

INCREASING GEESE POPULATION

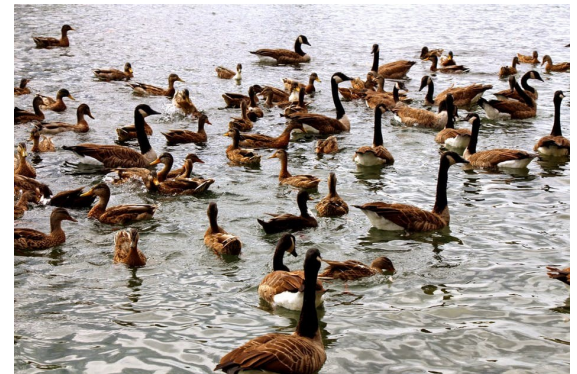
Concern has been expressed about the increasing number of geese and the fact that some are feeding the geese on a daily basis. Here are some important facts:

Other than that, here is our fact sheet on the subject: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-53.pdf> and if they are feeding ducks, you might want to share this with them, relative to swimmer's itch which is carried by mallards: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-2.pdf>.

Ducks and geese don't need people food, the lakes are naturally their buffet, with plenty to eat. Folks can sit and enjoy that taking place in a natural manner. Feeding wildlife can impact their health, and feeding ducks and geese can result in increased bacteria, nutrients, and possible pathogens in the water, which is unpleasant to swim in, and potentially harmful.

feeding them can also make the waterfowl and other wildlife in the area sick. It is not their natural diet and they have plenty of food. It is kind of a selfish act as it probably gives them pleasure to interact with the birds, but it is actually harming the birds and the people who use the water.

Geese can contribute to bacteria and making the water unsafe for humans. <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-14.pdf>



There are not state rules, but towns and association have voted on ordinances and will post signs with associated fees for such a violation.



ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11, 2020
How shall we meet? Library or in a home?
We hope we are allowed to gather for this meeting.

MFCA trail is completed. Thanks to those who helped. The parking lot will be completed in the near future. We can access the trail from the pond. Look for the orange tape on trees on the shore.

A new program offered at no cost. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this free evaluation this year. Anything we can do to limit the increase of phosphorus is a plus.

LakeSmart is an education, evaluation, and certification program that is free, voluntary, and non-regulatory. It includes an evaluation process to determine how lake-friendly your property and activities are.



[LakeSmart: A Lake-Friendly Living Program - NH LAKES](https://nhlakes.org)

<https://nhlakes.org> › lakesmart



**VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS
LEES POND, MOULTONBOROUGH
2019 DATA SUMMARY**

Lees Pond has been participating in the VLAP program since 1991. Each summer we collect water samples at designated locations three times. Every other year a NHDES biologist visits our waterbody. Each year they evaluate our data and look for trends. Here is their recommendations for 2020....

Recommended Actions: Pond phosphorus levels were elevated in early summer and field data noted high water levels and above average rainfall. Also notable was the apparent color which indicated the water was twice as dark from that measured in 2018 which suggests flushing of wetland systems or areas impacted by beavers that are rich in dissolved organic matter that imparts a brown or “tea” color to the water. The darker water also led to decreased water clarity (transparency). Beaver activity in the Inlet sub watershed should be monitored and flow through pipes installed in beaver dams to help maintain flow through the system. Beaver dams and resulting beaver ponds flood riparian areas and the decaying vegetation results in high nutrient (phosphorus) levels and dissolved organic matter. Significant storm events and above average rainfall flushes these nutrients and dissolved organics into the pond. It was also noted that pond water levels went from high in June and July to drastically low in August. Maintaining a consistent water level, with minor fluctuation, is also important to minimize variability in water quality and for recreational purposes. Monitor water levels to better understand and maintain consistency. Keep up the great work!

Observations from Water Sampling:

- Chlorophyll-a: Chlorophyll level was low in June and increased to a moderate level as the summer progressed. Average chlorophyll level remained stable with 2018 and was slightly less than the state median and the threshold for mesotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable chlorophyll levels since monitoring began.
- Conductivity/Chloride: Epilimnetic (upper water layer), Metalimnetic (middle water layer), Hypolimnetic (lower water layer), Inlet, and Outlet conductivity and chloride levels were slightly greater than the state medians, yet less than a level of concern. However, historical trend analysis indicates significantly increasing (worsening) epilimnetic conductivity levels since monitoring began. Public Access and Red River chloride levels were also slightly greater than the state median yet much less than the state chronic chloride standard.
- Color: Apparent color measured in the epilimnion indicates the water was highly tea colored and roughly twice as dark as that measured in 2018.
- E. coli: Nelson Beach E. coli levels were very low and much less than the state standard for public beaches.
- Total Phosphorus: Epilimnetic and Metalimnetic phosphorus levels were elevated in June following above average rainfall for the month and high water levels, then decreased to moderate levels in July and August. Average epilimnetic phosphorus level increased from 2018 and was greater than the state median and the threshold for mesotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable epilimnetic phosphorus levels since monitoring began. Hypolimnetic phosphorus levels increased from slightly elevated to elevated as the summer progressed likely indicating release of phosphorus from bottom sediments as dissolved oxygen levels are depleted. Inlet and Outlet phosphorus levels fluctuated within a low to moderate range for those stations.
- Transparency: Transparency measured with (VS) and without (NVS) the viewscope was below average (worse) for the pond in June and increased (improved) to within an average range by August. Average NVS transparency decreased from 2018 and was lower (worse) than the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates highly variable transparency since monitoring began.
- Turbidity: Epilimnetic and Metalimnetic turbidity levels fluctuated within a low range. Hypolimnetic turbidity levels were low in June and increased to an elevated level by August indicating formation and accumulation of organic compounds as dissolved oxygen levels are depleted. Inlet and Outlet turbidity levels also fluctuated within a low range.
- pH: Epilimnetic, Inlet and Outlet pH levels were within the desirable range 6.5-8.0 units. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable epilimnetic pH levels since monitoring began. Metalimnetic and Hypolimnetic pH levels were slightly acidic and less than desirable.

Please report cyanobacteria blooms you see to Bev Nelson (253-4274) or Karin Nelson (253-7879). We will sample and send to the state lab for evaluation. https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/cyano_bacteria.htm