can leach into the environment. <a href="#">Click here for more information</a> on proper disposal of household products.</p>	
<p><b>Are there community bike and greenway paths in your watershed community?</b> All the small, local actions taken to reduce carbon emissions, such as driving less, can add up to big emission reductions over time. Carbon in the atmosphere is blamed for global warming and also plays a role in acid rain. <a href="#">Learn more.</a></p>	
<p><b>Do the area stores encourage using re-usable shopping bags or commuter mugs for "to go" beverages?</b> <a href="#">Why this is important.</a></p>	
<p><b>Are there anglers on your lake?</b> <a href="#">Visit information about mercury and fish consumption.</a></p>	
<p><b>What legislation helps protect Vermont lakes from atmospheric pollution?</b> The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments in 1990, regulating stronger emissions controls, were largely passed from Vermont lake monitoring findings. <a href="#">Read More.</a></p>	