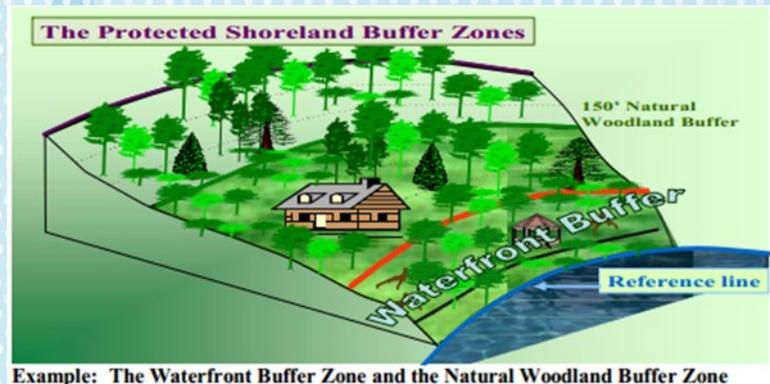


Now is the time to start planning any waterfront construction activities that you anticipate this spring and summer. Waterfront owners as well as land owners within 250' of Lake Winnisquam, Silver Lake and Sargent Lake are required to receive a Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act permit through the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) before initiating any ground disturbance or addition of an impervious surface. Land owners that border the Tioga River and lesser brooks and streams though not required to get a permit are encouraged to follow the best management practices required by the SWQPA. The goal of the SWQPA is to limit the amount of untreated runoff into water bodies thus reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients that pollute our surface waters.

There are two Protected Shoreland Buffer Zones set back from the Reference Line, the shoreline elevation as established by DES.

The Waterfront Buffer (WB) – the area between the reference line and 50' is to remain mostly in a natural state. This is the last chance to remove sediments and nutrients before runoff flows into the lake or stream. A residence can't be placed or expanded within the WB. A new lawn can't be established within an existing, unaltered WB and low phosphate, slow-release nitrogen must be used on existing lawns. No fertilizer can be used within 25' of the reference line. It is a common misconception that a lawn is an effective sediment and nutrient filter as is depicted in the



Example: The Waterfront Buffer Zone and the Natural Woodland Buffer Zone



picture of cyanobacteria (see [Vegetation Maintenance within the Protected Shoreland](#)). Some tree cutting is allowed but some trees must remain in a scored grid system that maintains a well distributed stand. Stumps can be ground down but their extensive root systems must remain. Vegetation less than 3' tall (except existing lawns) must remain with the provision for a pathway to the water.

The Natural Woodland Buffer is the area between 50' and 150' from the reference line. At least 25% of this area must remain in an undisturbed state

[Links to DES Fact Sheets](#)

[Summary of SWQPA Standards](#)

[A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management](#)

[Lawn Care Within the Protected Shoreland](#) [Do's and Don'ts for Maintaining Healthy Surface Water](#)

Click on any of these links highlighted in blue to get more detailed information.