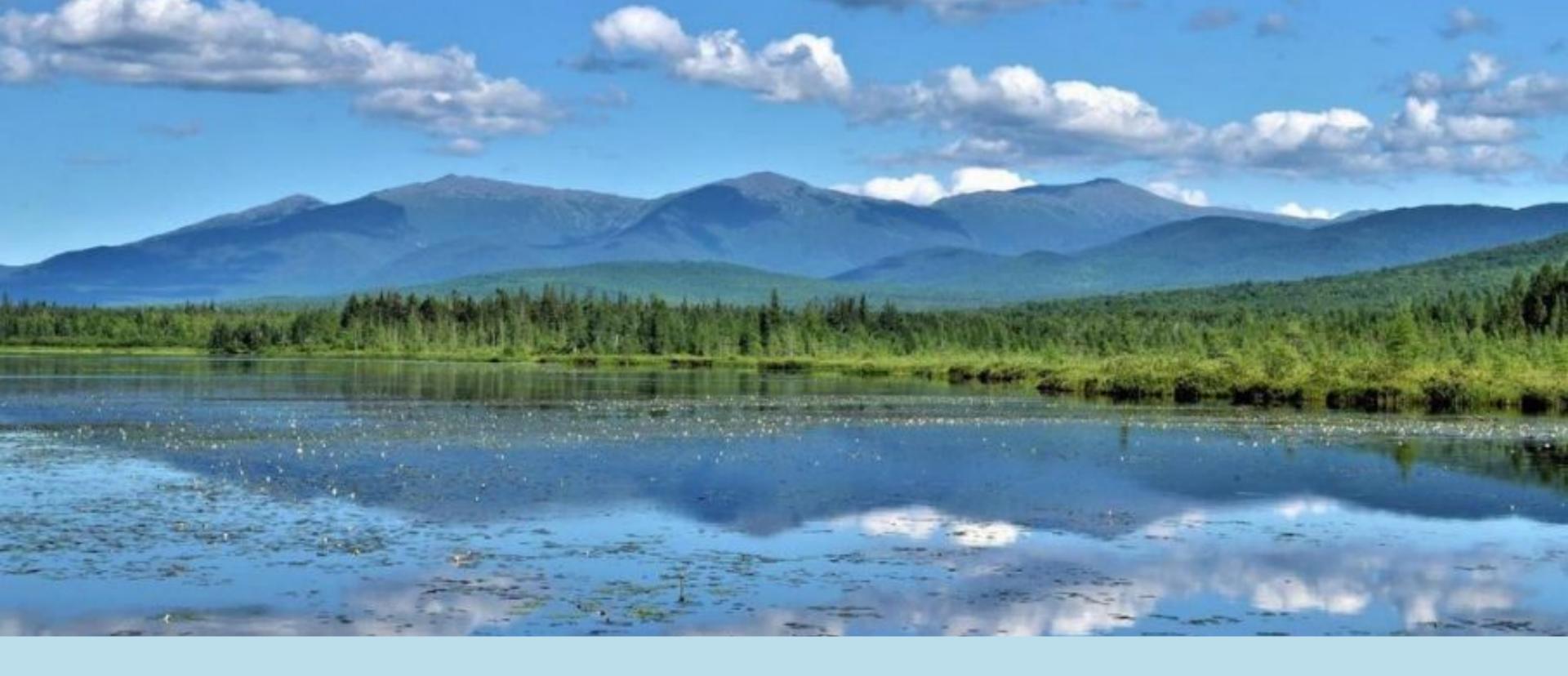




Cyanobacteria: Lake Protection Actions for Homeowners

April 17, 2024

Gloria Norcross, Conservation Program Coordinator
NH LAKES



NH LAKES is a nonprofit organization that is the voice for all of New Hampshire's 1,000 lakes.



We work with local groups, state legislators, and individuals to develop programs and policies and to inspire action to restore and preserve our lakes.













Our vision is a New Hampshire where all our lakes are clean and healthy, and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, and governing.

