

## Why a Natural Shoreland Erosion Control Certification Training?

This voluntary certification training is required in the Vermont statute through the [Shoreland Protection Act](#) (Chapter 49A of Title 10, §1441 et seq.)

The Shoreland Protection Act, effective July 1, 2014, regulates shoreland development within 250 feet of a lake's mean water level for all lakes greater than 10 acres in size.

The intent of the Act is:

- ◆ to prevent degradation of water quality in lakes;
- ◆ to preserve habitat and natural stability of shorelines; and
- ◆ to maintain the economic benefits of lakes and their shorelands.

Section 4. of the Act calls for a voluntary certification training for contractors in shoreland best management practices. These trainings are offered through the Agency of Natural Resources [Lake Wise Program](#), the outreach lakeshore program complimentary to [Shoreland Permitting](#) in the VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program.

### Sec. 4. VOLUNTARY SHORELAND EROSION CONTROL CERTIFICATION

(a) Voluntary certification. Beginning on January 1, 2016, the Agency of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Associated General Contractors of Vermont, shall offer an optional shoreland erosion control certification program. The program shall include training related to development activities in a shoreland area, including best management practices for erosion control, clearance of vegetation, and construction of impervious surfaces in shoreland areas. The voluntary certification program shall be offered until January 1, 2018.

(b) Report. On or before January 1, 2018, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources regarding the voluntary shoreland erosion control certification program created in subsection (a) of this section. The report shall include: (1) a general summary and evaluation of the program's success, including an overview of the number of persons certified by the program and the projects constructed by certified persons; (2) a recommendation of whether the State and the Associated General Contractors of Vermont should continue the shoreland erosion control certification program, including whether to make the erosion control certification program mandatory and whether to allow certified persons to certify compliance with the shoreland protection standards in this chapter in lieu of obtaining the permit required under 10 V.S.A. § 1444 or 1445; and (3) any other recommendations for improving the program.

## Training Objectives for the Certification Course

- To demonstrate lake friendly landscaping techniques.
- To connect landscapers, site workers and contractors with the tools and techniques needed to manage lakeshores in ways that protect water quality and habitat.
- To communicate development rules within the Protected Shoreland Area.
- To foster partnerships for re-naturalizing shorelands.

# Certification Training Benefits

This training will introduce and re-inforce the use of Shoreland Best Management Practices from bio-engineering for stabilizing shores, green infrastructure, native plantings, stormwater management, to habitat protection techniques. These practices are essential for developing shores that safeguard water quality and aquatic habitat. These trainings offer a forum to bring together and learn from collective experiences with participants gaining a common (level field) understanding of what shoreland BMPs are and what lake friendly development involves, including knowing when and how to apply the standards of the new Shoreland Protection Act.

All Landscapers, Site Workers, Contractors, Gardeners, and others who attend the trainings will be Certified in Shoreland BMPs and listed as **Certified in Natural Shoreland Erosion Control** on the Agency of Natural Resources web site. All those certified will be given preference for all grants provided by the Watershed Management Division for shoreland work. Professional development credits are available, including four non-soil credits for Licensed Designers.

## Distribution of Lakes in Vermont.

Lake Champlain is Vermont's largest lake.

Vermont has over 800 other lakes, approximately 445 of them greater than 10 acres in size.

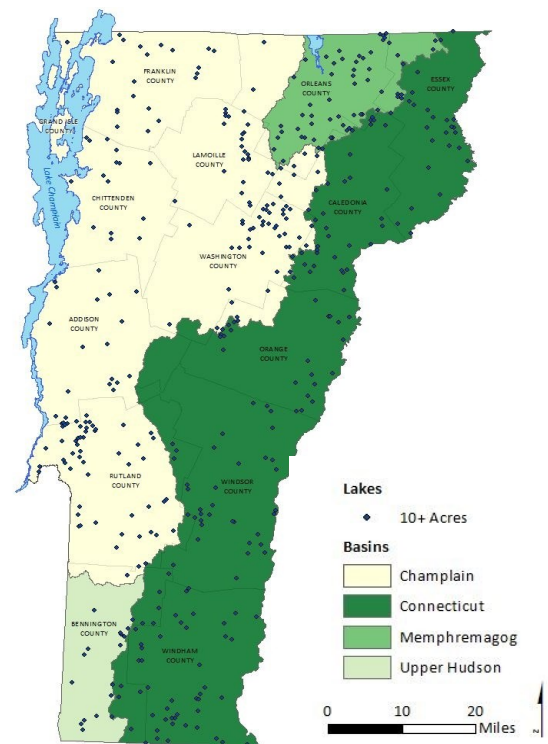
The Vermont Shoreland Protection Act applies to all lakes greater than 10 acres in size.

## Shorelands in Vermont.

The total miles of shoreland in Vermont is 1,480, including 441 miles of Lake Champlain shore. Approximately, 808 miles or 55% of the total shoreland is undeveloped, including 169 miles of Lake Champlain.

## Agency of Natural Resources Property.

State Parks -- 35 of the 53 State Parks are located on lakes.



# Partners for These Trainings

Partners provide host sites for workshops, expertize in erosion control, wildlife habitat protection, native plantings, green infrastructure practices and their support for shoreland development that protects and restores natural shorelands.



**US Dept of Ag.  
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**NORTHWOODS  
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**LAKE CHAMPLAIN Sea Grant**