



Checklist of Lake Protection Actions

This checklist provides guidance on actions that help protect Vermont lakes and is based on the [Lake Score Card](#).

Check-off all the helpful actions occurring around your lake. For those items not checked, decide which steps to take to improve the lake conditions. For more information, follow the links below, or contact the Vermont Lakes and Ponds Section at 802-241-3777.

Water Quality and Shoreland Habitat Management Programs and Actions	
<p>Does your lake have a Lake Association? Many lakes and ponds have associations dedicated to taking care of the lake. They are involved in projects such as water sampling, landowner education, boating safety and watershed management. Click here for more information.</p>	
<p>Do you know if your lake is sampled under the Spring Phosphorus or other Monitoring Programs? Spring phosphorus data helps predict the amount of algal growth that will occur in the lake during the summer and these long-term spring trends can show if a lake's water quality is changing over time. To learn more, click here.</p>	
<p>Does your lake participate in the Lay Monitoring Program? Collecting nutrient enrichment data during the summer documents the conditions of the lake and can show if the lake is changing over time. Read more.</p>	
<p>Does your lake community work with the local town officials? Town Select Boards, Planning and Conservation Commissions make good partners for lakes.</p>	
<p>Does your town have local lake shore zoning rules? Shorelands are protected best with rules for growth and development. Getting involved in town policy and planning can greatly benefit your lake. Click here to learn more.</p>	
<p>Is most of the lakeshore well vegetated? The value and importance of well-vegetated lakeshores cannot be overstated. To learn more about vegetated buffers and their role in protecting the lake, Click Here.</p>	
<p>Does your town participate in the Better Back Roads Program to help control dirt road run-off to the lake? Find out more.</p>	
<p>Are private roads and driveways maintained to prevent run-off to the lake? Read more.</p>	
<p>Is there a completed, up-to-date Watershed Survey for your lake? Observing the watershed conditions is the first step in taking action to protect or restore a lake or watershed. Here's why.</p>	
<p>Are most septic tanks around the lake pumped every 3 to 5 years? A poor or overloaded system can introduce disease-causing organisms into the lake, resulting in a human health threat and can introduce nutrients into the lake, causing algae blooms and excessive weed growth. Here's more.</p>	
<p>Do most lake residents love the lake? Loving your lake means keeping it healthy for everyone—frogs, fish, and mammals too! Encourage lake residents to read the Water Quality Division's newsletter, "Out of the Blue," on the web, and visit the Lake Protection Series for guidance on how to properly care for the lake.</p>	

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Aquatic Invasive Species</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Management Programs and Actions</h3>	✓
<p>Does your lake participate in aquatic invasive species spread prevention? To learn more about why spread prevention actions are important, Click Here.</p>	
<p>Is there a VIP (Vermont Invasive Patroller) on your lake? Here's How and Why to Get Trained</p>	
<p>At public access locations, does your lake have Aquatic Invasive Species signs posted? To request signs, Click Here.</p>	
<p>Is there an Access Greeter Program at your lake? Here's More Information.</p>	
<p>If your lake has an aquatic invasive species, is there a Management Program underway? Management Programs are essential for controlling an invasive infestation and for preventing further spread to other areas.</p>	

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Atmospheric Pollution</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Management Programs and Actions</h3>	✓
<p>Does the Regional Planning Conservation Commission offer hazardous waste pick-up? Although the majority of mercury entering a lake comes from the atmosphere, mercury is also found in many household items and can leach into the environment. Click here for more information on proper disposal of household products.</p>	
<p>Are there community bike and greenway paths in your watershed community? All the small, local actions taken to reduce carbon emissions, such as driving less, can add up to big emission reductions over time. Carbon in the atmosphere is blamed for global warming and also plays a role in acid rain. Learn more.</p>	
<p>Do the area stores encourage using re-usable shopping bags or commuter mugs for “to go” beverages? Why this is important.</p>	
<p>Are there anglers on your lake? Visit information about mercury and fish consumption.</p>	
<p>What legislation helps protect Vermont lakes from atmospheric pollution? The Federal Clean Air Act Amendments in 1990, regulating stronger emissions controls, were largely passed from Vermont lake monitoring findings. Read More.</p>	