



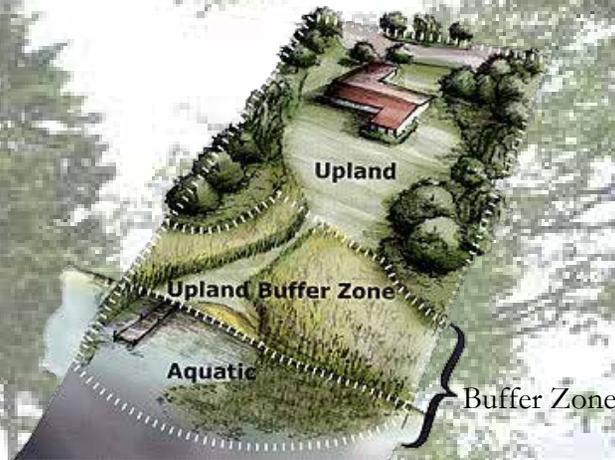
Shadbush Serviceberry

Highbush Cranberry

*LSPA thanks the Lake Sunapee area Landscape Design professionals, Sue Clough and Nancy Fleming, who have contributed to this pamphlet. LSPA also thanks Wendy Ward from the NRCS (Walpole Office) for assistance in identifying invasive shoreland species.*

# Lake Friendly Landscaping

- ◆ Landscaping of a lakeshore property has special consideration, so that the lake is minimally harmed by human contact.
- ◆ Ground covers, shrubs, and trees serve an important function in trapping sediment and water runoff.
- ◆ A well balanced landscaping design will include trees, shrubs, and ground covers. Local landscapers and nurseries can supply and advise you as to which species are best suited to grow on your land.
- ◆ Before removing any trees near the shoreline remember there are local and state regulations regarding tree cutting; see LSPA's zoning brochure or your town office for more information.
- ◆ See LSPA's pamphlet *Landscaping Garden Plants* for a listing of native Trees, Shrubs, Perennials and Groundcovers.



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# LSPA

*Devoted to the Environmental Quality  
 of the Lake Sunapee Watershed*

The best landscape design near a body of water is one which prevents surface water runoff from entering directly into the lake, pond or stream. Existing trees, shrubs, and ground covers can trap runoff water from rain and snowmelt and allow it to settle into the soil where it can replenish groundwater. Runoff from rain contains nutrient-laden silt. One of these nutrients, phosphorus, feeds algae in the water. Algal "blooms" can kill fish, turn the water green, and create odors.

Nutrient laden silt carried into the lake settles on the bottom creating a fertile bed for unwanted weed growth. Sediment can fill stream beds, inhibit water flow, damage fish spawning areas, and suffocate organisms living on the bottom.

## Minimize the Area of Lawn

Plants trap runoff better than manicured lawns. Ground covers and rock gardens can be a sensible alternative to grass. Careful pruning can maintain the views over shrubs. Any lawn should be minimal and as far away from the lake as possible with a good buffer zone of shrubs and trees. Lawns grown with native and naturalized grass species will require less care and need little if any fertilizer.

## Grade for Erosion Control

Grading surfaces flatten small irregularities that naturally exist on the surface of the land. These depressions are beneficial in their ability to trap and store water allowing it to seep into the soil. Include depressions in your landscape planning. Plan drainage and grading so that water flows away from the shore and

can settle naturally. Be sure runoff from surfaces such as driveways and roofs has the opportunity to settle into the soil of vegetated areas. Steep slopes need dense vegetation cover to control erosion.

## Keep a Green Buffer Zone

State and local regulations require a "buffer zone" of native vegetation to be retained in an area near the shore in order to limit runoff. (See LSPA's brochure on zoning regulations, your town's regulations, and NH's Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act.) Plantings, including trees, shrubs, uncut grasses and herbaceous plants trap silt and slow the flow of runoff. Plant roots hold soil together reducing the chance of erosion and absorb nutrients from runoff water.

It is also important to allow natural materials such as pine needles, leaves, and small branches to build up on the soil as they do in the woods to create a "duff" layer. This organic layer ads nutrients to the soil and slows the flow of surface water.

## Design Paths and Walks to Meander

Allow any path leading down to the shore to curve and meander, so that water will not travel down the path, but settle into the soil along the way. Walks should be made of permeable materials to help water settle into the soil, rather than run into the lake.

Consider alternatives to pavement for driveways to increase infiltrations.



## Why Plant with Native Species

- ◆ Plant species occurring naturally in this area of New Hampshire will most likely thrive, be less expensive, and require the least amount of care.

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