

Resources for Real Estate Professionals & Homebuyers

Maine Lakes, info@lakes.me, www.lakes.me, (207)495-2301. A statewide nonprofit that works to keep Maine's lakes healthy by managing the LakeSmart program, supporting local lake associations, promoting freshwater education initiatives, advocating for sound lake policies, and providing resources and a "lake library" for lake residents and visitors.

Lake Stewards of Maine, stewards@lakestewardsmaine.org, (207)783-7733, www.lakestewardsofmaine.org. A statewide nonprofit organization that protects Maine lakes by promoting lake stewardship, fostering widespread citizen participation in gathering data, assessing watershed health and monitoring lakes for invasive aquatic plants and animals.

Lakes of Maine, www.lakesofmaine.org. Managed by Lake Stewards of Maine, this website is a storehouse for many large and long-term datasets about the health of Maine's lakes. Searches by lake can pull up water quality data, loon abundance data, and much more.

Regional Organizations

Lakes Environmental Association, www.mainelakes.org, (207) 647-8580

A regional nonprofit organization based in Bridgton, LEA works to protect lakes and water quality in western Maine. LEA runs the statewide Courtesy Boat Inspection program, training local groups to inspect boats and trailers for aquatic invasives. They monitor lakes, are a local hub for LakeSmart, and host events and programs for the public and students.

7 Lakes Alliance, info@7lakesalliance.org, www.7lakesalliance.org, (207) 495-6039

A regional land trust based in Belgrade Lakes, 7LA supports land and water conservation by engaging with the whole community to achieve clean water, well-stewarded lands, and a vibrant economy. 7LA manages a milfoil removal team and a Youth Conservation Corp team, and they are a regional hub for LakeSmart hub.

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, mail@watershedfriends.com, watershedfriends.com, (207) 395-5239

Based in Winthrop and covering the 28 lakes in the Cobbossee watershed, FOCW protects waters through education and conservation action. FOCW helps residents "Slow the Flow" and become LakeSmart, hosts summer programming for kids and adults, and works diligently to stop the spread of invasive species.

30 Mile River Watershed Association, info@30mileriver.com, www.30mileriver.com, (207) 860-4043

Working to keep the 22 lakes and ponds in the watershed from Leeds north to Monmouth clean and healthy, 30MRWA hosts a Youth Conservation Corp, is a regional hub for LakeSmart, monitors water quality, and works to monitor and manage invasive species.

Portland Water District, www.pwd.org, (207) 774-5961

PWD provides technical assistance to property owners who live around Sebago Lake on Shoreland Zoning, the Natural Resources Protection Act, and erosion and sedimentation control. PWD also permits and inspects all septic systems within 200' of Sebago Lake. To contact a Water Resources Specialist:

For projects in Naples, Brie Holms, bholme@pwd.org, ext. 3305

For projects in Casco and Windham, Chad Thompson, cthompson@pwd.org, ext. 3323

For projects in Standish and Sebago, Kirsten Ness, kness@pwd.org, ext. 3336

For projects in Raymond and on Frye Island: Nathan Whalen, nwhalen@pwd.org, ext. 3338

Midcoast Conservancy, info@midcoastconservancy.org, www.midcoastconservancy.org, (207) 389-5150

Based in Edgecomb and covering the Sheepscot River, Damariscotta Lake and the Medomak River from source to sea, MC is a large regional land trust that protects land, monitors water quality, manages LakeSmart programming, surveys and removes invasive aquatic plants, and hosts a wide range of programming for all ages.

Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, info@coastalrivers.org, www.coastalrivers.org, (207) 563-1393

Covering the Damariscotta River and Pemaquid region, CRCT is a regional land trust that protects vital shorelands and coastline, acts as a LakeSmart hub and works to promote water quality and engage the public in outdoor programming.

Action Wakefield Watershed Alliance, info@awwatersheds.org, awwatersheds.org, (603) 473-2500
AWWA protects and restores the water quality of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams surrounding Wakefield, NH and Acton, ME. They coordinate pollution control projects, manage Youth Conservation Corps erosion control projects, deliver school programming and community education, support water quality monitoring, and act as a resource for lake associations and town boards.

Local lake associations are the heart and soul of lake conservation work in local communities. There are over 100 lake associations in Maine. To see locations of many of our lake associations, and to find their contact information and web addresses, visit the Lake Resources Map at lakes.me/map.

Government Entities and Agencies

Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

There are 16 SWCDs around the state that work to provide technical expertise for landowners. Several host LakeSmart programs and many offer technical assistance to homeowners. For a map of SWCDs and their contact information, visit the Lake Resources Map at lakes.me/map.

Department of Environmental Protection:

The Maine DEP oversees water quality monitoring, manages algal blooms, monitors lake and river toxins and pollution, supports invasive aquatic plant programs, and provides outreach materials on a wide variety of lake and water topics. They offer technical expertise on shoreland zoning, stormwater management, septic system permits and watershed planning, and much more. Some helpful links include:

Lake Assessment Program: www.maine.gov/dep/water/lakes/index.html

Invasive Aquatic Species Program: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/index.html

Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Grant Program: www.maine.gov/dep/water/grants/319.html

Water Program Areas: www.maine.gov/dep/water/programs/index.html

Lake Contacts: www.maine.gov/dep/water/lakes/contact.html

Water Pollution Prevention Publications: www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/materials.html

Shoreland Zoning Information and Contacts: www.maine.gov/dep/land/slz/index.html

Maine Shoreland Zoning Handbook: www.lakes.me/library

To find certified erosion control contractors: www.maine.gov/dep/land/training/ccec.html

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

IFW oversees boating and fishing laws on inland waters, and the Lake and River Protection Sticker program for boat registrations that provides funding for invasive species management.

Boating Handbook (includes watercraft restrictions): www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf

Fishing Handbook: www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/index.html

Fish Consumption Advisories: www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/consumption-advisory.html

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

ACF, along with IFW, maintains many of Maine's public boat launches and provides both lists and Google Earth maps of boat launches for the state. The a list of public boat launch sites as well as a Google Earth map layer of boat launches for the state of Maine.

Public boat launches: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/water_activities/boating/public_boat_launches/index.shtml

Boating resources: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/water_activities/boating/resources.shtml

Boating opportunities: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/water_activities/boating/index.shtml

Paddling opportunities: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/water_activities/paddling.shtml



Please send any new information to be added, updated links or additional information to info@lakes.me. This handout last updated 14 April 2021 by Maine Lakes.