



Ottawa RIVERKEEPER®
GARDE-RIVIÈRE des Outaouais



10 EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE YOUR SHORELINE

A no-nonsense guide to 'doing your part' for the health and future of the Ottawa River watershed, brought to you by Ottawa Riverkeeper.

www.ottawariverkeeper.ca

Defending the Ottawa River, Protecting our Communities.

10 EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR SHORELINE

1 Stop the mowing!

Leave a buffer of at least 5 meters at the shore and nature will do the rest! You can still mow a path to the shoreline for water access but leave the rest to nature.

2 Create a buffer of shrubs and trees along the shore.

Deep shrub and tree roots protect shorelines from erosion, reduce runoff and provide habitats for wildlife.

3 Reduce your runoff by installing a rain barrel and/or a rain garden.

By reducing storm water runoff, you reduce the pollutants that get washed into the river. Rain barrels capture the rain from your roof, while rain gardens catch water in depressions on your property.

4 Avoid using fertilizer and pesticides.

The chemicals you use on your property eventually make it into the water, causing algae blooms and harming wildlife. Consider planting species that grow naturally in your area, which generally require fewer inputs of fertilizers and pesticides.

5 Keep informed!

Being aware of your local shoreline regulations ensures that you are following the rules when constructing on your shoreline property.

About Ottawa Riverkeeper

Ottawa Riverkeeper is a citizen-based action group that brings people together to protect and promote the ecological health and diversity of the Ottawa River and its tributaries. Expert and independent, our organization advocates for responsible decision-making, public education, participation, access to information, and compliance with protective regulations, for the benefit of our river and our communities.
<http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca>

Ottawa Riverkeeper is a licensed member of *Waterkeeper Alliance*, an international grass roots advocacy organization, founded by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
<http://www.waterkeeper.org>

This guide is also available in French



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301-275 Bay Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 5Z5

(613) 321-1120 | 1-888-9KEEPER

www.ottawariverkeeper.ca

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