



19 August 2024

To: Peter LaFlamme  
Director, Watershed Management Division  
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
Davis Building- 3rd Floor  
One National Life Drive Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3522

Re: Petition For Prohibition of Wakesports on Lake Parker

Dear Director LaFlamme,

Attached is a petition submitted by the Town of Glover and the Lake Parker Association, Inc. (LPA) seeking an amendment to the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules that would prohibit wakesports on Lake Parker. The recently adopted statewide rule makes Lake Parker eligible for wakesports activities, which the LPA membership and the Town of Glover Select Board believe would be antithetical to the lakes' unique character, its fragile ecological balance and long-standing traditional, normal uses.

After you have had a chance to review our petition and accompanying materials, we would welcome the opportunity to address any concerns you may have about the completeness of our submission. Our expectation is that this will be concluded in time for the requested amendment to take effect for the 2025 Vermont boating season.

Very Truly Yours,

*Brenda Plastridge*  
Brenda Plastridge, President  
Lake Parker Association, Inc  
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Glover, VT 05839

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*Phil Young*



Phil Young, Select Board Chair

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Cc:

Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

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Jason Batchelder, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

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Town of Glover, Vermont, Town Clerk

c/o Cindy Epinette, [tcglover@comcast.net](mailto:tcglover@comcast.net)

Town of Glover, Vermont, Planning Commission

c/o Randy Williams, [gloverplanningcommission@gmail.com](mailto:gloverplanningcommission@gmail.com)

Orleans County Conservation District Northeastern Vermont

Development Association, St. Johnsbury, Vermont c/o Sarah

Damsell, [info@nvda.net](mailto:info@nvda.net)

Glover Pioneer Camp,

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# Town of Glover and the Lake Parker Association, Inc.

Re: Petition to Amend the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules

As Filed on 19 August, 2024

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We, Brenda Plastridge and Phil Young, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the persons and entities listed below have been duly served with a copy of the above-referenced Petition and attachments, either by U.S. mail or electronic means, on 19 August 2024, as required by Section 16 of the Vermont Natural Resources Board Rules of Procedure:

Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

[julie.moore@vermont.gov](mailto:julie.moore@vermont.gov)

Jason Batchelder, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

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Lake Parker Association, Inc., Co-Petitioner by Brenda Plastridge, President



Email: [bplastridge@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bplastridge@myfairpoint.net)

Town of Glover, Co-Petitioner by Phil Young, Chair of Glover Selectboard



Email: [phil@townofglover.com](mailto:phil@townofglover.com)

**Petition to the Agency of Natural Resources to Amend the  
Vermont Use of Public Water Rules to Adopt a Rule to Prohibit  
Wakesports on Lake Parker in West Glover, Vermont**



Petitioners:  
Lake Parker Association, Inc.  
Town of Glover

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## **PETITION**

of the Lake Parker Association, Inc. and Town of Glover, VT,  
Co-Petitioners filed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1424

The Lake Parker Association, Inc. and the Town of Glover (collectively “Petitioners”) hereby petition the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), a department within the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), to exercise rulemaking authority in accordance with 10 V.S.A § 1424 to adopt rules to prohibit Wakesports on Lake Parker located in West Glover, Orleans County, Vermont.

### **Petitioners**

#### **Lead Petitioner:**

[Lake Parker Association, Inc.](#) (Lake Parker Association or LPA), is a nonprofit association of Lake Parker lakeshore property owners, off-lake residents, visitors, and summer camp operators. The LPA was formed to preserve, protect, and enhance the distinctive ecology and natural resources of Lake Parker and its watershed.

Lake Parker’s small size (253 acres) and shallow water (average depth only 25 feet), combined with the surrounding dairy farms, create a situation that requires constant vigilance and stewardship to maintain the health of the lake. Wakesports would increase the challenges faced by stirring up latent phosphorus, resulting in excessive weed growth, further straining the limited available resources. Such activity would be a major setback to all the good work which has been done to restore the lake to its current condition.

Normal use activities enjoyed by LPA members and lake visitors include waterskiing, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, sailing, fishing, swimming, nature/wildlife/ecosystem viewing, and exploration; because of the enhanced, unnatural waves created by wakesports, traditional normal uses would be greatly restricted and safety issues would arise, resulting in conflicts.

At its July 8, 2023 Annual Meeting, the LPA membership voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining, to submit this petition to the Agency of Natural Resources to amend the UPW Rules to prohibit wakesports on Lake Parker.

