



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROTECT:

ENVIRONMENT

By mitigating the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen loading into a lake you can help prevent bacteria and algae blooms.

HEALTH

Keep drinking water clean from harmful bacteria, household chemicals, and winter salt.

PROPERTY VALUE

Maintain the integrity of your home's foundation, driveway, and surrounding soils and plant life.



ABOUT US

GMCG is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization established in 1997. Our mission is to promote an awareness of and appreciation for clean water and the wise use of shared natural resources across the Ossipee Watershed and advocate strategies to protect them. The primary towns we serve are Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Madison, Ossipee, Sandwich and Tamworth in NH, and Porter and Parsonsfield in Maine. Our watershed lies above the Ossipee Aquifer, the largest stratified drift aquifer in New Hampshire and the sole source of drinking water for over 80% of the region's population.

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**ATTENTION WATERFRONT
PROPERTY OWNERS!**

**TOP 10
BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES FOR
HEALTHY WATERS**

New Hampshire surface waters are experiencing increased outbreaks of cyanobacteria blooms that pose serious risks to human health, pets, and aquatic life and are indicators of a decline in the health of our favorite lakes and streams. Your property could be contributing to the problem! Please review these Top 10 Best Management Practices for Healthy Waters and consider some simple, affordable steps you can take to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff on your waterfront property.



TOP 10 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HEALTHY WATERS



RAIN BARRELS

Install one or more rain barrels to control excessive storm water runoff from roofs and gutters and conserve fresh water for use in gardens and times of draught.



RAIN GARDENS

Plant rain gardens in locations where storm water runoff collects with native water loving plants to soak up the rain, stabilize soils, and create habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.



WATERBARS

Waterbars are an effective solution to slow down storm water runoff, prevent erosion, stabilize soils, and maintain smooth driveways and roads.



PERVIOUS PAVERS

Traditional asphalt driveways and parking lots do not allow rain water to soak into the ground, exacerbating erosion. Instead opt for pervious pavers which allow water to infiltrate into the ground.



NATIVE PLANTS

Allowing native plants to flourish along the shoreline is an excellent way to control erosion. The plants roots create an underground web holding soils in place during times of flood and heavy storms.



SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Properly maintain your septic system, especially by pumping every few years. A leaky septic will allow bacteria and household chemicals to pollute ground and surface waters.



AVOID SOAPS

Wash your car with non-toxic and biodegradable soap on your driveway rather than on your lawn so that excess water and detergents can soak into the grass.



AVOID CHEMICALS

Eliminate or reduce the use of fertilizers that contain phosphorous or nitrogen and eliminate the application of pesticides on your lawn and garden. These chemicals can enter your groundwater.



ORGANIC WASTE

Organic matter and clippings are contain nutrients such as nitrogen that can feed bacteria blooms when dumped in the water. Do not dump into nearby streams, lakes or storm water gutters. Leave grass clippings as mulch on your lawn.



WINTER SALT

Excess or too much winter salt application is toxic to plants, animals, and ground water. Use alternatives like sand and shovel as much as possible before considering using salt.

The Ossipee Watershed is a sub-watershed of the Saco River watershed. GMCG works closely with the Saco Headwaters Alliance to promote regional solutions to protect surface and groundwater throughout eastern New Hampshire and western Maine. This brochure is made possible by their partnership and support.

