

Shorefront Friendly-living Practices to Protect Our Lake and Stream

(Sources: Cobbossee Watershed District, Maine DEP, Tacoma Lakes Association)

1. **Prevent soil erosion.** Dirt/soil is the number one pollutant to Maine's waters so keep it under cover - covered by grass, shrubs and trees so the rain doesn't have a chance to get at it and move it. Use thick mulch or stone paths if traffic is too heavy to allow grass to grow. Erosion is of such concern that the Maine legislature passed the [Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law](#) (Erosion Control Law) which requires everyone to prevent erosion from occurring, for projects of all sizes.
2. **Properly maintain [Camp \(unpaved\) roads](#)** which are often a major source of pollution.
3. **Reduce [fertilizer](#) use.** Applying too much fertilizer or applying it at the wrong time can create a problem.
4. **Capture stormwater runoff by using [nature's own filtration system](#).** Plant ribbons of trees, shrubs and/or groundcover to intercept and infiltrate runoff.
5. **[Direct water](#) from roofs and driveways** into a stable vegetated area where the dirt can get trapped and the water can soak in.
6. **[Maintain your septic system](#).** Pump your system's tank every two to three years. Systems are made to be pumped out periodically to keep the solids in the tank from being carried into the leach bed where it clogs the pipes and soils creating a malfunction.
7. **Pick up after pets.** Pet waste should be disposed of in the garbage or a pet waste composter.
8. **Use practical and easy-to-follow yard care [conservation practices](#)** to help protect your water resource.
9. **[Opening and closing the camp](#).** Things to consider and steps to take when opening a camp in the spring and closing a camp for the winter.
10. **[Outdoor home heating oil tanks](#).** Protecting your oil tank from leaks and spills.
11. **Choose a [certified contractor](#).** Given the high rate of erosion that occurs in areas disturbed by construction, the use of effective erosion and sediment control practices is critical to protecting the quality of Maine waters. DEP trains and certifies contractors in the most protective practices for erosion and sediment control and encourages you to select from one of these certified contractors for projects on your property. There are many benefits to hiring a certified contractor to conduct your project, not the least of which is having some assurance that the excavation work will be done in an environmentally-sound manner. Those who are certified have higher compliance rates with state environmental regulations and in some cases, certified contractors may be able to get your project completed more quickly since the department has afforded them the ability to forgo the 14-day waiting period for Stream Crossing Projects under the Permit-by-Rule program. In short, by hiring a certified contractor, you are sending the message that water quality protection is important to you, while expediting the work. Please note that under a law passed in 2008, as of January 1, 2013, a person certified by the DEP in erosion control best practices must be on-site of any activity that disturbs more than one cubic yard of soil - including earth moving, logging or landscaping operations- in the shoreland zone until work is complete and the site stabilized. [Find a certified contractor nearest you](#).



Protect today. Preserve for tomorrow. Enjoy for a lifetime.

Additional Tips from the Tacoma Lakes Association

1. **Clean-Drain-Dry.** Cooperate with courtesy boat inspectors when present. Always check the boat, motor, trailer, and other equipment for plant fragments before launch and after take-out. Never wash your boat hull in the water. Drain your bilge and live wells after use. Allow your boat to dry between uses.
2. **Respect Shoreland Zone Regulations.** Before making any change on your land, check with your town to see what's permitted and what's not in the shoreland zone.
3. **Cultivate a wooded buffer.** Trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses slow the flow, and filter soil and pollutants from rainwater before they end up in the lake. See number 2.
4. **Construct docks and floats with lake-friendly materials.** Choose cedar, cypress, plastic, or aluminum over wood that's pressure-treated with arsenic.
5. **The lake is not a bathtub.** Dogs, humans, and boats should never be washed in the lake!
6. **Observe headway speed within 200 feet of shore.** Boating in shallow water disturbs fish habitat and stirs up sediment. Obey wake boat state law.
7. **Avoid motoring through heavily vegetated parts of the lake and the stream.** Props will fragment the plants and can spread and increase aquatic invasive plants.
8. **When you replace a boat motor,** choose a clean, 4-stroke engine.
9. **Preserve and protect wildlife habitat on land and underwater.** Lake shallows and shorelands are home to many native species and nurseries for the young.
10. **Support your Pleasant Pond-Cobbosseecontee Stream Lake Association!** Help us to protect and preserve our pond and stream for future generations by living gently along the shore.



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