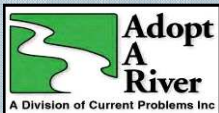


## *Live in harmony with your waterway and its wildlife*

- ◆ Fertilizer use should be avoided on waterfront property to prevent nutrient loading to the water body
- ◆ Pesticide & herbicide use should not be used on waterfront properties except to eradicate exotic invasive pest plants.
- ◆ Keep your septic system well-maintained with regular pump-outs. Upgrade to a high-performance based system to further decrease nutrient loading to the waterway.
- ◆ A wide, natural, and undisturbed vegetated buffer along the shoreline is recommended
- ◆ Leave aquatic vegetation undisturbed, unless exotic (be sure to get permit for removal).
- ◆ Leave the property heavily treed, especially on the waterfront side of the house.
- ◆ Promote wildlife by maintaining or restoring native vegetation to the maximum extent possible, leaving snags, and building a brush pile.
- ◆ Minimize the use of outdoor lighting and reduce ambient light pollution
- ◆ Pets must not be allowed to harass or hunt wildlife and birds.
- ◆ Invasive exotic plant, animal, and fish species should never be introduced to the property or waterway.
- ◆ Minimize storm water discharge with the use of rain gardens, rain barrels, and diagonal, driveways and paths of pervious materials.
- ◆ Leave any and all wetlands undisturbed.
- ◆ Never flush toxics, hazardous materials, or medications down the drains, and be sure to cleanup spills of contaminants on the ground.
- ◆ Please pick up after pets.
- ◆ Choose detergents containing no phosphates.
- ◆ Avoid discharges to the waterway from car washing, pool draining, erosion, or any other means.
- ◆ Keep your distance from nesting areas of birds, alligators, or any other wildlife.



# Living On the Waterfront

Everyone enjoys beautiful waterfront property. No doubt you are spending many hours enjoying the benefits of your natural surroundings. As a waterfront property owner, you have a unique opportunity to serve as an **environmental steward** and at the same time protect your investment.

Florida's waterfront shorelines are some of the state's most ecologically important systems. These fragile **transitions** between dry land and open water provide a variety of **habitats** for both terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals. In many cases, these zones are **wetlands** that help filter polluted stormwater runoff water before it reaches more open water areas.

The actions of people who live nearby a water body affect the health of the waters. Many **everyday activities** associated with yard, household and vehicle maintenance could unintentionally alter the water's quality or quantity. Although any one landowner's contribution may be small, the **combined contribution** of all homeowners, along with possible inputs from urban, agricultural or industrial sources can be significant. Collectively, these activities can affect water quality, aquatic life and recreational use of the water body.



This **SHORELINE HOMEOWNERS GUIDE** is designed to make you more aware how your activities could be affecting your water body. It will also give you tips for minimizing your impact and protecting and enhancing the **"buffer" zone** between you and your water body. By following some simple guidelines, you can add to your enjoyment of your shoreland property, increase its value and **preserve it for future generations.**

*We appreciate your individual effort that benefits us all!*