



Winter 2012

Keep Kittery's Water Clean

A guide to actions and new regulations that improve the quality of our local environment

How To Follow The New Kittery Rules That Keep Our Water Clean for Wildlife and People



1. Learn What's New

In 2010, the Town of Kittery added new land use regulations to protect the shoreland, preserve wetlands and lessen water pollution. Below is an overview of the new changes, however, there are too many details to cover here. Please see the Town Code for specific conditions and online maps at http://www.kittery.org/Pages/KitteryME_Planning/index.

Shoreland Overlay Zone

There are now special regulations for the area within 250 feet of a waterbody or wetland; or within 75 feet of a stream.

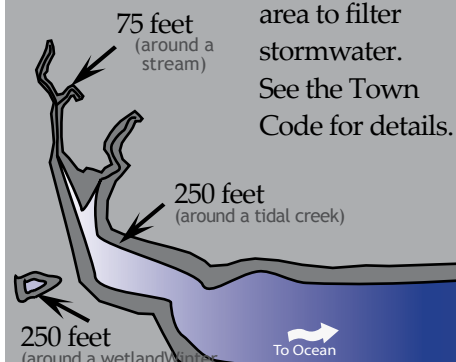
New construction on residential lots in this zone must have at least 80 percent of the lot in plants (grass, trees, shrubs,

(continued on next page)

Term Definition: Overlay Zone

An overlay zone is an area, like the residential or commercial zones, that has special regulations.

For example, the new shoreland overlay zone is the area around a stream, wetland, or other type of waterbody in Kittery. In these areas you have to make sure you have enough planted area to filter stormwater. See the Town Code for details.



Water Quality Protection Is Good for Kittery

by Russell White,
Kittery Town Planning Board Chair



Water quality in Kittery affects us all. Polluted

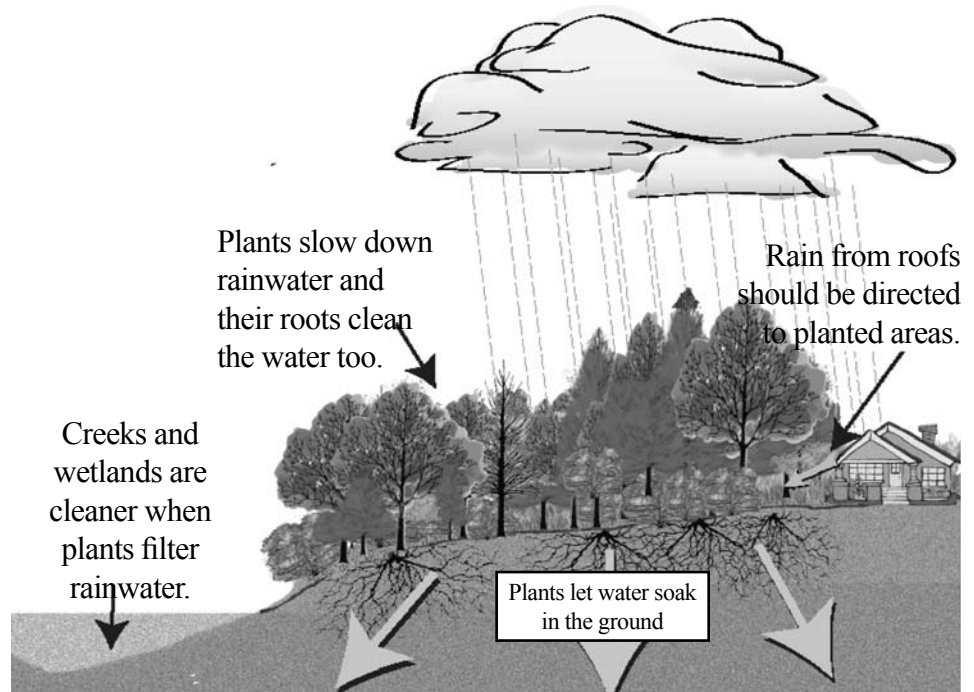
water threatens our health, our economy and our lifestyle. But with a few simple changes, we can all do our part to keep our water clean.

Improving the Quality of Life and Place

- This is the mission of the Town of Kittery Planning Department, working to protect and add value in all planning and code enforcement decisions and actions. They support the Planning Board, Town Councilors and other Town departments in thinking ahead about issues and opportunities, verifying Town goals, presenting development options and implications, helping make decisions on appropriate policies and implementation programs and monitoring and evaluating implementation results.

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Department at 207-439-6807 or visit them at www.kittery.org

The simplest, cheapest, and most effective way to keep our water clean is to let areas around water and wetlands grow lush plants.



gardens) or some surface that allows water to seep into the ground.

Resource Protection Overlay Zone

This zone covers areas where buildings and roads would damage waterways, wildlife habitat or scenic views.

Landowners in this zone need to know that cutting any vegetation within 100 feet of a waterbody is not allowed, except for reasons of safety.

Revised Wastewater and Stormwater Policies:

These changes include limiting activities that would release pollution into the ground or water.

