

Pleasant River Lake Association
Motto: Clean Water and Green Forests

Water Quality Report

The water sample data received from the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) and can be found below.

The buoy for the sample site is placed just northwest of the island in 57 feet of water. One average reading for water clarity is based on three scans.

YEAR	LAKE PHOSPHORUS LEVEL	NORMAL PHOSPHORUS LEVEL	DANGEROUS LEVEL
2017	5	4	15
2018	6	4	15
2019	6	4	15
2020	Not available	4	15
2021	Available in October	4	15

YEAR	WATER CLARITY
2016	20 feet
2017	18 feet
2018	17.5 feet
2019	15.5 feet
2020	18.5 feet
2021	16.5 feet

What You Can Do to Prevent Phosphorus From Entering Our Lake

Water carries phosphorus, which kills lakes. Phosphorus is not only from fertilizers. It is in the soil, the rain, fireworks, garbage, soaps, detergents, pesticides, pet defecation, paint thinners, cleaning agents and much more. It attaches to soil and when soil erodes from camp roads, driveways, and yards, it enters the lake. Phosphorus promotes plant growth (algae) in the lake and is the number one water pollutant.

Once phosphorus enters the lake it does not leave. It settles in the bottom and stays there to decay. As more and more phosphorus enters the lake and builds up, algae grows, and the settled algae on the bottom of the lake feeds on the oxygen in the water. This causes blooms. Algae blooms smell terrible, turns the water green, and kills the lake. Recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, and lakeside living lose their appeal and property values go down.

A great deal of phosphorus is in fireworks and not all of it is burned off when exploded. When shot over water, the residue lands in our lake. Currently legislation is being written to forbid the shooting of fireworks over water in the State of Maine. Organizations such as Lake Smart and lake associations across the state are supporting this effort and it is expected that soon Maine State Law will protect lakes by forbidding the discharge of pyrotechnics over water.

We should not feel guilty for the harmful acts we have performed in the past. Up until recent years, we did not know the science behind the harm humans have caused to our lakes. However, we now know the steps we can take to preserve our lakes. By each person implementing some simple fixes, a difference can be made. Simple things like directing rain water to a vegetated area where it will slow and seep into the ground and hold the phosphorus for plants; providing dry wells, drip edge drains, rain gardens or rain barrels for roof run-off; cultivating a wooded buffer beside the lake; not washing boats, pets or you in the

lake; picking up pet waste and putting it in the trash; plant vegetation downhill of parking areas; and pumping your septic system every three to five years. For more things you can implement to save our lake, please refer to the Pleasant River Lake Association Homeowner's Guide.

Remember, what happens on land ends up in the lake!

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE OUR LAKE

Simple things you can do to protect our beautiful lake and the property and recreational investment you have made:

1. **Support our lake organization.** Dues are used to protect our lake by maintaining roads so erosion does not flow into the lake and for testing water quality.
2. **Always check your boat, trailer and equipment for plant fragments before you launch and after you take-out to avoid spreading invasive plants to our lake. Don't transfer water or fish from another lake to our lake; this can harm fish.**
3. **Treat our lake with care!** What happens on land ends up in the lake, so check with the Beddington Town Office to see what's allowed and what's not next to the lake.
4. **Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and roads.** Check your property on a rainy day and fix run-off sites by planting vegetation, placing gravel and small stones, or constructing swales and rain gardens to capture runoff.
5. **Cultivate a wooded buffer beside the lake.** Trees, shrubs and grasses protect water quality by slowing rainwater and filtering out soil and other pollutants before they are washed into the lake.
6. **Put down your rake, take a break and save the lake!** Limit lawn size, mow less often, leave clippings so you don't need fertilizer. Don't rake within 75 feet of shore (It's the law!).
7. **Limit fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use.** Long lasting chemicals in these products can harm children, pets and aquatic life. They can also feed algae and turn lakes green.
8. **Don't stress your septic system.** Check your system and pump the tank regularly as advised by your service provider. Use phosphorus-free cleaners and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don't put toxics or grease down the drain.
9. **Use lake friendly materials for docks.** Choose cedar, cypress, plastic or aluminum instead of wood which has been pressure-treated with arsenic.
10. **Pets, humans and boats should NEVER be washed in the lake!** Soap feeds algae.
11. **Observe headway speeds within 200 feet of shore.** Fast boating in shallow water disturbs the habitat of aquatic animals, stirs up sediment, and can destabilize the shoreline.
12. **Give wildlife a chance.** Lake shallows and lands near the shoreline provide food and shelter to 60 native wildlife species and serve as nurseries for their young. Don't "Tidy them up!"
13. **Learn about LakeSmart** at www.mainelakesociety.org