



LAKE EDGE MAINTENANCE

Responsibilities, Guide, and Frequently Asked Questions

As a lake lot owner in Harmony, you enjoy the privilege of living along a beautiful and thoughtfully engineered water feature. While the lake edge is technically EPCOR-owned property, your support in maintaining it is essential to protect your investment and keep our shared shoreline healthy and beautiful for years to come. Your proactive participation in regular maintenance, including removal of weeds, trimming plant materials, and tending to the lake edge is an important responsibility as a Harmony resident. By doing your part, you contribute significantly to preserving the beauty, functionality, and value of the lake edge, benefiting not only your own property but the community as a whole.

Who owns the lake edge?

The lake edge attached to your lot is either owned by EPCOR, the OAH or the Developer, depending on which lot you are on. Most lots are on the portion of the lake that is owned by EPCOR, which also manages and supplies water services to our community. EPCOR maintains ownership of both the shoreline and the water itself to ensure proper water quality management and regulatory compliance. If you have questions regarding the lake edge or related water services, please contact EPCOR directly at harmony@epcor.com, 403-879-8934, or 1-855-942-9726.

What does the lake edge consist of?

A lake edge is a carefully engineered shoreline designed to support the structure, function, and aesthetics of a man-made lake. Unlike natural shorelines, it is constructed using specific materials and techniques to manage water retention, reduce erosion, and integrate seamlessly into the surrounding landscape.

The Harmony lake edge consists of:

- Lake liner
- Planting
 - Topsoil
 - Grasses
 - Shrubs
 - Mulch
 - Gravel
 - Boulders
- Dock anchors
- Beach sand (South Beach)

Can I add to or change the lake edge?

No modifications to landscaping or plantings along the lake edge are permitted. Excavation, slope alterations, and additional plantings are strictly prohibited to protect the integrity of the shoreline and lake liner.



Is the lake edge exclusive to me?

No. The lake edge is not owned by any individual and is not for the exclusive use of any homeowner. However, residents do have exclusive privileges to their dock, which is owned by the Owners Association (OAH). While the OAH retains ownership, access to the dock by the OAH will only occur when necessary for maintenance or repairs.

Who maintains the lake edge?

Residents are responsible for maintaining the landscaped portion of the lake edge that borders their property. This guide is intended to support residents in their maintenance efforts and help ensure their lake edge is kept to a standard they are proud of.

The OAH is responsible for the maintenance of the docks along the lake edge, garbage removal, and non-residential lake edge landscaping.

Why are willows planted at the Lake Edge?

You may have noticed various shrubs, including fast-growing willow, along the shoreline behind your home. These were intentionally planted as part of a natural erosion control strategy. Willows have extensive root systems that:

- Stabilize the lake bank and reduce erosion.
- Filter runoff before it enters the lake.
- Support biodiversity by providing habitat.
- Enhance the natural aesthetics of the lakeshore.
- Provide natural screening for privacy.

In short, **willows help protect the lake** — they help preserve the lake edge, preventing erosion that could damage both your property and the lake ecosystem.

How to maintain willows:

Willows are active growers, and we understand that managing their growth, especially when they're thriving, can be a challenge. The good news is that with light annual maintenance, you can keep them healthy and tidy using the following guidelines.

Annual Pruning Guidelines

When to prune:

- Spring (late March to early May).
- Fall (late September to early November).
- Avoid pruning in summer to prevent stress and unnecessary regrowth.

How much to prune:

- Up to 1/3 of each plant per year.
- Focus on shaping the plant and removing any dead, damaged, or overgrown branches.



Tools to use:

- Clean garden shears or loppers.
- Always sanitize tools between cuts to prevent disease spread.

What are “shoots” or “suckers” and how to manage them

Shoots or suckers are a natural growth response, emerging from dormant buds on roots or the lower trunk of some trees and shrubs. Certain species, such as willows, poplars, and cherries, are genetically inclined to produce shoots frequently. Willows are fast-growing and self-spreading and use shoots as a natural way to utilize a favourable habitat, instead of relying on seed spread, for example. This is a natural part of their growth habit, but they can be managed with a few simple steps.

