

# The Ribbon of Life

The shoreline, where land, water, and air meet, is a vital edge. Here, plants and wildlife find in abundance the resources they need for life. We, too, rely on shorelines for sustenance. Communities have grown up along the water's edge, and we go to the shore to rest and restore our spirits. Those of us who live by water experience its magic every day. Our health, our children's health, and the long term value of our waterfront property depend on how we care for the shore - the "ribbon of life".

## Twelve Simple Steps to Keep Your Paradise Intact

- Keep the lot well-treed - never clearcut.
- Protect shoreline vegetation; replant areas lacking shrubs and trees with native species.
- Start a buffer strip by leaving some grass uncut near the water.
- Build at least 100 feet away from the shore. Give clear instructions to your contractors and monitor their work.
- Avoid spilling fuels, antifreeze, paint thinner or other chemicals on land or water - clean up fast!
- Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides near the water.
- Use only phosphate-free soaps, detergents, and cleaners in your home.
- Pump out your septic tank regularly - every two to three years.
- Extend the life of your septic system by avoiding tank additives and minimizing water consumption.
- Refuel your boat with care - don't spill a drop.
- Watch your boat's wake - it causes erosion!

**Always check local regulations before building or making changes to your shoreline.**

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Alachua County Board of County Commissioner's  
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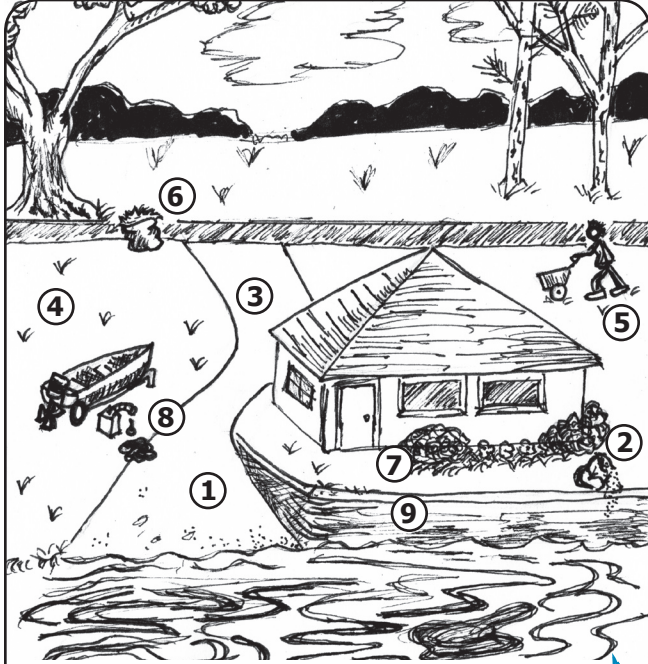
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# Waterfront Living

## Simple Tips, Lasting Benefits

Adapted from the Waterfront Living brochure with permission of The Living By Water Project.

## Not so good ....



- 1) Bare shoreline or boat ramp -subject to erosion which can be serious and affect your property value.
- 2) Fertilizer spills, chemical run-off, and pet waste can damage water quality.
- 3) Paved driveway - pollution laden runoff, including oil and antifreeze leaks from your car, flows to water.
- 4) No shade trees - overworked air conditioner adds to electric bill.
- 5) Removal of natural vegetation - more work for you and more runoff.
- 6) Collecting lawn clippings - deprives soil of nutrients; try mulching.
- 7) Ornamental shrubs - require chemicals and extra work.
- 8) Poor fuel management - gas and oil spills from cans, tanks, and leaky boat motors are deadly.
- 9) Seawall - eliminates "natural filter", degrades water quality and blocks wildlife access.

## Much better!



- 1) Natural shoreline - great wildlife habitat.
- 2) Small dock - low impact; deck located above high water mark.
- 3) Septic system far from shore - reduces water pollution.
- 4) Narrow, winding or diagonal gravelled footpath - less chance of erosion.
- 5) Trimmed trees and adjustable awnings - natural air conditioning with view maintained.
- 6) Natural Florida yard - you work less, relax more!
- 7) Compost pile - improves your soil's quality.
- 8) Low-maintenance native plants - provide shoreline buffer.
- 9) Building set back from shore and in character with setting.
- 10) Well maintained motor - electric, or modern 4-stroke outboard, operated with low wake near shore.

## Benefits of Shoreline Care

Caring for your shoreline means less work, not more! You will help preserve water quality and safeguard your family's health. You will also help protect the beauty of your paradise, maintaining its investment value. Extra benefits include more time to relax and enjoy!