
*The Highland Lake Watershed Association
Welcomes You to Highland Lake*



Highland Lake Watershed (HLWA)

The Highland Lake Watershed Association (HLWA) is pleased to welcome you to the neighborhood.

HLWA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which began in 1959 dedicated to the preservation and protection of Highland Lake and its watershed. Dedicated volunteers make up the HLWA board and committees.

Benefits of HWLA Membership

- Help make a difference and improve the quality of life around the lake.
- Meet your neighbors and make new friends.
- Participate in special events where you can socialize and exchange ideas while raising funds to promote the focus and mission of HLWA.
- Learn what keeps a lake and watershed clean, healthy and conducive to many more years of beauty and enjoyment.

Membership in HLWA is voluntary and we hope you will join HLWA and become involved.

Visit our website at www.hlwa.org for more information.

If you have any questions or comments, we would love to hear from you!

The HLWA Board of Directors

Email: hlwa@hlwa.org

Mailing: PO Box 1022, Winsted CT 06098-1022

Follow us on



#hlwainsta

What Does HLWA Do?

- *Works with local authorities to maintain water quality and safety which benefits all residents
- *Conducts monthly water sampling and testing April through November
- *Raises money to protect and preserve water quality and the natural resources of the watershed
- *Manages our Legacy Program which acquires land in the watershed to preserve open space and reduce water runoff
- *Sponsors events like “Evening on Highland Lake,” Boat Parade, Meet the Board
- *Holds an Annual Membership meeting in July
- *Supports the efforts of the Winchester Police Department Marine Patrol to uphold safety on the water
- *Organizes spring and fall cleanup campaigns to pick up trash from lakeside roads
- *Educates, informs and updates area residents with Highland Lake News, website, Facebook, Instagram and email
- *Remains open to new ideas that will help HLWA continue to fulfill its mission
- *Participates in local philanthropic events



Lake Friendly Tips



Do not bathe or wash objects in or near the lake – especially with toxic cleaners, soaps or phosphorous containing detergents.

Don't feed the geese or ducks as their waste contains nutrients that support the growth of aquatic weeds and algae.

Pick up your pet waste – like fertilizers, the nutrients from pet waste can wash into storm drains, streams and the lake after it rains, not to mention the bacteria and other pathogens found in pet waste!

Take your car to a car wash. If you must wash your car or boat yourself, do not wash it on an impervious driveway. Instead, wash it over the lawn, away from the lake, so the ground can absorb more of the phosphorous and/or chemicals.

Recycle or properly dispose of household chemicals, waste and harmful vehicular fluids so they don't end up in our lake.

Maintain trees and bushes, which serve as filters, intact near the lake.

Do not put lawn clippings or leaves in the lake and if possible, remove leaves from the lakebed in the fall. Be sure to mention this to your lawn service.

Clear storm drains of debris/leaves near your house.

Divert runoff from boat launches or other lake entries.

PROPERTY DESIGN

Suggestions for making your property “Lake Friendly”

There are many things you can do to make your property lake friendly. Storm water runoff contributes to excessive aquatic growth and algae blooms, decreased water clarity and shoreline erosion. Storm water carries with it nutrients from fertilizers, pesticides and sediment among other things. Water can build in both volume and speed as it runs downhill, causing further erosion. Properly dealing with and trying to prevent storm water runoff are important lake protection measures.



- **Create Buffers** – A buffer, or “riparian buffer,” is a strip of land (with vegetation such as plants, shrubs and trees) along the shoreline separating your lawn from the water. This strip of land helps to stabilize the shoreline and prevent erosion while catching runoff from your lawn. It will help to absorb things such as fertilizers and pesticides and trap sediment before it can enter the lake. In addition, it also provides habitat for birds and other small wildlife while acting as a barrier to nuisance Canada geese who may fear a predatory animal is hiding in there.
- **Install Rain Gardens/Rain Barrels** – A rain garden is a depression in the ground, filled with plants and shrubs, that acts to catch runoff from rooftop downspouts, driveways, etc. The depression fills with the water, so it doesn’t run down the property, and the water is absorbed into the soil and used by the plants. A rain barrel would also collect rooftop runoff from downspouts; however, rain barrels collect and hold the water for such things as gardening and watering other yard plants.
- **Reduce Impervious Surfaces** – Impervious surfaces such as rooftops, asphalt driveways and sidewalks don’t absorb storm water. Instead, it runs down those surfaces, building in speed and volume. Reducing the amount and effects from impervious surfaces is important. One such way is to reduce the overall impervious surface totals on one’s property. Replacing an asphalt driveway or cement walkway with a more porous surface, such as block or crushed stone, is one such method. Pervious (or porous) surfaces should be maintained by removing the surface of sediment buildup on a periodic basis.
- **Less Lawn, More Native Plants** – Replace lawn with native plant, shrub and tree cover on your property. Their roots help to stabilize the soil, preventing erosion, and they help to filter runoff of nutrients and sediment before it enters streams, storm drains and the lake. Additionally, native plants, shrubs, trees and grasses are better suited to the conditions found in Connecticut and can survive without needing additional water or a lot of inputs such as fertilizer.
- **Ensure Proper Lot Drainage** – By adding culverts, diversions, ditches, sump pumps, etc., where necessary you can help to prevent erosion and encourage infiltration of runoff into soil.
- **Utilize Twisting, Narrow Paths** – Long straight paths and walkways that lead down a hill (and especially towards the lake) act as direct water chutes into the lake, carrying nutrients, sediment and debris with the water. By creating a narrow, twisting path, the water won’t have a straight run into the lake and instead it will encourage infiltration of the runoff into the soil.



