

BOATING, PERMITS & RESTRICTIONS

Lake Usage/Boating Regulations

Purpose and Authority: These regulations have been established for the protection of Lake Cochichewick, North Andover's only drinking water supply. The regulations are issued pursuant to 310 CMR 22.00 Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations and the authority of Section 160 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws, for the sanitary protection of the waters of Lake Cochichewick used by the Town of North Andover as a source of water supply, Chapter 146 of the Town By-laws, and in accordance with the policy adopted by the Board of Selectmen on May 20, 2002 and amended on September 26, 2016.

Permits: All boating on the lake requires a valid Town of North Andover permit affixed to the outer hull of the boat and to the rear window of the owner's vehicle. Permits shall be exhibited to any officer of the law or authorized employee of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the Town of North Andover. Boats without valid permits are not allowed on the lake.

There are two types of permits available for residents of North Andover for recreational use of the lake, subject to the conditions in these regulations:

1. **Day Boating** permit for residents to boat on the lake, but not for overnight boat storage, and
2. **Combination Boating & Storage** permit for residents to boat on the lake and to use overnight public boat storage racks provided by the town at two shoreline locations during the boating season (April 15th – November 1st).

Boat Launching Areas: To reduce shoreline erosion into the lake, three public locations have been designated for residents with valid permits to launch their boats:

1. Along Pleasant Street on the south end of the lake using the designated path, or
2. At the 'Hatch' on the far side of the stone arch past the Stevens Pond swim area, or
3. At the Old North Pump Station along Great Pond Road/Rt-133 on the north end of the lake.

All boats must be hand-carried into the lake; the use or backing of trailers into lake waters as well as the overnight storage of trailers along the shores of the lake is prohibited.

Boat Storage Areas: To prevent the destruction of shoreline vegetation and reduce erosion into the lake, public boat storage racks have been provided at two locations on the lakeshore for use by residents with valid combination Boating & Storage permits during the boating season from April 15th - November 1st:

1. The Old North Pump Station along Great Pond Road/Rt-133 on the north end of the lake, and
2. The "Hatch" beyond the stone arch past the Stevens Pond swim area on the south end of the lake

Only boats with valid combination Boating & Storage permits may be stored at these locations, and, to prevent erosion, all boats must be placed on the boat racks. Boats without valid combination Boating & Storage permits will be removed at the owner's expense. All boats must be removed by owners from the storage areas prior to the end of the boating season on November 1st.

Overnight boat storage is not allowed along Pleasant Street or other public locations along the lakeshore; boats left there will be removed at the owner's expense.

Lakeshore private property owners should utilize best-practices for boat storage along the shoreline of their property, including the use of temporary boat racks (more than 25' from the edge of the lake or adjacent wetlands) and removing boats from the shoreline area after the end of the boating season to reduce disturbance to shoreline vegetation and prevent erosion.

Parking: Permit parking is available at two locations for residents with valid boat permits affixed to the rear window of their vehicle:

1. Where posted ('permit parking') at the Old North Pump Station off Great Pond Road/Rt-133 on the north end of the lake, and
2. Where posted ('permit parking only') along Pleasant Street on the south end of the lake

Parking at these two locations requires valid resident Day Boating or Combination Boating & Storage permits affixed to the rear window of the vehicle. Overnight parking is not allowed.

Parking is also available at the parking lot off Pleasant Street next to the Stevens Pond swim area in the lot shared with visitors to the Trustees of Reservations trails on Weir Hill.

Types of Watercraft: Boating on the lake is limited to watercraft designed to be manually propelled by oars or paddles, or the use of electric motors (maximum length of motorized craft is 15 feet). Rowing shells, johnboats, dinghies, rowboats, canoes and kayaks with cockpits are acceptable as long as the occupants are isolated from contact with the lake. Boats must not have any thru-holes (e.g. self-bailers) that would allow contact between the occupants and the lake water. Inflatable boats, windsurfers, paddleboards, sit-on-top kayaks and seaplanes are not allowed.

