

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.

Supported by the
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Current Problems
Adopt A River
Restore A Shore

www.currentproblems.org
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Waterfront Living

Simple Tips, Lasting Benefits

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