Town of Winchester Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC)

In 1972, the Connecticut state legislature enacted the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA). The Act creates a land-use regulatory process which considers the environmental impacts of proposed development activities. Regulated activities are broadly defined to mean "*...any operation or use of a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or any obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution, of such wetlands or watercourses....*" In order to conduct a regulated activity, a person must first apply for and obtain a permit from the municipal inland wetland agency.

The Town of Winchester IWWC is responsible for regulating and permitting activities within 100 feet of Highland Lake and other wetlands and watercourses within the Town of Winchester. **The IWWC Agent shares this message: Before you make any modification to the ground within 100' of the lake you should have a conversation with the Town's IWWC Agent to understand if your activity requires a permit. You can contact the IWWC Agent at 860-738-6593 Monday through Friday.**

Some examples of regulated activities that require a permit are, but are not limited to:

- ☐ lake wall construction/modification/repair
- ☐ decks and fences
- ☐ stump removal
- ☐ construction/renovation of home, shed, porch, patio, steps or walkway

In addition, the IWWC is responsible for regulating and permitting activities that fall under the Town "Dock and Mooring Ordinance Sec 162." This ordinance regulates docks, swim floats, boat lifts, walkways, personal watercraft lift/floats, mooring buoys and markers at public bodies of water within the Town of Winchester. If you plan to make any changes including maintenance to items covered by this ordinance, contact the IWWC Agent. This ordinance helps to maintain consistency and safety for all owners of property abutting the lake as well as protect the water quality of Highland Lake. **Only authorized docks, swim floats, boat lifts, walkways, personal watercraft lift/floats, mooring buoys and markers may be installed and registered with IWWC.**

There is a fee for submitting an application to apply for a permit. Be sure to apply well in advance of your planned activity. The IWWC meets monthly to review applications and go over details with the applicants. The process can take 2 or more meetings. Sometimes a public hearing and/or a cash bond is required. Regulated activity conducted without a permit could result in a Cease and Desist Order and/or a fine.

The IWWC page on the Town of Winchester website provides helpful links to the ordinances and applications.

<https://www.townofwinchester.org/inland-wetlands-and-watercourses>

The water level of Highland Lake is controlled by the Town of Winchester. Every 5 years a new schedule is recommended by the Water Level Committee and voted on/approved by the IWWC and Board of Selectman

The IWWC is a key partner in the preservation and protection Highland Lake for all to enjoy!



“Quiet time”

“Quiet Time” - 6 mph speed limit for all after 5:00 p.m. Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

6 mph speed limit from 1/2 hour after sunset to half hour before sunrise

No person shall operate a personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise or during periods of reduced visibility

- **45 mph limit** on **Saturdays, Sundays and holidays**.
- Boats greater than **22 feet in length** and **pontoon boats greater than 30 feet** in length are **prohibited**.



- **No staging** of personal watercraft, motorboat or waterskiing activities from the Town-owned beaches or park.
- **No overnight mooring**- A vessel shall not remain on the lake overnight unless it is moored at a dock, mooring buoy or lift registered with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.





DEEP

Boating Regulations

The waters of Highland Lake and the Public Boat Launch at Highland Lake are regulated by the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). Boaters on Highland Lake are governed by DEEP Boating Regulations which are enforced by the Winchester Police Marine Patrol and State Environment Conservation Police (ECON). For an emergency on the lake dial 911.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with all of the DEEP Boating Regulations regarding boating and safety when enjoying Highland Lake!

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating_guide/part3pdf.pdf

- Boats and Personal Watercraft (PWCs) are subject to different near-shore, slow-no-wake restrictions; except for the purpose of allowing a waterskier to take off or land.
- Boats may not exceed Slow-No-Wake within **100 feet** of shore or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel.
- PWCs may not exceed Slow-No-Wake within **200 feet** of shore or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel.
- Water Jet Packs or Flyboards (JAV) are not allowed in a Slow-No-Wake area or within 200 feet of any dock, shore, pier or fixed structure or within 100 feet of any vessel except to transit the area: NO TRICKS ALLOWED!
- Depending on the type of vessel that is being operated, a waterbody (or portion of waterbody) may simply be too narrow to legally waterski or go fast. On Highland Lake the narrows between 2nd and 3rd bay is Slow-No-Wake for PWCs and some coves are too narrow for boats to make fast turns when pulling a skier or a tube.

Wake Responsibly to protect your neighbor and your shoreline from erosion, moored boats and docks from damage and people from injuries due to falling off rocking docks, small watercraft and paddleboards.

Be **courteous** and stay at least 200 feet away, keep music at reasonable levels and minimize repetitive passes.