Engines: All gasoline or diesel powered engines, containers that transport any type of gasoline and diesel fuel, or anything that uses such fuels, such as, but not limited to: boats, snowmobiles, ice augers, generators, stoves or lamps, are prohibited from use on Lake Cochichewick and its tributaries unless authorized by the Division of Public Works for lake monitoring and/or safety/emergency procedures.

Boating Safety: Under Massachusetts General Law (Ch. 90B, Section 5), **lifejacket wear is mandatory** for children under 12, and all canoeists and kayakers between September 15th – May 15th.

Boating Hours: Boating permits are valid only from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Swimming or Wading: No person shall swim, wade, bathe, or cause or allow any animal to go into or upon Lake Cochichewick or tributaries thereto.

Animals: No domestic animals are allowed to be in boats, on the ice, or in the water at any time.

Fishing: No fishing is to be done under these boating permits unless the holder also possesses a valid State Fishing or Sporting License as required by Chapter 131 of the General Laws.

Invasive Vegetation: All boats, anchors, anchor ropes or chains and motors must be free of foreign or exotic vegetation or aquatic life prior to launching.

Trash and Debris: No cans, bottles, dog toys, plastics, boxes, fish, food, animal or vegetable matter, or any other matter tending to pollute the water shall be thrown into the water of said lake, or left upon shores of said lake. All supplies and debris that are carried in should be carried off.

Firearms / Explosives: No firearms or explosives shall be used while on the waters or shores of the Lake.

Alcohol: Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Restricted Area: No boating or fishing shall be done in or upon that portion of the Lake within 100 yards of the North Andover Water Treatment Plant. Passage of boats through the restricted area for the Treatment Plant must be made within fifty feet of the opposite shore.

Docks: Docks in the lake or other structures for water access on the lakeshore require permitting by the Conservation Commission and under Chapter 91 of the Massachusetts General Law. Dock construction must be of a type to minimize impacts to the lake, and all docks must be removed from the water and at least 25 feet from the shoreline area by the end of the boating season (Apr 15 – Nov 1).

Laws and Conditions: All laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or conditions now and hereafter made by the Town of North Andover relative to the waters or the watershed of the Lake shall be observed.

Revocation: A person may have their boating permit revoked for a Massachusetts fishing violation or violation of these rules and regulations. The permit fee will be forfeited.

Annual Fees: Fees are to be paid to the town DPW.

1. Day Boating Permit (first boat): \$25.00; each additional boat \$10.00
2. Combination Boating & Storage Permit: \$50.00 per boat
3. Removal of improperly stored boat: \$50.00

Lake Cochichewick is North Andover’s only drinking water supply, and everything possible should be done to protect this resource and town asset.

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Rules of Access to the “Old North Pump Station”

1. The Old North Pump Station is located at the north end of the lake, along Great Pond Road/Rt-133, and is accessed via a locked gate. Residents with valid Town of North Andover Day Boating or Combination Boating & Storage permits will be provided the lock combination. The gate is to be kept locked after entering and after departing the area.
2. Parking is restricted to those who possess a valid Town of North Andover Day Boating or Combination Boating & Storage permit affixed to the rear window of their vehicle.
3. This site is for launching boats (without trailers) for those holding a Day Boating permit, or for launching and storing boats for those holding a Combination Boating & Storage permit only. No other activity is allowed on this site (no fishing from shore, no loitering, no unauthorized parking, no picnicking, etc.).
4. Parking is restricted to the designated area and all vehicles must display in the rear window either a Day Boating permit or a Combination Boating & Storage permit.
5. Under no circumstances will any vehicle be parked within twenty five feet of the lake’s normal high water mark.
6. Unauthorized vehicles without valid permits displayed will be towed at owner’s expense.
7. No vehicles or trailers allowed on ramp; all boats must be carried in.
8. No person shall possess or consume alcoholic beverages on Town property.
9. Vehicles found to be leaking any type of fluid (fuel, oil, antifreeze, etc.) will be towed.
10. No domestic animals allowed on premises.
11. This is a public water supply. No swimming, bathing or wading. No person or animal may come in contact with the water.
12. No person shall dump or drain any refuse, waste or debris of any kind.
13. No person shall engage in any activity in a reckless or heedless manner or in such a manner as may cause or tend to cause fear, discomfort or injury to any person, wildlife, property or vegetation.
14. Any person may be denied admittance to and/or suspended from any town property for a period of time to be recommended by the Board of Selectmen for violating any law, rule or regulation including failing to comply with any reasonable request of any duly authorized employee of the town.

