



# LakeSmart Standards & Better Management Practices

## For a CLEAN LAKE, HIGH PROPERTY VALUE & WILDLIFE HABITAT

**Standards** reflect Maine law and expert knowledge about protecting water quality, recreational lake use, wildlife habitat, and the vitality of lake communities.

**Better Management Practices** (BMP's) are lake friendly techniques to slow, spread capture or infiltrate rainwater to turn it into groundwater before it can harm the lake.

### 1. DRIVEWAY/PARKING

#### Standards

Driveway is defined and minimized  
Surface is stable without signs of erosion  
Driveway edges are stable, show no erosion  
Parking area edges show no erosion  
Runoff is directed to infiltration area

#### BMPs

Add gravel to stabilize, crown driveway  
Use diverter to shunt water off driveway:  
    rubber razorblade, open-top culvert,  
    turnout, water bar, or culvert with an  
    armored catch basin  
Line ditch with gravel or vegetation  
Plant vegetation to infiltrate driveway runoff

### 2. STRUCTURES/SEPTIC

#### Standards

Roof runoff is captured and infiltrated  
Septic tank is pumped every 3-5 years  
Leach field is not threatened by vegetation  
Outside oil tanks are protected from falling ice  
Decks and patios comply with SLZ regulations

#### BMPs

Install dripline trench  
Add mulch, gravel, plantings  
Install gutters, downspout, rain barrel,  
drywell, rain garden  
Install vegetated swale to divert runoff  
Pump septic tank regularly (3-5 years)  
Clear Woody vegetation from leach field

### 3. YARD/RECREATION/PATHS

#### Standards

Lawn minimized (*lakes like less lawn!*)  
Recreation areas defined, appropriate in size  
No bare soil, no signs of erosion, no pet waste  
Fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide use omitted or  
    minimized

#### BMP's

Wind paths, cover with ECM, gravel, etc.  
Install infiltration steps, rain garden, water bar  
Install vegetated swale to divert runoff  
Plant vegetation to slow, spread, infiltrate runoff  
Cover soil with mulch in cultivated areas  
Define recreation areas  
Minimize lawn, mow high, leave grass cuttings  
Use fertilizer only after soil test or with new lawn  
Use pesticides sparingly, if at all  
Consider wildlife needs for food & shelter

### 4. BUFFER/WATER ACCESS

#### Standards

Shoreline condition and appearance are natural  
Mixed stand of vegetation buffers shore  
Bank is not being undercut by waves/ice  
Duff is allowed to accumulate; soil is covered  
Canopy openings are limited; regrowth  
planned Rainwater runoff can't get to lake (*no  
leaks!*) **BMPs**

Don't cut more vegetation than SLZ permits  
Plant native /native-friendly plants, or

    allow native regrowth along shore  
Stop rainwater runoff at dock entry and water  
    access points  
Stabilize shoreline with plantings or riprap  
Don't clear plants or woody debris from shallow  
    water nursery areas (a permit is required  
    for clearing a path > 10' wide in shallows)

SCREENER

CONTACT INFORMATION

MAINE LAKES SOCIETY 2015