To help understand how you are affected by the new zones, please see the Shoreland and Resource Protection Overlay Zones boundaries on the Town Land Use Zoning Map at www.kittery.org/Pages/KitteryME_Planning/index

2. Don't Break The Law

The regulations that protect water are serious because clean water is so important to everyone. Fines have been issued to Kittery residents who did not check with the Town regulations

before cutting plants near the water.

If you are unsure about the legality of any action on your property, check the Town Code at www.kittery.org or call the Town Code Enforcement Office at 207-475-1308.

3. Change Your Ways

Learning about regulations won't do any good unless people change their ways and start protecting the water from pollution.

Go to www.protectkitterywaters.org to learn many ways to prevent water pollution in Kittery.

4. Talk To Your Neighbors

Since we all share the water around us, talk about water pollution with your neighbors. Helping them stop pollution on their land just may prevent it from showing up in your drinking water or your favorite beach.

Also work with your neighbors to agree to prevent water pollution in wetlands or small streams that exist on the border between properties.

All The Information You Need Is Just A Few Clicks Away

All of the Town of Kittery Codes are available at www.kittery.org/Pages/KitteryME_Planning/index

If you have questions about the new regulations, please email Kittery's Code

Enforcement Officer, Heather Ross at hross@kitteryme.org.

If you would like more information on how buffers keep water clean, email Kittery's Shoreland Resource Officer, Amber Harrison at aharrison@kitteryme.org.

For many recommendations on how to be a good water steward in Kittery, go to www.protectkitterywaters.org





Show You Care With Lawn Care

A challenge from Kittery resident Karen Young that will make our community's water cleaner.

Ms. Young is the former Director of the EPA's Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and a water resource advocate.

Sometimes it is difficult to remember what we do on land affects the water around us. Pollution in our own yards can affect our family and the families living around us. Here are some common sources of pollution that are possibly in your yard now.

- **Fertilizer** - Any extra fertilizer is washed into creeks and stormdrains where it causes many problems in the water. Older lawns are less likely to need fertilizer if grass clippings are left on turf.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides** - These chemicals can pollute water.
- **Dog Poop** - Piles left by Fido wash into water and pollute it with bacteria.
- **Mud** - Soil causes many problems when it washes into creeks and stormdrains.

Getting rid of these sources of pollution will help keep our water clean. One simple way to do this is to plant native plants and bushes (not just grass) around creeks, walkways and stormdrains. Plants are nature's water filters - plus they look great and provide homes for beautiful animals like butterflies and birds.

What To Do

10 square feet of environmental love

Find a spot on your property that is currently lawn, preferably near a paved walkway or better yet a stream. Measure an area of one big step by two big steps. This is about 10 square feet.

In your 10 square foot plot, do the following for an entire year.

- Do not mow
- Don't apply fertilizer or pesticides
- Plant four to six native plants (ask a nursery to help)
- Pick up any dog poop (don't use it as a dumping ground either)
- Watch for butterflies, rabbits or birds living in the area
- Tell your neighbors about your 10 square feet and challenge them to do the same



Even a small area of lush growing plants can be effective in cleaning rainwater if it is located in the right spot. Learn more at www.protectkitterywaters.org.

I have a question.

What about . . .

Most landowners in Kittery are affected by these new regulations.

Below are a few of the common questions homeowners could have if they live in one or more of the new zones. If you are in doubt about how the new regulations affect you, please learn more online at www.kittery.org/Pages/KitteryME_Planning/index

Can I remove a big dead tree near the water that is leaning over my shed?

If you think it will fall on somebody or damage property and it is within the shoreland overlay zone, call the Town Code Enforcement Office (207-475-1308). They will advise how to proceed because situations will vary.

Can I extend my lawn to the shore?

NO, existing lawns may be maintained. No new lawns can be created. It is best to return the area to its natural vegetative condition.

Do I have to do anything if I remove a tree that fell over in a storm near the water?

YES, contact the Town Code Enforcement Office (207-475-1308) for advice on what to do. Situations will vary.



Check The Town Code Before You Build, Dig, Or Cut Along A Shore

My husband hates the shrubs by the stream and wants to cut them all down. Can he do this?

NO, because the new Shoreland Overlay Zone clearly states cutting of vegetation within 75 feet of a stream is not permitted. Consider enhancing the area for wildlife by adding a bird-house or native berry shrubs.

Can I expand my deck or patio?

MAYBE, if you are at least 75 feet from a water body or wetland and if the deck or patio is less than 500 contiguous square feet. If the deck or patio is 500 contiguous square feet or greater it must be set back 100 feet from the water body or wetland.

Don't Forget About Your Septic System



Overflowing septic systems are a problem in Kittery. Pump out your system every 3 - 5 years to prevent polluting our water.

Your Opinion Is Worth Some Clams!

Go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B8FP3G7> or www.protectkitterywaters.org and complete a simple survey before **March 15, 2012** to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Bob's Clam Hut!

Volunteer For Clean Water!

Learn where to volunteer in Kittery and in the Great Bay watershed by contacting Jill Farrell, PREP's Community Coordinator at 603-862-0724 or Jill.Farrell@unh.edu.



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