



# MLPOA

Monomonac Lake Property  
Owners Association

Stewards protecting the health of Lake Monomonac in Rindge NH

## NEWS & UPDATES

### LakeSmart Community

As many of you know, the MLPOA will be presenting our Water Management Plan (WMP) later this fall. As part of this effort, we've been working behind the scenes to better understand our lake. We're learning more about what's working, what needs attention, and how we can protect it for years to come.

But before we get to the final WMP report, there are things that we can do now in advance of the full report. The MLPOA will be working with the NH Lakes Association, offering all property owners the chance to participate in their LakeSmart Program. This is a no-cost property review to see if there are things that individually we can do to protect the lake right from our own yard. No regulations. No requirements. Just easy actions that can make a real difference. Things like protecting your shoreline, being thoughtful about fertilizers, and managing runoff from your driveway or roof. Individually, these may seem like small things. But across our lake, they add up in a big way.

This is a chance to walk your property with a LakeSmart trained volunteer and get simple, practical suggestions tailored to your home. The visits are free, low-key, no-commitment, and conversational. They focus on small improvements that can make a real difference.

If you're interested in learning more or signing up for a LakeSmart visit, simply [email Jeff](#), our MLPOA Lake Ambassador, and express your interest. You can also learn more by reviewing the [LakeSmart Community Handbook](#).

By taking part this summer, you'll already have a clear sense of what the Water Management Plan means for your property before we formally present it this October.

Thank you for being part of what makes Lake Monomonac special!

### Lake Monomonac Dam and Spillway

The boards at the dam and the spillway are back in. It took a bit longer than past years because the boards were put in incorrectly and the aging gaskets are leaking. Although we have no control over either dam or spillway since they are located in Massachusetts, we work with WSLA (Winchendon Springs Lake Association) for information and solutions. We will monitor this situation closely and hope to find it resolved shortly. We should see the lake return to its normal summer level in the next few weeks.

The good news is that a new **sluice gate**, a mechanical gate rather than the existing boards to manage the lake water level, will be installed later this year by the WSLA with financial partnership from MLPOA. WSLA has worked diligently on research, drawings, and permitting. Winchendon Conservation Commission has approved the plans.

For more information on either dam, spillway, or sluice gate contact WSLA ([Winchendon Springs Lake Association](#)).

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## MLPOA/WSLA Boards Meet to Work Together

The WSLA and MLPOA boards met to discuss general communication collaboration and the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The meeting covered updates on the WMP progress, and ongoing studies of shoreline, septic systems, and phosphorus levels. The boards discussed the LakeSmart program as a way to engage property owners in water quality improvements before the full WMP report is released in October. They also reviewed plans for invasive milfoil treatment, Lake Host program, and upcoming events including our Lake Education Day, and a fall WSLA golf tournament fundraiser. The boards agreed to hold future joint meetings periodically, potentially twice a year in April and September. Two organizations, one lake.

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## Lake Clean Up Days

The Rindge Women's Club annually coordinates clean up in Rindge providing blue bags with free drop off at the Rindge Transfer Station. Missed it? No problem. Keep cleaning our roadways and drop the blue bags off at the Transfer Station anytime.

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## Ice Out!

Steve Gray declared ICE OUT on March 31st. Steve has tracked Lake Monomonac ice-out dates for decades. Check our [website](#) for his definition and history of ice-out dating back to 1951. Steve tells us the average ice out date from 1965 to 1985 is April 11th. March 21st was the average ice-out date of the past 5 years.



## Loon Update

As a follow up on the contaminated loon egg at Pool Pond in 2024, Pool Pond Protection Association (PPPA) tells us that NH DES is planning to test Pool Pond fish for PCBs. It will not be happening quickly because it is a side project without funding. Their protocol will include a number of fish by species type and size. They will freeze the fish to analyze at a later date. This small project will be collecting fish from Pool Pond and one other body of water in Northeastern NH. MLPOA stays in touch with PPPA and will let you know of any new developments.

As many of you here on Lake Monomonac know, our loons have returned! First sighted April 8th. Hoping they will nest again this year and hatch successfully. For updates and past history check our [website](#).

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## Lake Host Program begins Memorial Day

Lake Hosts are present at the boat ramp at North of the Border on Rt 202 to perform courtesy inspections on boats and trailers entering and leaving the lake Friday through Sunday. Troy and James, past Lake Host employees, will once again be working at the boat ramp for our program. A reminder to anyone putting boats in or pulling them out

[anywhere](#) on the lake to check for invasives—not just motor boats, but kayaks, sailboats, rowboats, included! For more information, click [here](#).

Now you can directly support our [Lake Host Program](#).

