

Woo Hoo – Summer is here!!

Summer has finally arrived and many of us will flock to our beautiful lakes and rivers. Whether we are visiting our public beaches or landowners, we all play a part in keeping this great resource clean and enjoyable. If you are a guest, please remember to pack out all you packed in and maybe a little more. Keeping a trash bag with your swimming gear is useful to carry out your refuse and also serves as a reminder to pick up a few pieces that have been left behind from others. Kids love to help clean up the beach and will be quick to spot what needs to be disposed of properly.

Boat owners, please use care in refueling. Gas belongs in the tank not the lake. Many of our lakes are staffed with Lake Hosts. They will educate visiting boaters about aquatic invasive species (plants and animals). They also conduct a brief boater survey, teach boaters the [“Clean, Drain & Dry”](#) method for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, inspect boat and trailer to remove all hitchhiking aquatic invasive species and native species and remind boaters to always open/remove drain plugs before trailering from the ramp and to leave all drain plugs open/out while transporting.

For property owners, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) website is a great resource on what you can and can't do along your shoreline. All lakes, ponds and artificial impoundments greater than 10 acres in size are protected under the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Within the protected shoreland, certain activities are restricted or prohibited, and others require a permit from DES. Within the protected shoreland, new construction or construction that modifies the footprint of existing impervious surfaces, using mechanized equipment to either excavate, remove or form a cavity within the ground and filling any areas with rocks, soil, gravel or sand requires a shoreland impact permit. Many low impact activities that propose no greater than 1,500 sq ft of total impact area, of which no more than 900 sq ft is new impervious area, may qualify for a shoreland permit by notification. Impacts that will occur within surface waters or their banks, including replenishing beach sand, or within wetlands, tidal areas or the 100 ft tidal buffer zone and sand dunes are jurisdictional under RSA 482-A and require a wetlands impact permit. For a complete summary of the minimum standards of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act listing the activities and the distances they must be set back from the reference line, see the [Summary of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act Minimum Standards](#). A quick call to DES can save you time, money, and even the quality of the lake or stream. When in doubt – call.

Some of the local public places to swim include the millennium bridge in Plymouth and the Wellington and Livermore State Parks. Stinson Lake in Rumney has a ramp for boat access. Other towns, such as Ashland, have town beaches that for a small fee are available to the public. So, get out and enjoy the natural wonders that New Hampshire has to offer, the water is fine!

[https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/documents/consolidated\\_list.pdf](https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/documents/consolidated_list.pdf)

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-9.pdf>

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