



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:



*A Practical Guide
To Preserving
Lake Wickaboag's
Water Quality*

WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Lake Wickaboag's water quality depends on the actions and efforts of each individual who lives on or visits the lake. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are proven steps that those who live within 300' of Lake Wickaboag's shore can take to help preserve lake water quality. They involve simple choices in how we maintain our homes and properties around the lake that protect ground water, limit harmful stormwater runoff and contribute to a healthier lake. Together, we can preserve our lake water quality for ourselves and for generations to come.

ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

This brochure was published by the LWPA to promote ecological, lake-friendly living. It is designed to be a quick reference guide of Best Management Practices for Lake Wickaboag. It was compiled using various professional resources including the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS).

THE LAKE WICKABOAG PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association (LWPA) mission is to encourage, organize and support programs and activities that promote, restore and maintain the ecological health of Lake Wickaboag through involvement in issues of lake water quality and watershed protection and management. Over the years, the LWPA has been fulfilling its mission, in part, by educating West Brookfield residents through its semi-annual newsletter and annual meeting.

Visit www.lakewickaboag.com for further information, including how to become a LWPA member, or to view current and past LWPA newsletters.

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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

- ✓ Conserve water by fixing leaky faucets, and installing low-flow shower heads, water-flow regulators on faucets and water-saver toilets
- ✓ Prevent all drainage such as 'grey water' from flowing into the lake
- ✓ Keep gutters and downspouts clean and divert drainage away from the lake
- ✓ Avoid using strong household cleaners, such as drain cleaners; buy cleaning products and detergents that are low or free from phosphate/phosphorous (according to the Great Sand Lakes Task Force, June 1999, Palmolive Gel has the lowest phosphorous content of commercially available brands)
- ✓ Minimize use and properly dispose of hazardous chemicals and waste such as gasoline, motor oil, paints, pesticides, insecticides, etc.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Pump your septic tank regularly and have it inspected every several years
- ✓ Do your laundry over the course of the week rather than all on a single day

- ✓ Avoid using a garbage disposal
- ✓ Avoid chemicals that advertise "less frequent pumping necessary"
- ✓ Minimize use and properly dispose of hazardous chemicals and waste such as gasoline, motor oil, paints, pesticides, insecticides, etc.

MANAGING YOUR SHORELINE AND PREVENTING EROSION

- ✓ Create a vegetative buffer by planting an unmowed/unmaintained, fertilizer-free zone along your shoreline (For more information, refer to the LWPA Brochure titled '*Creating and Maintaining Lakeshore Vegetative Buffers: A Living Filter To Protect Lake Wickaboag From Harmful Ground Water And Excessive Stormwater Runoff*')
- ✓ Construct paths to and along the shoreline using curves and porous surfaces
- ✓ Terrace steep banks; plant them with native vegetation
- ✓ Use natural stone to protect your shoreline

LAWN AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Keep leaves and lawn clippings out of the lake
- ✓ Set your lawnmower to cut grass 2" to 3" high; consider using a composting lawnmower, or compost your lawn waste

- ✓ Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste
- ✓ Landscape with native, drought-resistant trees, shrubs and ground cover
- ✓ Test your soil and only add the nutrients necessary for your lawn and garden; minimize the use of herbicides; use phosphorous-free fertilizers and slow-release nitrogen only
- ✓ Apply fertilizers during the appropriate season and water lightly after applying; avoid applying fertilizers on ground that slopes into the lake
- ✓ Fill fertilizer spreaders on a hard surface to make sweep up easy; never wash fertilizer spills into storm drains

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Keep your boat and motor in good repair; exercise extreme caution when filling your boat's gas tank while on the water
- ✓ Avoid performing car maintenance close to the water, including changing the oil or washing your car
- ✓ Avoid dumping any trash or waste into storm drains
- ✓ Avoid releasing aquarium water or watering garden plants or pets in the lake