

22 Ways to Love Your Lake

1. Plant a buffer between your lawn and the lake. Runoff will be absorbed before reaching the lake.

2. Plant native plants, not invasives. Invasive ornamentals have the ability to reproduce quickly and displace native vegetation, degrading the ecosystem.

3. Reduce or eliminate herbicides and pesticides. Runoff carries pollutants into lakes.

4. Use low phosphorus, low release or organic fertilizers on your lawn, or eliminate fertilizers.

5. Large trees and shrubs create excellent wildlife habitat.

6. Keep your shoreline natural. Bulkheads and unnatural sand reduce fish habitat and increase erosion.

7. Provide bats a home. Bat boxes will attract these insectivores, who eat pounds of insects each night.

8. Don't feed the ducks. Bread is unnatural for waterfowl, and ducks can carry disease.

9. Pick up trash that pollutes your lake. Organize a clean-up day.



10. Install a rain barrel and collect rainwater from gutters. Use this water for watering your lawn, garden, washing your car, or for emergency situations.



11. Appreciate your lake as a lake. Aquatic plants and natural sediment provide habitat and food for a biodiverse ecosystem.

12. Keep hazardous waste out of the lake. Check your car for oil leaks. Don't dispose of chemicals in storm drains or ditches.

13. Create wildlife corridors among properties, lake shores, and the forest. These passageways allow wildlife to move without walking into your patio or yard.

14. Research the history of your lake. Spend some time in your local library to discover your lake's past.

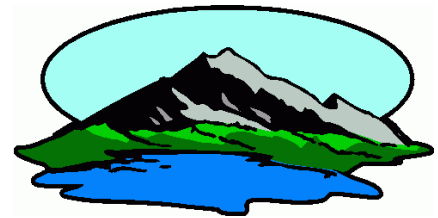
15. Maintain your septic system. Conserve water to decrease stress on the leach field. Do not flush harmful substances into the system. Hire a professional septic system pumper to pump your tank, and make sure they are a scavenger waste hauler permitted by the NYS DEC. Do not use garbage disposals.

16. Use a non-toxic dock preservative. Choose environmentally friendly lumbar treatments.

17. Don't shoot fireworks into the lake. Chemicals harm the ecosystem.

18. Do not dump aquarium water, plants, or aquatic pets into the lake. Invasive species often are introduced via unwanted aquarium biota dumped into a lake.

19. Do not remove fallen trees from the lake or shoreline. If they are not a hazard, allow fallen vegetation to remain, as healthy habitat is created.



20. Wash your car at the car wash. Soap and oil run off into the lake.

21. Clean up after your pets. Pet waste contributes fecal coliform bacteria to the lake.

22. Get involved! Monitor your lake for invasive species. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (www.adkinvasives.com) provides free training during the summer.