

## Green and Sustainable Practices at Camp Runoia

Camp Runoia is continually striving to increase the sustainability of our activities and decrease our impact on the environment through green practices and responsible land use practices and we are proud of what we have accomplished.



### Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction

- Recycling is and has been a way of life at Runoia for over three decades: paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, plastic, metal, newspapers, and magazines are separated and taken to our town transfer station for recycling. Campers, counselors and staff are involved in the daily process of separating waste and recycling everything we can.
- Composting – separating biodegradable waste from our food scraps has helped to reduce our trash and resulting in nutrient-rich “black gold” soil for our landscaping and gardens through the composting process.
- Spreading manure to fertilize our pastures rather than accumulating piles of manure has proved efficient for our barn management, reducing consolidated waste by 100% in 2008 and reducing potential impacts to the watershed from runoff.



### Education and Awareness

- Appreciation for nature and nature conservation are key parts of living at camp surrounded by natural beauty with people who care. We identify species of trees and wildflowers and fungi rather than pick or deface the natural attractions growing around us.
- Teaching and implement Leave No Trace practices in our camp craft and trip program.
- Water quality of our lakes are brought up in every day conversations – living in a watershed area of 14 lakes, mountains, valleys and shoreline heightens our awareness of human impact on the natural environment. Water quality awareness and community service opportunities go hand in hand.
- We often invite local experts on invasive plant species identification and awareness to come to camp to present. The speakers help our campers and counselors to know they can play a part in preserving our watershed area through species identification and reporting suspected invasive plant growing or floating in our lake.



## Energy and Water Use

- Awareness of water usage and water conservation is discussed and conservation is practiced in everyday living at camp.
- 80% of camp light bulbs are now high-efficiency bulbs used in our living areas.
- We recently added a greenhouse where campers can do gardening and grow and pick vegetables. The greenhouse is supplied with electricity from a solar panel, water from rain collecting cisterns, and soil from kitchen waste composting.
- More than 50% of our cleaning products are natural or “green” awarded products.
- We are moving toward greener construction in new buildings and use of natural light and natural products, on demand water heaters.
- Buying local food to supplement our camp food; participating in Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) with our local farmers.



## Lake and Watershed Protection and Land Conservation

- Camp Runoia is situated where thousands of acres of land have been held aside in conservation – with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance playing a key role in preserving areas for hiking trails and restricting development. The Belgrade Lakes Association, with a mission to protect and preserve Great and Long Ponds, is a formidable association in our area – bringing awareness and education to the lake protection.
  - Erosion control at camp on our paths, roads, drip lines of buildings are managed in our site and facilities plan landing us a **Maine DEP Lake Smart Award** for the highest rankings in all four categories of the award. We proudly display our award at the camp entrance and at the waterfront.
- Natural landscaping and allowing and creating buffer zones between our living areas and the lake’s shore line helps reduce run off and phosphorus contribution to our lakes. Eliminating phosphorus fertilizers completely in our lawn care areas has been an asset to the watershed plan.
- Over 60 acres of Camp Runoia property have been set aside as Conservation Land and Tree Growth Land.

