

LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION



SHORELAND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION ACT & NH DES

- **Every current and prospective property owner on Laurel Lake should be familiar with the New Hampshire Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B).**
- **The Shoreland Protection Act establishes a State of NH regulated buffer zone of 250' from the shoreline and provides guidance as to property development and caretaking within that zone.**
- **Within the protected zone, the SWQPA includes regulations on fertilizer and pesticide use, protection and planting of vegetation and trees, hardscape and building construction, and permitting.**
- **Do you need a shoreland permit for your proposed project? Find out at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/shoreland>.**

State of New Hampshire regulations, guidelines, and programs such as the NH Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA), NH Lake Smart, and the NH Homeowner's Stormwater Guide provide reasonable and responsible pathways to a healthy lake environment. The NH SWQPA "establishes buffers known as 'protected shoreland', located along the state's public waters. Within the protected shoreland, the SWQPA regulates certain activities such as lot subdivision, land development, and vegetation management, among other things." (source: [NHDES website](#)) The intent of the SWQPA is to protect the health of our NH waterbodies. It establishes a State regulated buffer zone of 250' from the shoreline and provides very specific guidance as to property development and caretaking within that zone. Requirements such as the amount of undisturbed wooded areas, the amount of property square footage given over to hardscapes and hard surfaces, and the types of landscaping products used within that zone are included in this legislation. Every waterfront property owner, including towns and businesses, must submit permits to the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) if conducting work within the 250' waterfront zone. Failure to do so could result in fines and other official State penalties. Links to NH Department of Environmental Services and SWQPA related information are provided below.

Important Resource Links: New Hampshire Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

NH Department of Environmental Services - <https://www.des.nh.gov/>

NHDES Protected Shoreland Homepage - <https://www.des.nh.gov/land/waterfront-development/protected-shoreland>

SWQPA Minimum Standards - <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/swqpa-summary.pdf>

SWQPA FAQs - <https://www.des.nh.gov/protected-shoreland-faq#faq30991>

NHDES Pesticide Use in the Protected Zone - <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-3.pdf>

NHDES Lawn Care in the Protected Zone - <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-2.pdf>

NHDES Vegetation Management for Water Quality - <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-5.pdf>

NHDES Shoreland Accessory Structures - <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/sp-6.pdf>

Shoreland Permitting - <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/lrmonestop/>

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