



To Clear?  
Or  
Not To Clear?



Clearing and/or mowing all the way to the water's edge (top picture) is **NOT** allowed. It leads to problems such as:

- Shoreline erosion
- Increased risk, frequency, and severity of flooding
- Nutrient loading from stormwater runoff
- Loss of food source and habitat for native wildlife

For these reasons, the County has established a **100-FOOT SETBACK**.

All development shall be set back at least 100 feet from the ordinary or mean high water line on a coastal dune lake, and natural vegetation should be retained.

Natural buffers should include primarily native plants, preferably those that are wildlife-friendly and do not require much water (xeric). Buffers must not include noxious or invasive exotic vegetation or trees.

## Who's Who?

### Walton County Government and the Coastal Dune Lakes Advisory Board:



The CDLAB is comprised of residents appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Their monthly meetings are open to the public. The County's Coastal Dune Lakes Coordinator can be reached at 850-951-0551.

<http://co.walton.fl.us>

### Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance:

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) of Northwest Florida State College is committed to sustaining and providing optimum utilization of the Choctawhatchee Basin watershed.



CBA has worked with many dedicated community volunteers and lots of partners at the local, regional, state, and federal levels to accomplish this ongoing work on the coastal dune lakes:

- Over ten years of water quality data
- Coastal Dune Lakes Management Plan
  - Plant surveys
  - Bathymetric maps
- Invasive exotic plant control
- Restoration of native vegetation
  - Hydrology study
  - Public education

850-200-4171

[www.basinalliance.org](http://www.basinalliance.org)

# Coastal Dune Lakes of Walton County

*Protecting Your Investment*



*photo courtesy of Moon Creek Studios*

## A Home Owner's Guide to Living On a Coastal Dune Lake



*photo courtesy of Moon Creek Studios*

- Look inside for information about:
- Coastal Dune Lakes Definitions
  - County Regulations

## DEFINITIONS:

### COASTAL DUNE LAKE PROTECTION ZONE (CDLPZ):

The Location of Coastal Dune Lake Protection Zones is defined as: "All lands within an area beginning at the mean or ordinary high water line of the coastal dune lakes and their tributaries and extending 300 feet landward."

The Coastal Dune Lake Protection Zone (CDLPZ) is defined and governed by Walton County's Land Development Code (Sections 04.02.00 and 04.03.00).

### COASTAL DUNE LAKE OUTLET (aka OUTFALL):

The connection between the dune lake of concern and the Gulf of Mexico.

(Water can flow from the lake into the Gulf or from the Gulf into the lake. Either way, this connection is generally referred to as the lake's outlet or outfall.)

This definition is based on **A Management Plan for Walton County's Coastal Dune Lakes** (2008), p. 24. This management plan was developed by UF's Florida LAKEWATCH program in collaboration with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) and the citizens of Walton County. It has been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. You can download a copy from CBA's website: [www.basinalliance.org](http://www.basinalliance.org)



*photo courtesy of Moon Creek Studios*

## RESTRICTIONS:

The County's Land Development Code outlines specific restrictions within the Coastal Dune Lake Protection Zones pertaining to the following topics:

- Septic tanks
- Stormwater Management
- Erosion Control
- Stabilization of the shoreline
- Hazardous wastes
- Seawalls, bulkheads, revetments and rip-rap
- Endangered species
- Pollution
- Open space
- Natural outlets

This tri-fold summarizes the major restrictions, which are all designed to protect the health of the dune lakes ecosystems. Remember that a healthy lake equates to a healthy home and a healthy investment!

For the best, most complete information on these topics, please consult the County documents and/or County personnel.

## Know the Rules!

No more than **25%** of vegetation can be **CLEARED** within the Coastal Dune Lake Protection Zone.

All new development and redevelopment -- including septic tank drainfields -- must be **SET BACK** from the ordinary or mean high water line **at least 100 FEET**.

**NATIVE ground cover, shrubs and trees** within the zone must be retained wherever feasible.

**SEPTIC TANKS and DRAINFIELDS** must be at least 100 feet from the ordinary or mean high water line.

**SEAWALLS, BULKHEADS, REVETMENTS and RIP-RAP** are NOT allowed within the zone.

Handling, storage or generation of **HAZARDOUS WASTES** is NOT allowed within the zone.

No new point or non-point sources of **POLLUTION** shall be discharged into the lakes -- no treated wastewater effluent OR untreated stormwater runoff.