

Integrating Phosphorus Loading Limits into the Watershed Master Plan for Newfound Lake

or...

**Hey! Newfound Lake is a Class A
Waterbody, and We Should Stop
“P”-ing It**

Submitted by:

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I'm hoping that you all preferred the second title as much as I did. So, how does a nine community watershed stop "P"-ing into Newfound Lake, and how do we integrate those actions into the Watershed Master Plan? I'm glad you asked!



Newfound Lake is a Class A Surface Water in New Hampshire

Env-Wq 1703 Water Quality Standards

Env-Wq 1703.01 Water Use Classifications.

(a) State surface waters shall be divided into class A and class B, pursuant to RSA 485-A:8, I, II

(The majority of surface waters in NH are class B)

RSA 485-A:8, I-III.

Class A is the highest quality designation. These waters are considered as being potentially acceptable for water supply uses after adequate treatment.

OK, so that all sounds good if you want to reference it on a real estate add in the watershed, but what does this have to do with setting phosphorus limits in the lake and watershed?



Newfound Lake is a Class A Surface Water in New Hampshire

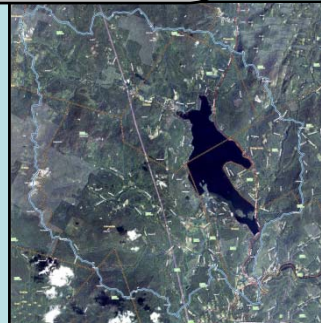
Env-Wq 1703.14 Nutrients.

(a) Class A waters shall contain no phosphorus or nitrogen unless naturally occurring.

(d) There shall be no new or increased discharge of phosphorus into lakes or ponds.

(e) There shall be no new or increased discharge(s) containing phosphorus or nitrogen to tributaries of lakes or ponds that would contribute to cultural eutrophication or growth of weds or algae in such lakes and ponds.

Wow! This is an existing NH statute that communities can cite when doing site plan reviews to REQUIRE developers demonstrate no additional phosphorus loading to the tributaries and lake. This is the perfect way to stop “P”-ing in the lake!!



Newfound Lake shall contain no phosphorus unless *naturally occurring*

- What does “naturally occurring” mean for Newfound Lake?

Thanks to all the work by Bob Craycraft, NLRA volunteers, and UNH, we have enough historical lake data to generate a median in-lake phosphorus value

This value is 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ of phosphorus and serves as the “naturally occurring” condition for Newfound Lake

Therefore, no additional loading of phosphorus into the watershed can occur since Newfound is a Class A water in NH.



What does this mean for development and growth in the watershed?

1. The Class A designation of Newfound Lake provides watershed towns with the tool and legal backing to require that developers don't contribute phosphorus to surface waters
The Class A designation does **NOT** eliminate growth or development. It manages it to ensure watershed protection. Watershed towns will be able to adopt the language in the Watershed Master Plan into their own ordinances, site plan review processes, and zoning requirements for development.

OK, but what if there isn't consensus among watershed communities, and the "no additional phosphorus loading" from development isn't achieved?



If Env-Wq 1703.14 Nutrients – (a) Class A waters shall contain no phosphorus unless naturally occurring can't be upheld in the Newfound Lake watershed, a legislative process would be initiated to change the classification of the lake to Class B.

1. Why this scenario should never be allowed to happen in this watershed:
The burden is upon developers to demonstrate no additional P loads
The Watershed Master Plan coupled with the Class A language for phosphorus is the best hope for maintaining existing conditions in this watershed
Changing classification will allow for water quality to decline to a point where property values and recreational use will both diminish
This is an opportunity to set an example for watershed management not only in NH, but the U.S.
You all live here for a reason, and this is the **ONLY** way to protect the character of this watershed and Newfound Lake itself.

Plus, Class A just sounds cooler...



I wish I could be with you in person today to share my excitement and optimism for this project and for this Class A requirement to stop “P”-ing in the lake.

The members of this project “Collective” have the abilities to deliver the Master Plan to the communities, and carry through with implementation. I have never seen a more competent and motivated project team in my 10 years of watershed management.

If we all agree to work together to see this Master Plan implemented, and agree to not “P” in the watershed from this point forward, this will be the defining moment for this watershed, and something that is talked about and appreciated for all future generations that enjoy this landscape that you all value so much.

Thanks!



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