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## The Cost of Cyanobacteria

[Here is a good read on cyanobacteria in the state](#). “Toxic bacteria has already cost New Hampshire millions. Where will funding come from to keep up the fight?”

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## Lake Education Day

Thursday June 4th, MLPOA will host students for Lake Education Day. Rindge Memorial School fifth grade students join NHDES limnologists on pontoon boats supplied and captained by MLPOA members for a day of hands-on water tests that are designed to reflect the health of the lake. If you'd like to help out, be in touch with our Lake Education Day coordinator [Laureen Moran](#) for details. To learn more about our Lake Ed Day, [click here](#).

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## Property Tax Abatement Follow Up

Board member, Don Wilson attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting April 15th and reported:

Approximately 250 abatement requests have been submitted. Avatar will review them first, then send them to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) in batches. The properties will be batched according to similarities in circumstances. The decision will be to either grant or deny an abatement, and if granted, how much. Every member of the BOS will review each application and agree/disagree. If they disagree with Avatar they have to be ready to defend the decision with information much akin to what an appraiser would do. When that process is complete, the Assessing Clerk will send out the report and decision, along with instructions on how to appeal. Appeals go to the BLSA, Board of Tax and Land Appeals or to superior court, or both. Deadline for an appeal is September 1st.

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## Annual Meeting Reminder

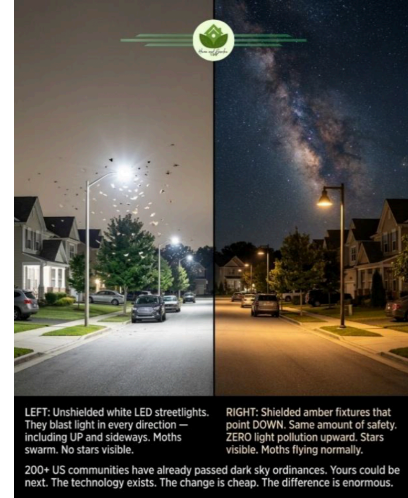
Saturday, July 18th at the Rindge Rec Center on Wellington Road. Coffee social at 8:30am. Meeting begins at 9am. We will be presenting a program about our Watershed Management Plan and what it means for you and our lake, as well as other topics. This is a great opportunity to meet us and get involved. More information, as well as the agenda, will be emailed closer to the meeting date. Mark your calendar now!

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## Preserving Our Dark Skies

Plants, insects, and animals depend on the daily cycle of light and dark to trigger life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators. But humans have radically disrupted this cycle—by lighting up the night.

Satellite data shows that our night skies are 25% brighter than just ten years ago. The cause? Light pollution—excess artificial light emitted upward or sideways—and it's having negative, sometimes devastating, effects on a wide spectrum of wildlife, 80% of which are nocturnal!



Consider just a few examples:

- A single streetlamp can lure moths from 25 yards away. Many insects that gather around lamps will likely be eaten or dead from exhaustion by sunrise. The impact of declining insect populations ripples across ecosystems that rely on them for food or pollination.
- Light pollution attracts and distracts migrating birds, making them vulnerable to building collisions, predators, and exhaustion, contributing to the estimated 3 billion decline in North American bird populations since 1970.
- Artificial light impacts wetland habitats. It disrupts nighttime croaking, the spring breeding ritual of frogs and toads, resulting in declines in reproduction and their overall population. Turtle hatchlings emerge after dark from sandy nests to navigate by starlight to water. Artificial light confuses them, leading them toward land, and toward predators.



*“When we add light to the environment, that has the potential to disrupt habitat, just like running a bulldozer over the landscape.”* —Chad Moore, formerly of the US National Park Service

The good news? We can help preserve our dark sky and maintain a healthy lakeside ecosystem while still lighting our home in a safe and practical way. Just adopt these simple lighting choices:

- limit outdoor lighting
- use motion detected lighting
- turn off lights when not in use
- direct existing lighting downward

Additionally, when installing/replacing outdoor lighting, explore “dark sky” fixtures, found at lighting specialty retailers like [Lamps Plus](#) and home improvement stores like [Home Depot](#).

For further reading on the impact of light pollution on wildlife and ecosystems, as well as on human health, safety and security, and energy waste, see below, all referenced for this post.

<https://nantucketlights.org/outdoor-lighting-guide>

<https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/light-pollution-solutions/lighting/>

Notes:

*An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal The Hidden Realms Around Us*, Chapter 13: Save the Quiet, Preserve the Dark; by Ed Yong  
*NH DES Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development*; Chapter 3.4: Preserving Dark Skies

Thank you for supporting the health and future of Lake Monomonac.

[Visit our Website](#)

Connect with us  
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