

The Lake Wise Program: Lake Friendly Living

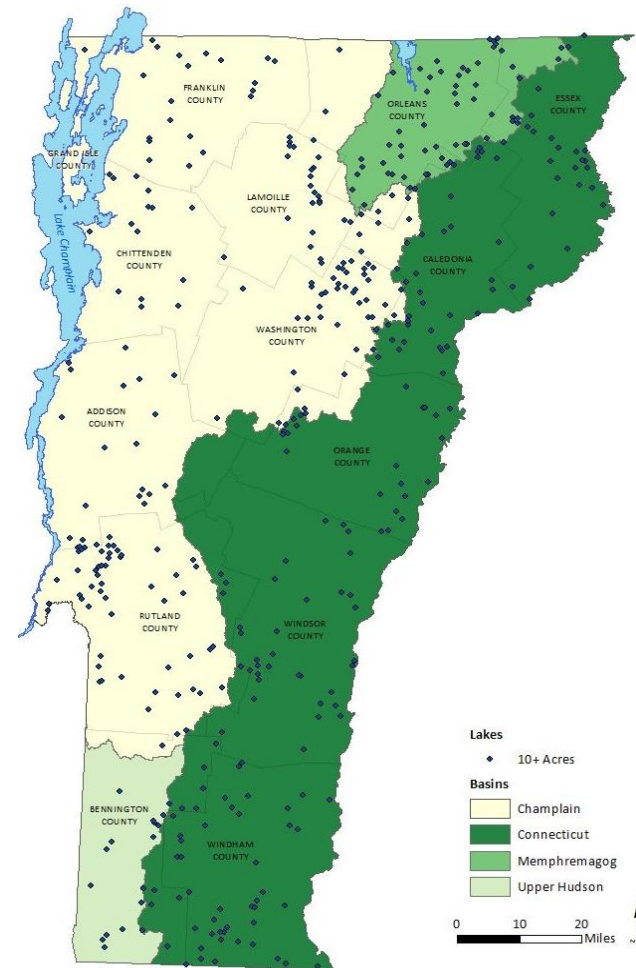
Alison Marchione, Lake Shoreland Coordinator
VT Department of Environmental Conservation

What is Lake Wise?

- **Goal:** Establish a culture of lakeshore living that is proven to protect the lake through stormwater best management practices.
- Lake Wise is an initiative of the Agency of Natural Resources that awards shoreline properties that have these lake friendly practices.
- Properties that are eligible for participation in the program include state parks, town beaches, private homes, and businesses.



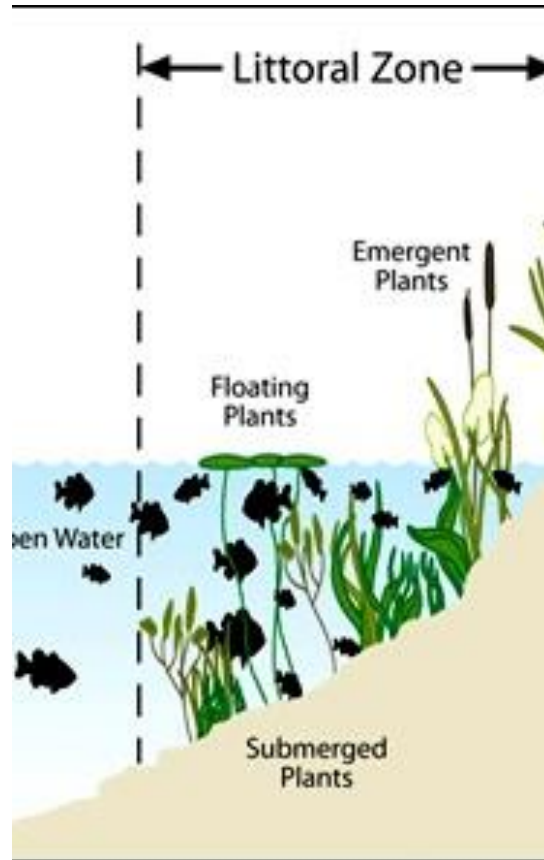
Vermont's lakeshores
have the greatest
residential development
density



Traditional Shoreland Development



What is Lake Wise?



