

Forest Lake State Park GSL Landfill Info Sheet 2023

Here's what we know about the Casella-proposed GSL landfill development, next to Forest Lake, as well as the impacts it will have on the environment, tourism, safety, & quality of life throughout the North Country:

- To get their “**foot in the door**”, Casella Waste Systems of Vermont is now proposing a “Concept 5” revision of their Dalton GSL Landfill development, reduced to a mere 1-phase, 72-acre, 18-year landfill, while permitted yearly waste intake remains the same throughout all “concepts” at 468,000 TONS/year, totaling 8.4 Million TONS of waste. This yearly volume is **DOUBLE** the 2021 waste intake at the Casella NCES Landfill in neighboring Bethlehem. North Country waste intake at NCES in 2021 was a mere 2%, with 98% trucked in from south of the Notch. **Up to 49% of the waste intake at GSL could come from out-of-state (MA & CT)**
- Casella initially sought a 238-acre landfill (**4 TIMES the size of NCES**), with 67mcy of permitted capacity in their “**Concept 1**”, equaling 53.6 MILLION TONS of trash, at 468,000 TONS/yearly intake. With future expansions, “Concept 1” could easily become a reality, with a **permitted lifespan of 114 years**, especially with **1889 acres of land under contract**. This would also be the 2nd Casella-owned commercial landfill in the North Country
- **468,000 TONS/year** represents an estimated **30% INCREASE** (using 2016-2019 averages in waste intake at NCES in Bethlehem and **DOUBLE** 2021 intake of 227k/TONS)
- **Out-of-state waste trucked thru the Franconia Notch would likely be DOUBLED**
- Over **10 MILLION GALLONS of toxic, PFAS-laden leachate will be produced annually**
- Up to **42.8 acres of wetlands** could ultimately be dredged & filled i.e. destroyed, thru expansions
- **HUNDREDS of acres of forested, wildlife habitat will be clear-cut, now, and in the future**
- The proposed site could potentially be a habitat to the Federally-threatened Northern Long-Eared Bat and the State-endangered Eastern Small-Footed Bat
- At least **5 vernal pools** (temporary bodies of water and breeding grounds for the wood frog and spotted salamander) will be **destroyed** at the proposed site (that we know of!)
- The destruction of these natural habitats would have a far-reaching negative impact on the surrounding fauna, wildlife, and the important wetland functions of the Alder/Hatch Brook catchment basin that feeds into the Ammonoosuc River
- Heavy-duty garbage truck and tractor-trailer traffic of an estimated **100+ trips per day, Monday-Saturday, EACH WAY**, along Routes 3, 116 and/or 302 would represent a significant threat to commuters, pedestrians, and tourists in Littleton, Bethlehem, Whitefield, and Carroll/Twin Mountain, past approximately 375 residences, 3 Elementary Schools, and thru 4 town centers, flooding the North Country with out-of-state waste
- Operational hours will be **6:00AM to 6:00PM Monday-Friday, AND Saturdays from 7:00AM-4:00PM**, disturbing homeowners nearby and along the proposed 26-mile route
- Up to 24 trucks could be staged in an early-morning, and daily, on-site queuing area, awaiting entrance, spewing harmful diesel greenhouse gas emissions, noise and runoff pollution
- **Ground and surface water contamination**, as well as atmospheric deposition of toxic pollutants, including PFAS, dust, and storm water runoff from landfill emissions, dirty tractor trailers, and increased truck traffic, all of which have the potential to negatively impact **Forest Lake, Burns Pond, the Alder/Hatch/Bog Brook watersheds, the Ammonoosuc River, and the Connecticut River**, as well as the **private wells of residences** in the impact zones
- Forest Lake is just 2800 feet from the proposed landfill site and lies E/SE, the direction of prevailing wind patterns. The border of Forest Lake State Park is a mere 190 feet away.

- **Fecal contamination** from landfill scavenger birds could have a drastic impact on the water quality of at least 3 EPA-identified “impaired waters”; Forest Lake, Burns Pond, and the Ammonoosuc River. This introduction of additional amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous would lead to an extensive increase in algal blooms and cyanobacteria, which can be harmful to both humans and pets
- Scavenger birds would pose a threat to the existing Loon population
- An increase in litter, noise, rodents, flies, and bears
- Air pollution from harmful landfill emissions, unpleasant odors, and heavy-equipment noise, all of which would carry for miles (Forest Lake State Park beach is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away)
- A **negative impact on the property values** of nearby homes, as well as the approximately 375 residences along the extensive trash truck traffic route, resulting in tax abatements and increasing property taxes for non-impacted property owners in the Towns of Littleton, Whitefield, Bethlehem, Carroll, and Dalton
- A negative **impact on the tourism industry** of the North Country, the Littleton River District, and the profitability of businesses that rely on tourism and outdoor recreation dollars
- Casella’s “Preferred Routes” to the landfill site, in order to bypass the Town of Littleton, would add an extra 10.4 miles of non-interstate travel from the south and 23.2 miles from the north, each way, thru the Towns of Bethlehem, Carroll, and Whitefield, whereas the most direct route thru the Town of Littleton is only 6 miles from Exit 42 (all approximations)
- Casella’s “Preferred Routes” will result in 100+/- heavy-duty truck traffic, including significant greenhouse gas emissions, passing thru the downtowns of Whitefield, Carroll, and Bethlehem, and quite possibly Littleton, past approximately 375 residences, and up to 3 elementary schools, respectively, as well as numerous businesses, campgrounds, and motor inns, **each way**. This does not include additional RNG truck traffic from the proposed landfill gas to energy plant that is also being proposed, adjacent to the GSL Landfill development
- There are approximately **84 residences** along Forest Lake Road (farthest being 1.49 miles on Forest Lake Rd and 1.13 miles on the water on Newell) and **52 residences** along W. Forest Lake Road (1.21/1.44 miles to WFL/RT116 and farthest waterfront being .98 miles) that will be most directly impacted by **the nuisances and health hazards** posed by a neighboring, upwind landfill, as the prevailing winds blow in the E/SE direction of both Forest Lake and the Ammonoosuc River. All of these properties rely on private wells which could be threatened by PFAS contaminants deposited atmospherically
- Residences along Mann’s Hill Rd in Littleton will overlook the landfill development from only 1.5 miles away
- NH DNCR Parks and Recreation Director Phil Bryce has previously expressed concerns about potential **impacts to Forest Lake State Park**, the first state agency official to weigh in negatively regarding the proposed development
- **267 (78%) of NH State Reps and Senators voted to support the veto override of HB1454**
- The Towns of Littleton, Whitefield, Carroll and Sugar Hill, along with the Ammonoosuc River LAC, the Conservation Commissions of Dalton, Littleton, Lisbon, Whitefield, Bethlehem and Sugar Hill, NH Lakes, Sierra Club of NH, NH Forest Society, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, CLF, and NH State Parks have ALL weighed in against this unwanted, unneeded landfill development, due to its negative environmental impacts which will be suffered on a regional level

Casella has NOT sought ANY local approvals for this project!

We do not need a new commercial landfill in NH for out-of-state trash!
 The Mt. Carberry Landfill in Success, NH has plenty of EXISTING capacity
 for North Country waste for decades!

www.SaveForestLake.com