A Message from Your Fellow Boaters

The state has balanced recreation and preservation at Ossipee Lake Natural Area (Long Sands) since 2008. Approximately 1,000 feet of shoreline is available for boaters to use, while the rest of the property is closed to protect rare plants and wildlife habitat.

This win-win agreement with the state is based on an honor system. If boaters respect the site rules, the agreement will stay in place. If not, the state may cancel it.

Since we have a lot of new boaters on the lake, you can help by gently reminding those who may be unaware of the rules that violations could jeopardize our continued use of this special place.

Volunteer boaters from the lake will be distributing this brochure all summer. Please share it with your family and friends and keep a copy in your boat. Know the rules, and let's keep the honor system working for all of us!

Contact Information

Dennis Gould Lead Boating Volunteer (617) 257-4847

In Case of Emergency

Police and Fire: 911 Marine Patrol: (603) 293-2037 Understanding the Natural Area Honor System





Key Regulations

- The Natural Area is closed to the public except for the shoreline shown in the map.
- Use of the open section of shoreline is limited to the sandy beach between the water and the woods.
- Hours are sunrise to sunset.

The following are prohibited:

- Dogs
- Fires and grills
- Glass bottles and containers
- Littering
- Tents and other structures
- Loud music and unreasonable noise
- Organized events without prior state approval
- Damaging plants or harming wildlife
- Stealing cultural artifacts
- Motorboats must be anchored offshore and remain afloat.
- Canoes and kayaks may land only in the designated public use area
- All rafting is subject to N.H. Department of Safety boating regulations.

Health & Sanitation

There are no bathroom facilities. Do not use the woods as a bathroom. You must use marine toilets or return to land and seek a designated public restroom. Emptying marine toilets in the water or on land is illegal.

E. coli and other bacteria may be in the water when many swimmers are using the same area. These bacteria can cause stomach pains, cramps, diarrhea, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting in children and adults.

Enforcement

The honor system encourages voluntary cooperation with the state's rules, but violators are subject to a summons and a fine that can be issued by the Marine Patrol officers and State Forest Rangers who patrol the area. Be aware that the property is monitored for violations even when officers and rangers are not on-site.

Plan your visit with these regulations in mind, and enjoy your day on the lake!