- Free stormwater management and erosion assessment that offers technical assistance and can pair landowners with funding resources.

- Lake Wise aims to inform, teach, and encourage change in current lakeshore development practices to ones that are more lake friendly.

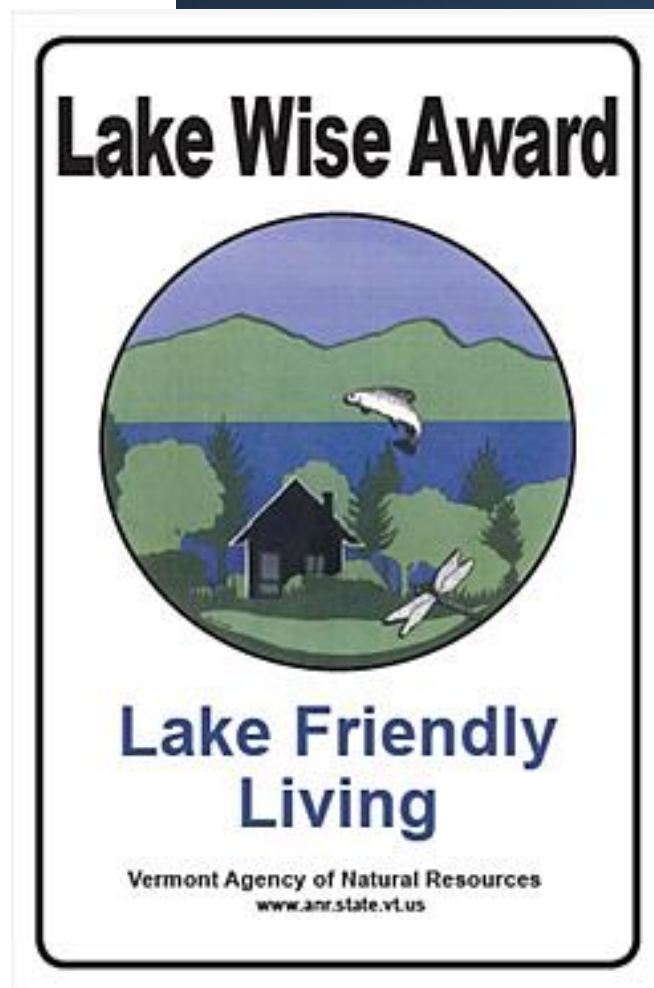
How does it work?

- Based on social science: people are most influenced by their neighbors.
- Properties that have lake friendly practices are given an award as a “model” property. The award certifies that the property is well managed, using shoreline best management practices, and is maintained in a way that cares of the lake.
- The awards are displayed to inspire others along the shore to make improvements and changes to they too can earn the award.
- Cumulatively we increase the health of the lake through our individual actions.



- Why Stormwater?
- The way that stormwater moves across the landscape influences how much sediment is deposited in lakes.
- Sedimentation can cause many problems in the water including increased phosphorus because phosphorus is bonded to the sediments.
- Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in water systems – it is what all aquatic plant life needs to grow. When you allow water to move overland, pick up sediments that are bonded to phosphorus, and allow sediments to reach the water you are adding a dangerous input that can throw the lake system out of balance.
- Too much phosphorus in the water can lead to too much plant life (including algae) and you get large algal blooms, including toxic blue green algae and eventually eutrophic conditions (lack of dissolved oxygen in the water).

- The Lake Wise Program Evaluates properties in four categories: Driveway, Structures and Septic, Recreation Areas, and Shoreline.
- Participants are provided with technical assistance to make their properties as lake friendly as possible.
- Assessments and technical assistance are free and voluntary – there is no regulatory aspect to the program.
- If a property passes all four categories of the assessment, they are given the lake wise award!





Thank you!

Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov
[dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/
lakeshores-lake-wise](http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise)

Lake Wise Award



Lake Friendly Living

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
www.anr.state.vt.us