

Important Information for Lake Waramaug Area Residents

Keep This Sheet and Post For Reference

2019

Emergency on Lake requiring immediate police, fire, or ambulance assistance: call 911

Unsafe condition or activity on Lake or Lake Roads, Noise Disturbance:

call Washington Police at 860-868-9671. If no response, call Troop L (Litchfield Barracks) 800-953-9949

Invasive Weeds: If you find a water plant which you believe to be an invasive weed, put it in a plastic bag with a wet paper towel and call Sean Hayden at 860-868-0331 for instructions. See pictures of invasive weeds at www.lwtf.org/invasives.

Washington Boat Launch/Beach: call Washington Parks & Recreation Commission at 860-868-1519

Objects/Debris floating in Lake: call Washington Police at above number. Report "lost" and "found" dock sections, watercraft, etc. to lostandfound@washingtonct.org

(Be sure to mark your name and address or telephone number on your property.)

— Safety Concerns on the Water — Reminders from the Lake Waramaug Authority:

New Motorboat Speed Restriction in a portion of the State Park Arm of the Lake From May 15 through September 15:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has adopted the following regulation, effective December 12, 2014:

"No person shall operate a motorboat on Lake Waramaug. . . in excess of slow-no-wake from May 15 through September 15, inclusive, in the cove adjacent to Lake Waramaug State Park in the area beginning at the northernmost tip of the cove, bounded by the shorelines, and southerly from said northernmost tip for a distance of 1,300 feet."

"Slow-no-wake" generally means that a motorboat shall neither attain a speed in excess of six miles an hour nor produce more than a minimum wake. The area affected by this regulation will be marked by floating buoys. Jet-skis and other motorized personal watercraft are also subject to this restriction.

The safety concern addressed by this regulation (the concentration of various competing users---ranging from swimmers and the operators of canoes and kayaks to motorboats towing water skiers---in this small and narrow congested area) was initially brought to the attention of the DEEP Boating Division by the on-Lake enforcement officers of the Lake Waramaug Authority followed, in accordance with statutory procedure, by a request for DEEP remedial action by the Warren Town Meeting. The DEEP, after a lengthy and detailed assessment, conducted a public hearing review and public comment process, and proposed a regulation. After revision in response to public comment, and further review and modification by the Regulation Review Committee of the State Legislature, the above regulation was adopted.

In addition to this specific regulation, Connecticut law generally requires that no person shall operate a motorboat at a speed in excess of "slow-no-wake" within 100 feet of shore, a dock, pier, float or anchored/moored vessel, unless taking off or landing a water skier. For jet-ski personal watercraft, the distance is 200 feet. In other areas a boat must be operated so that it will not endanger others and must be able to stop safely within the clear distance ahead.

Swimming Across the Lake or at a Considerable Distance from Shore: Be sure you are accompanied by a boat to alert other boaters of your presence. Swimmers cannot be seen by operators of motor boats or other craft.

Waterskiing: Connecticut law requires the operator of a boat towing any person behind to have a responsible person over 12 years of age facing the skier at all times to monitor their safety.

Any concerns about water safety should be directed to the Lake Waramaug Authority Police Boat on patrol or Officer Pat Kessler at 860-868-9671.

Safety Concerns on the Roads: The roads encircling the Lake are narrow and winding. They must be shared by cars, trucks, bicycles, walkers, runners, campers and others. The posted speed limit for West Shore Road, Lake Waramaug Road and North Shore Road is 25 MPH (reduced to as little as 15 MPH on the dangerous curves of West Shore Road) and 35-40-45 MPH on Route 45. Since vehicles traveling faster than posted speeds continue to be observed, the Association has again arranged for special police patrol coverage to encourage compliance. Share the road and drive safely.

Lake Waramaug Boat Inspection Program: This effort continues to be crucial to the protection of Lake Waramaug from invasive weeds, which can be transported into the Lake on a boat, trailer or motor. As members of the Lake community, you have a special interest in, and a special responsibility for, the continued protection and preservation of the Lake. Motor boats may be launched only through the Washington Boat Launch after inspection there for environmental fitness. (A Town of Washington annual permit fee and an inspection fee apply.) The inspection requirements are also applicable to car-top motorboats which, under the terms of the Lake Waramaug Agreement between the Lakeshore towns and the State, may also be launched from the State Park, but only after inspection at the Washington Boat Launch or, when that inspection facility is closed, at Dowler's Garage on Route 202. Motor boats and jet ski watercraft which have not been inspected are subject to fine and removal from the Lake.

Inland Wetlands and Zoning Regulations: Regulations designed to protect Lake Waramaug affect construction, alteration and other activities at or near the Lakeside and beyond. Zoning regulations have detailed requirements for buildings, other structures, docks, floats, fences and other visual barriers. Most work (including deposit and removal of soil and other materials) involving the Lake and land within 100 feet of the shoreline is regulated by the Inland Wetlands Commissions of the three towns. Particular attention is paid to storm water runoff which can adversely affect water quality. Having more than 10% impermeable surfaces in the Lake's 14 square mile watershed can also harm the Lake. Accordingly, close attention is paid to enforcement of lot coverage restrictions affecting Lakeside properties.

Check with the land use officials in your town BEFORE commencing any work:

Washington	Shelley White	860-868-0423
Warren	Stacey Sefcik	860-868-7881, Ext. 117
Kent	Donna Hayes	860-927-4625

Maintain Your Septic System to Protect the Lake: Discharges from septic systems near the Lake and watercourses within the Lake's watershed can have a dangerous impact on the Lake's water quality. Septic systems require periodic maintenance including pumping to remove accumulated solids at least every three years. Recent purchasers of properties should make sure that their systems have been inspected and serviced during this period. For a primer on this important subject, see "A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems" (US Environmental Protection Agency) at the Association's website: www.waramaugassoc.org/Septic

Landscaping Near Lakes and Streams; Demonstration Buffer Planting: The Task Force advises that **lawns do not protect the Lake**. Lawns within 200 feet of Lakes and streams should **not** be fertilized. Fertilizer application, whether chemical or organic, can act as a pollutant and cause physical impact to adjacent wetlands or watercourses. The best practice is to add native plants to your lawn area. Visit the Angell property at 47 West Shore Road to see the model buffer planting sponsored by the Task Force. After several years, it has become a natural looking country landscape, doing its job filtering runoff, preventing erosion, and serving as a native habitat for many insect and bird species. Plant identification cards are available at the site. For more information, visit the Task Force website at www.lwtf.org

Lake Waramaug Websites: The websites of the Association and the Task Force contain information about Lake Waramaug and its environs, including news and links to town regulations and other important sources of information relating to the protection and preservation of the Lake. View them at:

- Lake Waramaug Association: www.waramaugassoc.org
- Lake Waramaug Task Force: www.lwtf.org