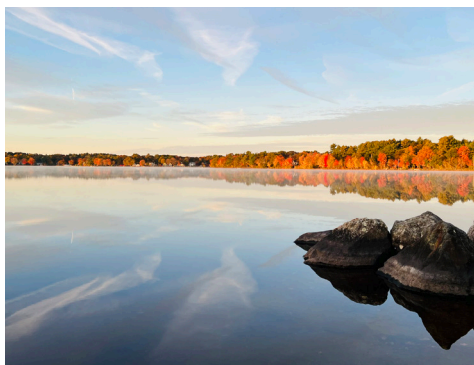




love our lake

A message from Sharon's Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee



Top 10 Things You Can Do to Protect Our Lake

1. Only fertilize your lawn once a year in the fall.
 - Cancel spring and summer lawn applications (ask to omit from annual contract).
 - Don't use fertilizer with phosphorus.
 - Avoid herbicides and pesticides.
2. Pump your septic system annually and replace it when needed.
3. Pick up after your pet and put the waste in the trash.
4. Use a car wash. No phosphoric acid, phosphates, or TSP in car, boat, and outdoor cleaning products.
5. Don't feed ducks or geese.
6. Don't put chemicals, oil, or medicine down the drain.
7. Make sure your boat doesn't leak oil.
8. Stop the spread of invasive plants by checking your boat before launching.
9. Redirect downspouts into green areas or install rain barrels.
10. Bag all leaf litter and maintain a natural shoreline.

Lakes have a lifecycle and need help to thrive

A 1984 study predicted Lake Massapoag would be so high in phosphorus and nitrogen that water quality would be ruined and recreational use impeded by 2000.

The Town took action and we gained nearly 40 years of lake health, but there are new challenges from continued development, runoff of excess nutrients, and climate change. The four biggest threats are:

- **Cyanobacteria**, fueled by excess nutrients (especially phosphorus), is the biggest threat to lake health. Cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) produce cyanotoxins that are harmful to people and pets.
- **E. coli** from human waste or animal waste is indicative of septic or animal contamination.
- **Invasive weeds**, which outcompete local species, reduce oxygen levels which support aquatic life and impede swimming, boating, and fishing.
- **Climate change** brings more runoff, excess nutrients and bacteria into the lake. Higher heat promotes growth of E. coli, cyanobacteria and weeds. Blue Hills Observatory data indicates 2021 had rainfall and heat well above historical averages, 2022 brought a drought and higher heat, and 2023 had higher rainfall and heat.

The impact:

- Cyanobacteria bloom closed the lake for over 2 weeks in July 2021.
- Community Center Beach was closed 8 times in 2022 due to E. coli and as a result, closed to all swimming in 2023.
- Localized cyanobacteria blooms were frequent from late August to late October in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Our Solution

To address its challenges, the Lake Massapoag Advisory Committee (LMAC) applied for and received two state grants, MVP Action and DEP 604(b), to develop a Watershed-Based Plan for a Resilient Lake Massapoag 2025-2050.

These grants enable in-depth study to guide specific plans to improve the lake's water quality in the face of years of accumulated development and climate change impacts. Our consultants are the Neponset River Watershed Association and TRC Companies.

We are reaching out to residents, schools, camps, community groups, businesses, and stakeholders in a variety of ways, including this newsletter!

