

Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee - Updates

July 24, 2023

With the summer in full swing, here is LMAC's update on Lake Massapoag, and our activities: Memorial Beach swimming area is clean and well attended, with no advisories to date this year. See the Lake Massapoag Dashboard for a summary of tests above target levels, and our test results pages for all the details.

2021 was a heavy rain year, 2022 was a drought year, and 2023 is in on track with historical averages through June and had a heavy rainfall mid-July, which raises nutrient levels via inflows and runoff. Each of the last 3 years has been well above historical average temperatures.

Mid-July heavy rains brought the lake temporarily over its target level of 10.5 at the flume house, and raised flume outflow to target level. Conservation Administrator Josh Philibert monitors the flume daily and manages the flow to help keep the lake clean, and meet DEP and Conservation Commission requirements for outflow. See lake levels for details.

Education

LMAC tabled at Sustainable Sharon Coalition's Green Day, spoke at the Adult Center and to Cub Scout Pack 95 at Sharon Historical Society, met with the town's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and will hold lake walks in August. We supported efforts of Sharon Girl Scouts to educate residents about the lake and displayed their posters in the beach path kiosk by the rotary.

Activities

Hand pulling of fanwort and variable leaf milfoil was conducted in the lagoon in June, and Fletcher's Cove in July. The state requires botanist surveys in the South Cove before DASH weed mitigation can be conducted due to endangered species; surveying will start soon.

Everwood Day Camp donated funds for planning, permitting and implementation of a pilot to install phosphorus filter socks, and conduct a low-dose alum treatment, in the South Cove. Filter socks were installed mid-July, and the one-day alum treatment is scheduled for this week. The goal is to help prevent localized blooms at the camp waterfront. This will also benefit the lake as a whole, and serve as a pilot for alum treatment should it be indicated elsewhere, or a high-dose alum treatment be indicated based on core sediment testing.

March 24, 2023

With spring here, the Lake Committee is gearing up for the new season. Activities include:

Asking town residents (see attached letter) to use care in lawn fertilizers to help protect the lake

Planning for activities at Sharon Green Day, presentations at the Sharon Adult Center, Men's Club, and more

Additional sediment testing in the deeper areas of the lake by TRC to measure iron-bound phosphorus

Planning for a Conservation Commission public hearing in connection with additional weed treatment efforts

Meeting with SHS biology teachers regarding lake testing efforts, cyanobacteria monitoring, and more

Working on this year's program for lake and inflow testing, education and outreach

Gearing up for an MVP Action Grant proposal for a Climate Resiliency Plan for Lake Massapoag 2025-2050

The Lake was stocked with trout March 9th, Beach passes go on sale April 4th, and the Annual Fishing Derby is May 6th.