

The Lake Protection Pledge

We can create a cleaner lake and waterways. Some of the pollutants that enter Mirror Lake and our waterways come from our own homes and driveways. Taking the simple actions below can prevent nutrients, sediment and toxins from getting into the water from your household. Pledge to help the Lake and waterways, then send the form back to the Mirror Lake Watershed Association — the citizens' group that has been working to protect and improve lake health since 1998.

I/We Pledge To:

Around the Home

- Never dump toxic materials down storm drains, garage drains, or on the ground. *Waste dumped in storm drains or on the ground is not treated before it enters waterways.*
- Keep storm drains and ditches clear of debris. *Debris prevents proper drainage and causes flooding.*
- Use porous pavement or gravel instead of paving with asphalt or cement. *Paved surfaces shed water too rapidly; alternative materials allow storm water to sink into the soil.*
- Position gutters to drain onto grass, soil, or into a rain barrel. *This lets the water filter into the ground rather than flowing directly to streams.*
- Clean up pet waste at home or when walking the dog. *Dog and cat wastes contain high levels of bacteria harmful to people and the Lake. Deposit pet poop in toilets or garbage cans.*
- Use non-phosphate dishwasher detergents. Check labels — *excess phosphorus leads to algae blooms.*
- Have your septic tank inspected and pumped regularly. *Without regular checks and pumping, septic systems can fail, causing severe water quality problems and costly repairs.*

Around the Yard

- Get a soil test and follow its recommendations for fertilizer use. *Most lawns don't need fertilizer, and whatever excess is applied ends up in the water, feeding algae growth.*
- Use compost and mulch to improve soil health. *These products release their nutrients slowly, providing long-term feed for your lawn and garden.*
- Landscape with native ground cover and shrubs instead of lawn. *Plants naturally adapted to local conditions require less maintenance and fertilizer.*
- Choose drought-tolerant and pest-resistant plants. *This minimizes the need for pesticides and excess watering.*
- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides. *Pesticides and herbicides kill beneficial organisms as well as bothersome ones. When it rains, they wash into storm drains and streams. Non-toxic insecticidal soaps, dormant oil sprays, and "helpful insects" such as ladybugs can help keep pests at bay just as well.*
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. *Grass clippings and other organic matter provide natural slow-release fertilizer and improve the lawn's ability to hold water.*
- Maintain a vegetated buffer along the stream, river or lake if you live along a shoreline. *Buffer strips shade the stream, filter runoff, stabilize stream banks, prevent erosion, and provide habitat for animals.*
- Avoid over-watering. *Excess water runs off the lawn into the storm drain system.*
- Re-seed thin areas in the lawn. *Planting bare soil prevents erosion and sedimentation of water bodies.*

Around the Garage and Town

- Wash the car on a lawn or at a commercial car wash. *This minimizes the dirt and detergents entering streams through the storm drain system.*
- Maintain the car with regular tune-ups, and check for leaks. *Leaking fluids end up on parking lots and are washed into storm drains and waterways during the next rain.*
- Dispose of oil and antifreeze properly. *Keep it out of storm drains.*
- Reduce automobile trips. Take a bus, ride a bike, walk or carpool whenever possible. *The average car emits about 900 pounds of pollution into the air each year and some of this ends up in the Lake.*



This pledge is based upon the Lake Champlain Committee's (LCC) Lake Protection Pledge. For more information go to www.lakechamplaincommittee.org.

TO TAKE THE PLEDGE, Go To:
www.mirrorlake.net or see other side

Pledge Here!

- Yes, I/we agree to take the Lake Protection Pledge!**

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Yes, you may use my/our name(s) in MLWA's promotional materials about the Lake Pledge.**

- Yes, I'd like to become more involved. Tell me how.**

- Yes, I'd/we'd like to do even more for the Lake by becoming a Donor to Mirror Lake Watershed Association!** *Donor dollars are put back into the watershed to help protect and restore Lake health.*

- Enclosed is my/our tax deductible gift of (circle one):**

\$25 \$40 \$75 \$100
\$150 \$250 \$ Other _____

The Mirror Lake Watershed Association, a not-for-profit organization of dedicated volunteers, has as its purpose to protect, monitor, and enhance the water quality of Mirror Lake, its tributaries, and connected water bodies. We monitor the lake's shores and surrounding watershed, including public and private lands that drain into Mirror Lake and its tributaries, for potential negative impacts to the lake's environment.

Comments or Suggestions: _____



**Mirror Lake Watershed Association
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Lake Placid, NY 12946**

**www.mirrorlake.net
mirrorlk@gmail.com**

(518) 523-8925

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LCC is a bi-state citizens' conservation organization that has been working to protect the health of the Lake Champlain watershed since 1963.

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Website:

www.lakechamplaincommittee.org

**Help the Lake
Take the Pledge**

Photo by John Eldridge