

4 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT OUR LAKES

This is a special place where plants, wildlife, fish, and people are neighbors.



Give wildlife space

Stay at least 200 ft away from wildlife, nests, and marked breeding areas.

Close encounters can disrupt activities like resting, breeding, and finding food.



Keep the shoreline natural

Leave logs and submerged vegetation in place. Keep shoreline vegetation intact.

Driftwood, downed trees, and plants provide habitat for fish and wildlife, hold soil in place, and filter pollutants and excess nutrients that fuel algae.



Observe no-wake zones

Slow to no-wake within 200 ft of the shoreline and wildlife.

Wakes can cause erosion, disturb animals, and damage vegetation.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the spread of invasive species

Before leaving the water access, clean, drain, and dry all gear.

Invasive species can overtake native plants and animals, creating ecosystem imbalances.



Cary Institute
of Ecosystem Studies