

What You Can Do *Today* to Save the Lake George Islands for *Tomorrow*



➤ ***If it is green, let it grow***

Keep your feet, tents and picnic tables off vegetation. Do not cut or trim brush for any reason. Healthy island vegetation holds the soil in place and prevents compaction and soil erosion into the lake. Limit your activity to areas where plants are not growing and walk only on established trails away from the water's edge. Paths created to the edge of the lake carry soils directly into the water during rainstorms.

➤ ***Be kind to the trees***

Trees help keep our air and water clean and give us soil and shade. Leave bark on the trees and remove ropes from tree trunks after use. Keep nails and hatchets away from the trees. It is illegal to cut down or deface any tree in the Adirondack Park – living or dead. You may notice that there are not many new trees growing around the campsites. It is difficult for a tree to grow in thin, island soils, so when a tree dies it may never replace itself. Be kind to trees, big and small, and recognize their importance to us.

➤ ***Leave the soils in place***

Soil is a fragile living system that takes centuries to develop. Any loss of soil affects the lake's water quality and the health of the island. Don't dig or trench around your tent. Loose soil washes off the island where it is needed and ends up in the lake. Boat wakes also contribute to erosion of the islands at the water's edge, so travel slowly to minimize your wake when boating around the islands. The speed limit within 100 feet of shore is 5mph, and was set for your safety and to protect the shoreline.

➤ ***Keep your campfires small and burn only when you actually need a campfire***

Every camper enjoys a warm fire, but they come at a cost. The wood you collect from the islands to burn would become valuable soils if left in place. Use paper trash as your kindling instead of leaves and sticks. Light fires only in designated fireplaces. Buy kiln dried firewood or use firewood from a local source (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation restricts transport of firewood more than 50 miles to prevent the spread of invasive species and harmful pests from destroying our trees). It's a small investment with a very tall return!

➤ ***SOAP? Keep it away from the lake***

The chemicals and nutrients in soap are pollutants and promote excess algae growth, which degrades our clean lake water. Algae and slime seen covering native plants, rocks, docks, boats and even the sandy bottom are an indication that there are excess nutrients feeding the lake. Decomposing excess plants and algae deplete oxygen necessary for fish and other aquatic life. Lake George is drinking water and if you won't drink it, it doesn't belong. Use of ANY kind of soap in the lake is illegal (NYS Environmental Conservation Law Article 17- Water Pollution Control § 17-1709). Minimize bathing on the islands. If dish soap, body soap or shampoos are necessary on the islands:

- use only small amounts (dish soap in a spray bottle mixed with water dilutes its concentration and rinses more easily)
- use only biodegradable and phosphate free soap
- always wash dishes and bathe at least 30 ft from the lake and streams (on soils that will infiltrate all wash water)
- a refreshing swim in the lake is a wonderful alternative to using soap

Join the Lake George Island Campers Association

Find out what we are all about at www.LGICA.org



THANK YOU for caring for Lake George's beautiful islands!



Supported by the FUND for Lake George and the Lake George Waterkeeper

