

LakeSmart

LakeSmart is an education and outreach program managed locally by Hogan Whitney Pond Association volunteers and state-wide by Maine Lakes (<https://www.lakes.me/lakesmart>). The program is free, **non-regulatory**, and voluntary. The program helps participating lakefront homeowners receive individualized suggestions for keeping pollutants from stormwater out of lake waters, protecting and preserving water quality.



How does the process work? Participating homeowners fill out a questionnaire and the local HWPB team visits each property and uses this information to go along with their observations in a five-part evaluation:

- **Section 1:** Driveway and Parking Areas
- **Section 2:** Outdoor Structures
- **Section 3:** Outdoor Areas
- **Section 4:** Shoreline Buffer and Water Access
- **Section 5:** Buffer Integrity

The homeowners receive a written evaluation along with suggestions to better keep pollutants in stormwater out of our lake waters. The LakeSmart program is free to HWPAs homeowners. Properties that protect the lake and meet **LakeSmart** standards earn the coveted **LakeSmart Award**, consisting of two distinctive signs that can be posted at the waterfront and driveway. The signs identify the homes of good stewards and show everyone what lake-friendly living looks like.

Property owners not yet meeting the **LakeSmart** standards receive recommendations for what they can do to reduce erosion and protect the lake. There is no pressure or obligation to undertake the suggestions. If you choose to make changes, your property can be re-evaluated. Common recommendations for improvement are:

- Increase native plants on your property.
- Reduce lawn area.
- Divert stormwater to natural areas (away from the lake).
- Cover pathways with erosion control mulch.
- Stabilize the shoreline with native plants.
- Pump the septic system regularly (every 3-5 years for a lakefront property).

An example of what the program looks for in a typical property is documented in the following illustration:



This final photo illustrates a local HWPB evaluation team at work on a Whitney Pond property evaluation.



For interested homeowners, please contact Sylvia Wilson, HWPB volunteer LakeSmart coordinator, at: sylviawilson@verizon.net.