Safety

On your Boat or PWC

- Remember to carry on your boat at all times: your Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation, a flare, horn or whistle, a paddle, life jackets for the number of people on board, and a fire extinguisher.
- USCG approved Personal Flotation Divide (PFD) must be worn by:
 - Children under the age of 13 when the vessel they are aboard is under way
 - Anyone operating or riding on a PWC
 - Anyone pulled by a boat
 - Anyone in a manually propelled vessel from October 1 through May 31
- Be aware of age restrictions for driving a boat or PWC or serving as the observer for a vessel engaged in all water sports.



No person may operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Be a Good Neighbor – On the land



Notify your neighbors if you are having a party; better yet, invite them to join you



Have guests park so they don't block neighbors' driveways



Starting a bonfire? Check the wind. Neighbors may not want your smoke in their house!



End loud parties, noise, conversations at a reasonable hour - remember sound travels!



Remember that Police enforce CT fireworks laws



Control your pets from excessive barking, respect leash laws



Clean up after your pets – it keeps bacteria out of the lake



Don't feed the geese or ducks – bread is unhealthy for them; their droppings are unhealthy for you and your property and the lake!



Use power tools and mowers 7:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m. Sunday and holidays (Town regulations)



Keep grass clippings, leaves, yard debris out of the water – they contribute to weed growth and will float to your neighbor's property!



Respect speed limits when driving your car – people are out for walks and bike rides

Be a Good Neighbor – On the water

On the water - Know the rules of the lake

(For local and state boating regulations go to: www.ct.gov/DEEP/boating)



6 mph speed limit for all after 5:00 p.m. Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day



6 mph speed limit from ½ hours after sunset to half hour before sunrise



Personal watercraft cannot be used between sunset and sunrise. Slow-no-wake within 200 feet of shore, or a dock, pier, float or moored vessel



Slow-No-Wake speed for motorboats applies within 100 feet (200 feet for personal watercraft) from shore unless taking off or landing a waterskier



Jet Packs and Flyboards cannot be used in a Slow-No-Wake area or within 200 feet of any dock or shore or within 100 feet of any vessel except to transit the area



No boats longer than 22 feet or pontoon boats longer than 30 feet are allowed



A mooring buoy must be located so that no part of the vessel moored to it shall at full swing be more than 50 feet from shore



No motorized activities (skiing, etc.) can be started from Town-owned beaches or parks



Overnight mooring is allowed only at authorized docks, mooring buoys or lifts

Thank you for being courteous and following the regulations! They are for the benefit of all!

Hiking/Trails



Winsted:

Platt Hill State Park
Sue Grossman Still River Greenway

Torrington:

Burr Pond State Park
Burr Pond White Trail
Paugnut State Forest
Sunnybrook State Park

Barkhamsted:

Algonquin State Forest
Peoples State Forest

Norfolk:

Barbour Woods
Dennis Hill State Park
Haystack Mountain State Park
Campbell Falls State Park
Great Mountain Forest
Norbrook Farm Brewery
Norfolk Land Trust



Local Restaurants

Mario's Tuscany Grill

Noujaim's Bistro

Mama Pho

Little Red Barn Brewery

Rowley Grill and Tap

McGrane's On The Green

Padre's Mexican Cuisine

Monaco's Ristorante

Tributary

Noli's Restaurant

China Star Restaurant

Winsted Dinner

ABC Pizza House

Kent Pizza

John's Import Deli

Ocean Garden Chinese Restaurant

McDonald's

Dunkin'

Hunny Bunns Bakery & Cafe


Papa Boba

Sophia's Pizza

China Delight

HLWA Events



The background of the entire image is a deep black night sky filled with numerous stars of varying brightness and sizes. Some stars appear as sharp points of light, while others have a soft, out-of-focus glow. In the lower-middle portion of the image, there is a particularly bright star. This star is depicted with a large, glowing blue-white core and a surrounding, more diffuse blue-white halo. Four thin, straight white lines intersect at the center of this bright star, forming a crosshair pattern that extends towards the edges of the frame.

A single star in the universe combines with countless others to create the Milky Way. Likewise, the positive stewardship of your property combines with other lake neighbors to preserve Highland Lake's naturally beautiful scenery and maintain its water quality and recreational use for future generations

Community Directory



Ambulance 860-738-9267

Animal Control 860-379-2721

Beardsley Memorial Library 860-379-6043

Building Department 860-379-8818

Dog License 860-738-6963 (x 341 or 342)

Emergency 911

Fire Department 860-379-5155

Hartford HealthCare Emergency 860-738-6650

(80 South Main Street, Winsted)

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency 860-738-6593

Poison Control 800-222-1222

Police Department 860-379-2721

Public Works 860-379-4070

Post Office 860-379-6675

Senior Center 860-379-4252

State Environmental Conservation Police (ENCON) 860-424-3333

Tax Collector 860-379-4474

Tax Office 860-379-5461

Town Clerk 860-738-6963

Town Manager 860-738-6962

If your sewer alarm goes off - Contact the Water & Sewer Department at 860-379-4101 during normal business hours. For emergencies after hours, please call the answering service at 1-844-441-4814