



Design your own shoreline garden

with The Land Between- Handouts

Permit requirements for working around water:

Any activity, including installing a dock, rocks, walls, planting, and also including activities involving the removal of in-water, aquatic or shoreline plants and trees too, and which take place beyond the high water mark (and into the water) can interfere with fisheries and move soils that may dislodge silt, or can affect the environment overall and will require a permit. Such activities taking place without permits are considered an infraction. The protection of waters falls under legislation that deals with protecting fisheries and that deals with protecting overall environmental quality.

Responsible authorities are:

- Federally, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO);
- Provincially, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) and Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (OMOEC); and
- Locally the Conservation Authority (CA).

To obtain a permit for works around water, start with approaching your local Conservation Authority. If there is no CA in your area, approach your local OMNRF office, and work upwards. One authority often may deal with all the necessary approvals on behalf of the other government level.

The timing of the activity, types of activities and locations of activities (what parts of the property, shore, and into lake) all have bearings on environment and fisheries in a lake and therefore is pertinent information for obtaining a permits

Other permits/legislation and authorities related to shores:

Many municipalities have bylaws that will restrict activities around a lake and specifically your lakeshore and which will require a permit. Examples of applicable bylaws include:

- Shoreline vegetation/buffer bylaws that speak to maintaining natural shorelines and include widths of natural setbacks
- Building setback bylaws
- Shoreline tree protection bylaws
- Lighting bylaws that restrict lights from shining on waters
- Other site controls under municipal jurisdiction include septic type and placement, slope and grading of properties etc.

Note: Enforcement/Reporting infractions requires evidence: before and after pictures are best.

Contacts:

- **Conservation Ontario**, CA Contact list: <http://conservationontario.ca/about-us/conservation-authorities/ca-contact-list> 905-895-0716
- **OMNRF Wildlife and Nature**: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wildlife-and-nature> 705-755-2000
- **OMOEC Spills Action centre**: Report spills of pollutants (e.g. oil, chemicals) to the Spills Action Centre by calling 416-325-3000, 1-800-268-6060 (toll-free), or 1-855-889-5775
- **Your local bylaw officer**

Local invasive species and substitutes

Beyond the known threats of phragmites grass, garlic mustard, dog strangling vine, purple loosestrife and other provincially listed invasive species, certain plants sold at local greenhouses and stores can colonize and outcompete native plants on your property. These plants may take longer to take over a shore or property, and so are not as aggressive as provincially listed plants, but they will still be very difficult to remove if they can be removed at all. They will overgrow local trilliums and other native plants.

<u>Some of these locally invasive plants include:</u>	<u>Native substitutes can be:</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. European highbush cranberry2. Autumn olive3. Norway maples and varieties4. Tartarian honeysuckle5. False spirea6. Russian olive7. Japanese honeysuckle8. Oriental bittersweet9. Dames rocket10. Rock lupine11. Yellow iris12. Curly pondweed13. Non native waterlilies14. Floating hearts15. Flowering rush16. Eulalia or maiden grass (and other zebra grasses)17. Oxeye or Shasta daisy18. Periwinkle19. Lambs quarters20. Other creeping groundcovers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. American highbush cranberry2. Common Elderberry3. Hard maple4. Witch hazel/service berry/glaucous honeysuckle5. Spirea alba6. Ninebark/chokecherry7. Bush honeysuckle/wild bergamot/blazing star8. Trumpet creeper/wild bergamot9. Native Ontario phlox10. Fireweed/blazing starts11. Blue flag iris12. Floating leaved pondweed13. Arrowhead or white waterlily14. White or yellow waterlily15. Softstem or hardstem bulrush16. Elodea17. Echinacea or Black eye susan18. Wintergreen19. Bunchberry20. Wintergreen/bearberry/virginia creeper