Per order of North Andover Board of Selectmen.

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Enforcement of Laws/Rules/Regulations regarding Lake Cochichewick

The following procedures are being implemented to address new and existing laws, rules and regulations regarding Lake Cochichewick. Some of the violations are criminal and others are non-criminal. Each officer will be issued a ticket book (similar to a parking ticket book) to address the non-criminal violations. Unless otherwise specified all non-criminal fines are \$50.00

A. Hours of access to the lake are dawn to dusk. For our purposes no one is allowed on the lake from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise. The communications center monitors a weather station which posts daily times for sunrise and sunset.

Violation: non-criminal \$50.00 fine

B. Fishing. Fishing from shore is allowed with a valid Massachusetts fishing license.

Violation: criminal MGL C. 131 S. 11B

C. Boating Permits. Any boat on the lake must have affixed a day boating or combination boating/storage permit issued by the DPW. If the boater is also fishing, they must possess a valid Massachusetts fishing license. Boat permits are issued to residents only. Public boat storage along the lake shore is allowed only on town-provided boat racks located at the Old North Pump Station along Great Pond Road/Rt-133 on the north end of the lake, and at the "Hatch" beyond the stone arch past the Stevens Pond swim area on the south end of the lake. All boats on the storage racks must have affixed the combination boating/storage permit. Public boat storage is not allowed elsewhere along the lake shore.

Violation for non-permitted boat use or storage: non-criminal \$50.00 fine

D. Size and type of craft. The following is a list of craft as written in the regulation:

"Boating on the lake is limited to watercraft designed to be manually propelled by oars or paddles, or the use of electric motors (maximum length of motorized craft is 15 feet). Rowing shells, johnboats, dinghies, rowboats, canoes and kayaks with cockpits are acceptable as long as the occupants are isolated from contact with the lake. Boats must not have any thru-holes (e.g. self-bailers) that would allow contact between the occupants and the lake water. Inflatable boats, windsurfers, paddleboards, sit-on-top kayaks and seaplanes are not allowed."

Violation: non-criminal \$50.00 fine

E. Littering. Violation of town by-law C. 130 S. 1, non-criminal. Fine \$200.00

F. Gasoline engines. No gas engines of any type are allowed on the lake, unless authorized by the DPW for lake monitoring and/or safety/emergency procedures.

Violation of town by-law C. 146 S. 1, non-criminal. Fine \$50.00

G. North Pumping Station Parking & Use. This site is open to residents who possess a valid day boating or combination boating/storage permit affixed to the rear window of their vehicle.

· Each permitted vehicle will have a day boating or combination boating/storage permit on the rear window of their vehicle.

· The site is for those permitted vehicles only.

· The site is for launching of permitted boats (without trailers) or storage of permitted boats on town-provided boat racks only. Wading in the Lake is prohibited as is any other activity on the site.

· Since the lake is closed from dusk to dawn we may logically extend that to the parking lot since no activity except launching and storage of permitted boats is allowed there.

H. Pleasant Street Parking. Where posted ('permit parking only') along Pleasant Street on the south end of the lake for vehicles with valid Day Boating or Combination Boating & Storage permits affixed to the rear window of the vehicle. Overnight parking is not allowed.

I. Public Drinking. Violation of town by-law C. 141 S. 3. Fine \$50.00 (if under age use criminal process).

J. Swimming in lake. Violation of town by-law, non-criminal \$50.00 fine, or criminal MGL C. 111 S. 171

K. Domestic Animals. No domestic animals are allowed to be in boats, on the ice, or in the water at any time.

Violation: non-criminal \$50.00 fine

Boaters are issued a copy of the rules at the time they purchase the permit. All incidents of this nature shall be logged and include the violator's name and what action was taken (verbal warning, non-criminal issued, vehicle ticketed, tow, etc.).

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