### Our Programs



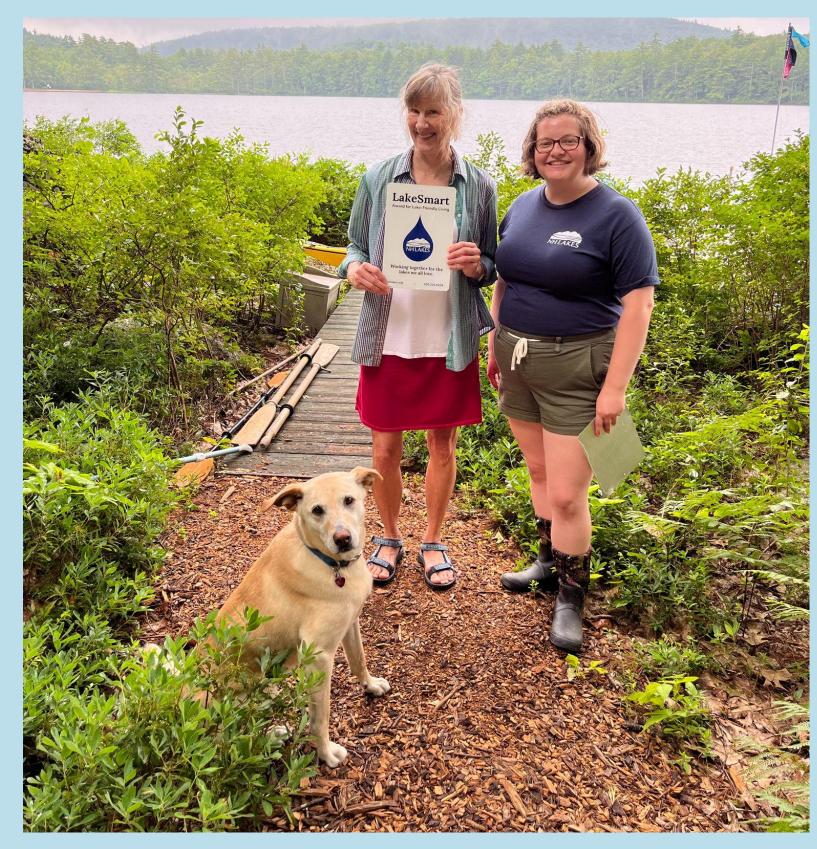






Advocacy Conservation Outreach





In 2019, we launched the LakeSmart Program to teach people, like you, how to save the lake they love.



The goal? Educate and equip property owners with the knowledge to make informed choices.





We want to create a social norm of lake-friendly living across New Hampshire communities.







#### How does it work?

Step 1: Take the online self-assessment at nhlakes.org/lakesmart. You can begin implementing our recommendations right away!





#### How does it work?

Step 2: Get a free and confidential property visit from a trained LakeSmart Guide.





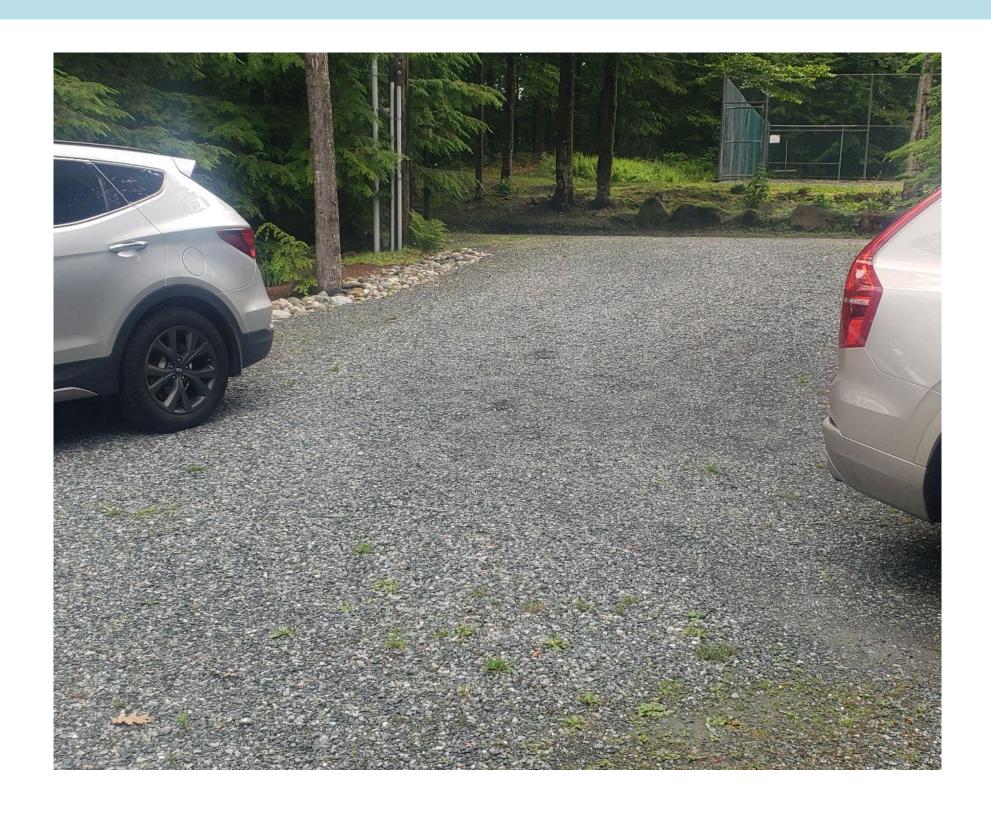
#### How does it work?