Sucker Control Instructions

- When to inspect for shoots
 - Inspect your mulch beds and lawn areas regularly (once every 2–3 weeks in growing season).
- When you see a new shoot or sucker:
 - Trim it at ground level using garden shears.
 - For persistent growth, you can gently dig around the sucker and remove a portion of the root.
- Do not use herbicides, as they are not permitted near the lake edge

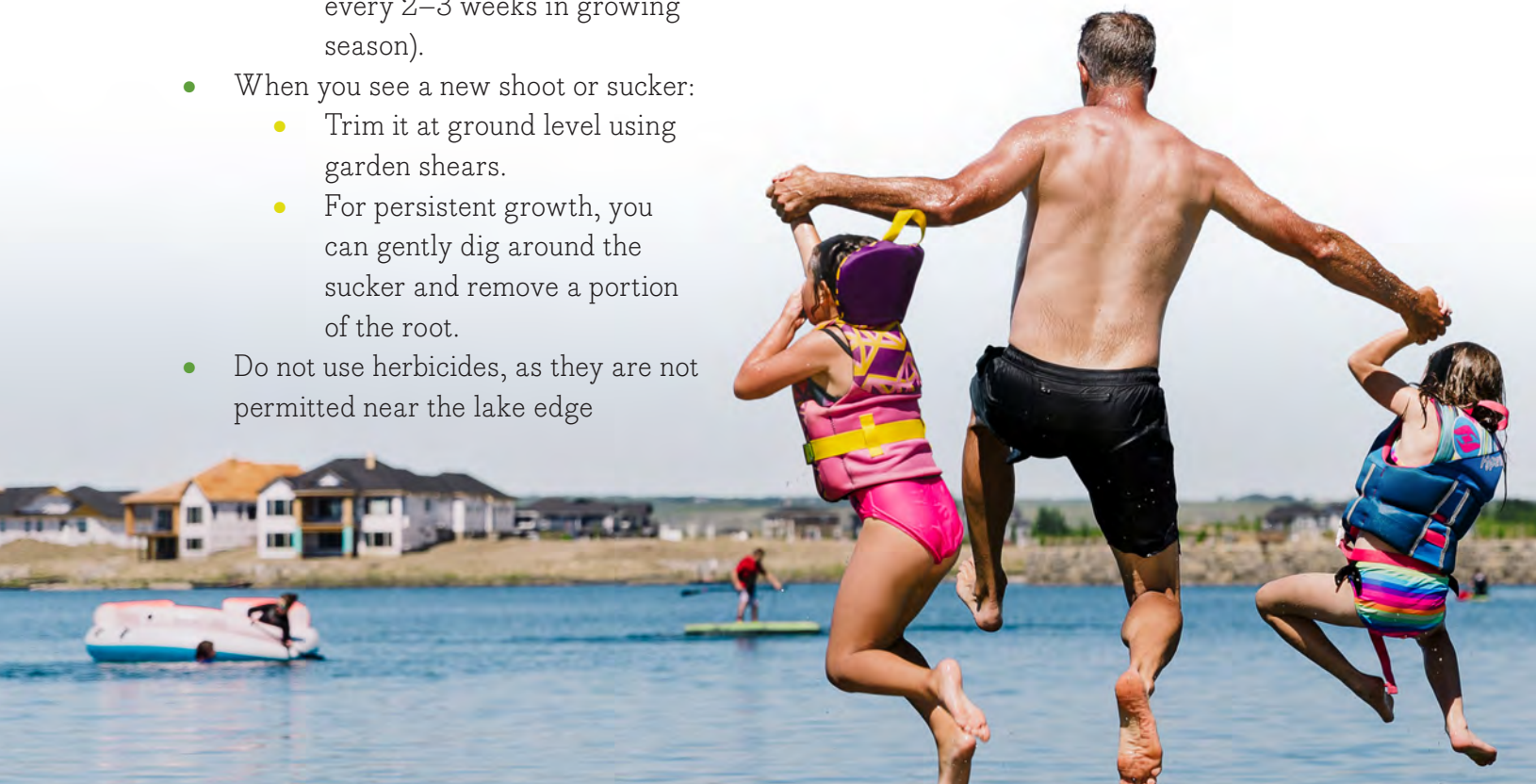
Working together to protect the lake

Your help in maintaining the willows and lake edge ensures the long-term stability of Harmony’s signature amenity. By following this guide, you’re playing a key role in protecting the lake from erosion while keeping your backyard looking great.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the shared docks?

Please contact the Owners Association of Harmony (OAH) at admin@harmonyowners.com if you have any questions regarding your responsibilities as a lake edge owner.

If you have questions regarding the lake edge or related water services, please contact EPCOR directly at harmony@epcor.com, 403-879-8934, or 1-855-942-9726.



*When Everything Falls Into Place,
You're In Harmony.*

In the community of Harmony, our home is in one of the most beautiful parts of Southern Alberta, and we are surrounded by family, friends, and neighbours. As members of the OAH, we are all responsible for creating and maintaining the community atmosphere we know and love.

*We ask that all OAH members, staff, and partners follow the golden rule within our community:
when interacting with others, treat them as you would want to be treated.
Treating everyone with respect and courtesy is essential to our community's
long term growth and success. Thank you.*