



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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January 12, 2021

Mr. Rene Pelletier, Administrator
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Water Division – Wetlands Bureau

Mr. Mike Wimsatt, Director
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Waste Management Division
6 Hazen Drive – P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Forest Lake State Park

Dear Mr. Pelletier & Mr. Wimsatt,

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) has received a copy of the Request for more information for the standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application (RSA 482-A NHDES File Number 2202-02239 subject Property: Douglas Drive, Dalton NH, Tax Map M405, Lot #33 dated November 18, 2020 made by Granite State Landfill LLC 1855 Vermont Rte. 100 Hyde Park Vt. 05655. We understand that Granite State Landfill LLC., will be required to submit application for additional permits such as Alteration of Terrain and those required by Waste Management. We have been following this project for some time and attended a Board of Selectman meeting to review a request for a lot line adjustment that would have created a 50 foot buffer eliminating DNCR as an abutter.

This letter is to express our concerns about the potential impacts of a landfill on Forest Lake State Park and request that our concerns be addressed under the applicable permits. DNCR is responsible for managing State Reservations (defined in RSA 227-G:2), including Forest Lake State Park for the following purposes under statute: **RSA 227-H:1 Declaration of Purpose:**

It is hereby recognized and declared that state-owned reservations contribute to the conservation of natural resources and distinctive quality of life in the state. The public welfare of this state is served by the prudent acquisition and management of reservations to provide forest benefits and for the purposes of demonstrating sound forestry principles, protecting habitat for plants, animals, and other organisms, conserving forested watersheds, preserving areas of rare and exemplary natural beauty and ecological value, and providing for perpetual public access and use.

Forest Lake State Park in Dalton, one of the ten original state parks created in 1935. The park spans 397 acres and its 200-foot sandy beach lies on the shore of Forest Lake. Popular activities in the park include swimming, picnicking, mountain biking, fishing, and boating. In addition, Forest Lake is one of the few parks that provides an opportunity to expand the park system further (pursuant to RSA 216-A:1) by developing a new campground. The current greatest recreational value of the Park is public access to the beach and the lake. Lake access is one of the key factors to our most successful campgrounds.

Last legislative session we provided testimony on **HB 1319 prohibiting the siting of new landfills or expansions of existing landfills near state parks, National Parks, or United States Department of Agriculture forest land**. In our testimony, we stated the following:

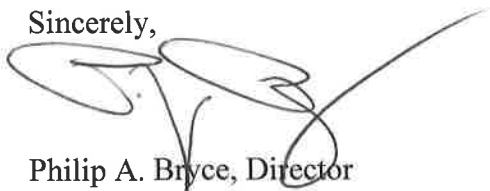
As an abutter to the proposed landfill, the Division would actively participate in the process established by the Department of Environmental Services to review the proposed project to ensure the project does not have an adverse impact on present and future use of the Park. We have concerns regarding the impact of noise, odors, and pest animals (seagulls) on our visitors today at the beach and our visitors in the future with the addition of a campground in another portion property, particularly if the campground is closer to the landfill.

More specifically, we are concerned as follows:

1. We have been told by Casella Waste that the proposed site for the landfill is not in the same watershed as Forest Lake. However, we are unclear if the groundwater systems under the site are shared with the Lake. We do not know the lifespan of the liner, if there is one, but the landfill would be there in perpetuity. We would not want the landfill to impact groundwater quality in the Lake and in the Park over the short term or any time in the future. How can we be assured that the landfill will not affect groundwater in perpetuity?
2. We are concerned about any negative impacts from the presence of trash on the surface. This includes trash blowing into the Park or being transported by animals into the park. We are also concerned that the landfill would increase nuisance activities from birds and other animals and pests. We do not know if odors will be noticeable anywhere in the Park, including trails and the in the location of the potential campground. How can we be assured that there will be no negative impacts on the park site or visitors resulting directly and indirectly from the trash?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If we can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah Stewart, Commissioner, DNCR
Kevin Roy, General Manager, Casella Waste Systems, Inc.