

Vermont Lakeshore Management

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources – Lakes and Ponds Section – **Lake Wise Program**

Lake Wise standards apply to the land surrounding a lake that is within 250 feet of the lake's mean water level

Managing Vermont lakeshores according to consistent **Standards** will maintain property values, good water quality, good aquatic habitat, good fishing, swimming, boating, bird-watching and more favorite activities around and benefits of Vermont lakes. Using **Best Management Practices** ensures lakeshore standards are met.

[Click here to print a single page listing of all Vermont Shoreland BMPS](#)

	Standard	Best Management Practice
Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Natural conditions •Stable bank •Minimum 15 feet wide vegetative zone for developed sites (should be counted from top of bank) •Minimum 100 feet wide for undeveloped sites •No dirty runoff to lake •Shallow waters left in natural condition with fallen tree limbs and other aquatic habitat structure (not all cleaned up) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆15-100 wide woodland zone with 5 tiers of vegetation ◆Maximum eight foot clearing for access to lake for every 100 feet of shore ◆Meandering paths <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Conserving Lakeshores - Ensuring Natural Conditions •Managing Shoreland Vegetation - Ensuring Natural Conditions •Resloping, Rock Toe & Rip Rap - Bank Stabilization •Live Staking - Bank Stabilization •Establishing No Mow Zones - Bank Stabilization •Planting and Maintaining Vegetated Areas •Planning Pathways - Minimizing Access Points •Waterbars - Ensuring Clean Runoff •Understanding the Shoreland Encroachment Permit </div> <p><i>Additional BMPs for Ensuring Clean Runoff listed under Recreation Area</i></p>
Recreation Area Yards, Footpaths, Gardens, Patios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Set back at least 15 feet from lake •Minimal lawn area •Soil erosion is not occurring on site (no eroding pathways, or exposed dirt) •No pet waste accumulation •No solid waste scattered(trash) •No pesticide, fertilizer, or dirty runoff to lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No Pesticides used within 100 feet of lake ◆Use of fertilizer is minimized and only used with soil test recommendations ◆Stormwater flow goes to vegetated zone or other BMP ◆Meandering paths <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Fact Sheets</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fact Sheets nsuring Clean Runoff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rain Gardens - Ensuring Clean Runoff •Waterbars - Ensuring Clean Runoff •Vegetative Swales - Ensuring Clean Runoff •Vegetated Berms - Ensuring Clean Runoff •Planting and Maintaining Vegetative Zones - Min.Lawn •Planning Pathways - Minimizing Access Points •Lake-Friendly Yard Maintenance - Pet Waste, Yard, etc. </div>

<p>Driveway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Defined and minimized •Minimized soil compaction •No erosion •Dirty runoff channeled away from lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆Driveway and parking surfaces are stable with no signs of erosion ◆Shoulders and ditches are stable with no signs of erosion ◆Stormwater flows to vegetated zone or other BMP <p>Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<u>Crowned Driveways, Good Gravel & Rock or Grass Lined Drainage Ditches</u> - Proper Construction •<u>Open Top Culverts & Rock Aprons</u> – Controlling Runoff •<u>Infiltration Trenches</u> - Controlling Runoff •<u>Vegetated Swales</u> - Controlling Runoff •<u>Turn-outs</u> - Controlling Runoff •<u>Waterbars</u> - Controlling Runoff •<u>Pervious Pavement</u> – Water Infiltration
<p>Structures/ Septic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Less than 20% of property contains impervious surfaces (adding together roofs, decks, driveways) •No erosion caused from impervious surface run-off •Properly functioning leachfield •No uncovered oil tanks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆House or camp separated from lake by native vegetation ◆New construction set back 125’ from water’s edge <p>Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<u>Dripline Trenches</u>- Controlling Runoff •<u>Infiltration Trenches</u> - Controlling Runoff •<u>Roof Top Downspout Disconnection and Drywells</u> •<u>Rain Gardens</u> - Ensuring Clean Runoff •<u>Vegetative Swales</u> - Ensuring Clean Runoff •<u>Septic System Primer</u> - The Basics, VT On-Site Regs •<u>Ensuring Septic System Quality</u> •<u>Non Structural BMPs</u> – living with natural landscape