Step 3: Work with us to earn the LakeSmart award!

## What Does The LakeSmart Program Evaluate?



- 1. Driveways and Parking Areas
- 2. Structures and Wastewater Treatment System
- 3. Yard, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths
- 4. Shoreline and Water Access





What can you start doing on your property?



# Maintain your septic system (and leach field!)

- Get regular pump-outs
   AND inspections
- Keep your leach field clear of woody vegetation
- Don't park vehicles on your leach field





### Lake-friendly lawn care

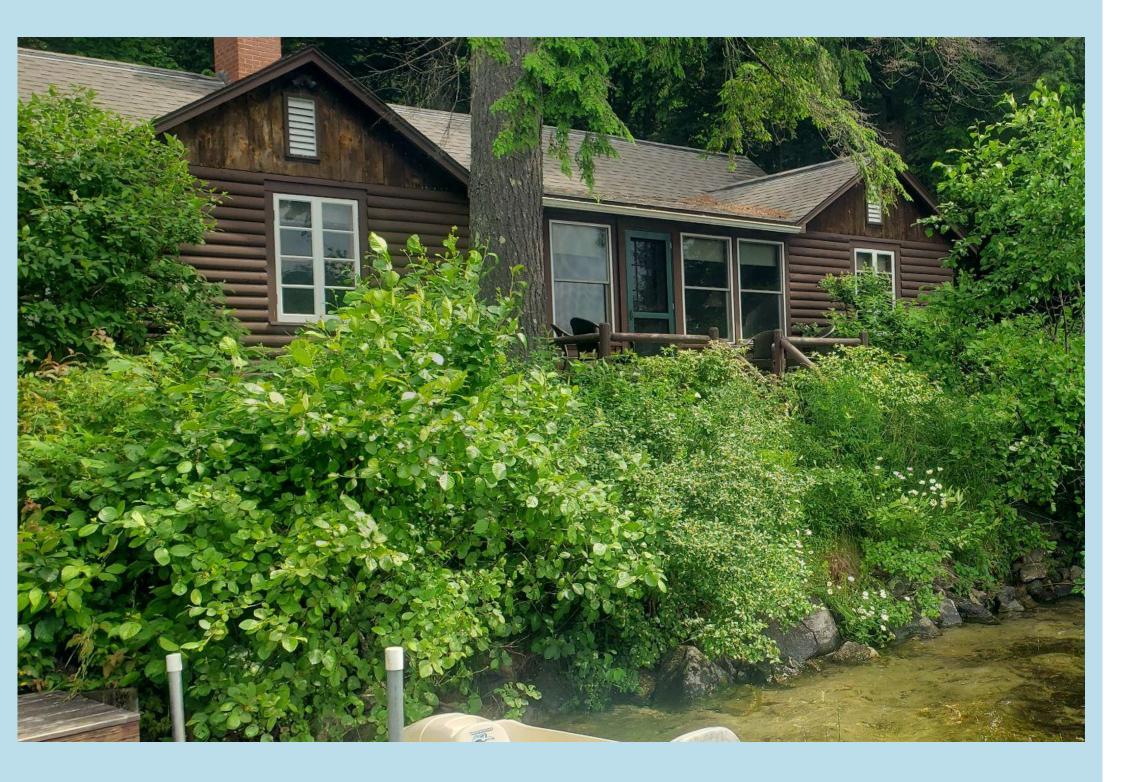
- Let your grass grow longer
- Add clover!
- Test your soil
- Create "no-mow" areas











### Enhance your shoreline buffer

 Incorporate native species like buttonbush, elderberry, blueberry, speckled alder, sweet pepperbush, and Joe pye weed

### Cover bare soil to prevent erosion

- Plant where you can!
- Use raw wood chips, erosion control mulch, or crushed stone
- Leave your leaves









### Other DIY recommendations

- Driveway and dripline infiltration trenches
- Infiltration steps
- Rain barrels

### LakeSmart Resources

- LakeSmart Book (order online, free!)
- LakeSmart Resource
   Library
- Service Providers





nhlakes.org/lakesmart





### Don't forget!

#### LakeSmart is:

- Free
- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory
- Fun!

nhlakes.org/lakesmart