- [Lake Parker Association, Inc.](#), Brenda Plastridge, President
- [Lake Parker Association, Inc.](#) John Wooten, LPA Wakesports Petition Committee

**Email:** [bplastridge@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bplastridge@myfairpoint.net)  
[Fishwildlife@lakeparker.org](mailto:Fishwildlife@lakeparker.org)

### **Co-Petitioners:**

- [Town of Glover Selectboard](#), Phil Young, Chair Selectboard
- [Town of Glover](#), VT Planning Commission, Randy Williams, Glover Planning Committee

Within this document, “Petitioners” refers to all petitioners — lead and co-petitioners

### **Executive Summary**

Lake Parker is a small, shallow, 253 acre water body surrounded by hills, farms, seasonal camps and residents in the village of West Glover, Vermont: its average depth is only 25 feet, maximum depth is 48 feet.

The traditional “normal” uses of Lake Parker include swimming, fishing, non-powered craft (paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, skulls, and sailboards) as well as waterskiing and tubing. On the eastern shore, there is a children's camp which has been in operation since 1996. Personal watercraft (PWC) have been prohibited on Lake Parker since May, 1995. With the exception of one week in July 2023, when one wake boat was observed for several days, no wake boats or wake sports have ever occurred on Lake Parker.

The watershed area around Lake Parker includes working and nonworking dairy farms, wooded areas, marshes, and gravel roads: some 90 waterfront properties and over 150 residences and camps are included in the watershed area. Decades before the Vermont Required Agricultural Practices went into effect, runoff from the watershed area, including dairy farms, increased the phosphorus levels and resulted in heavy weed growth which almost resulted in a “dead” lake during the 1970's-1980's. With the cooperation of local farmers and government assistance, the nutrient rich runoff into the lake was greatly reduced and the weed situation was brought under control via weed

cutting performed by the Lake Parker Association with further assistance from the State of Vermont. For the past several years, the Lake Parker Association has been actively battling a relatively new invasive weed, phragmites, from shoreline locations around the lake. Today the lake is relatively free of heavy weed growth and is a pleasant and safe place for normal traditional recreational uses.

The low lying, marshy areas on Lake Parker provide homes and nesting places for loons, geese, ducks, beavers, otters, and other animals and birds. For several years, a pair of loons has nested in the marshy area at the southwest side of the lake, and in 2021, the first loon chick was observed in over 30 years! We have worked for years with Eric Hanson of the Vermont Ecostudies group, installed a floating loon nest in the early 1990's, and a new one in 2020, which has been deployed each spring. We continue to participate in the annual state loon count system with Vermont Ecostudies.

Lake Parker Association members have been involved with state programs for water quality for years. We participate in the Lay Monitoring Program, the LaRosa Stream Monitoring, and most recently phosphorus measurements. Despite our best efforts, the Vermont State ScoreCard lists Lake Parker as "Stressed" and its watershed as "Highly Disturbed".

The Lake Parker Association and the Town of Glover have actively supported the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes organization and its petition for wake sports regulation in Vermont lakes and ponds; a 2023 survey of those located in the Lake Parker watershed showed that over 80% of respondents supported the prohibition of wake sports on Lake Parker; the LPA membership vote at its July 2023 Annual meeting was 28 in favor of prohibition of wake sports, 0 in favor of having wake sports, and one abstention. See Attachment #1.

During the summer of 2023, at the request of both the Lake Parker and Shadow Lake Associations, the Town of Glover Selectboard voted to support our associations' "independent petitions to prohibit wake boat sports from Glover lakes if the ANR proposed regulation is not amended to a distance from shore which would eliminate wake boat sports from these lakes." See Attachment #2. The final ANR rule did not eliminate wake sports from Lake Parker or Shadow Lake. In April, 2024, the Town of Glover Selectboard voted to become a co-sponsor of this Petition. See Attachment #3.

In summary, the Lake Parker Association has been stewards of the lake, including its water quality, and is dedicated to the preservation of the lake for present and future generations. For these and the reasons outlined below, the LPA and the Town of Glover are petitioning the ANR to prohibit wake sports on Lake Parker.

**Statutory Authority:** This Petition is submitted pursuant to 10 VSA § 1424(e), and seeks to add lake-specific rules to Appendix A of the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules (“UPW”). In accordance with published guidance provided by DEC, the content and service requirements governing this petition are set forth in i) the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’ (ANR’s) Procedures of Evaluating Petitions to Adopt, Amend or Repeal Surface Water Rules and ii) the Rules of Procedure formerly applicable to petitions filed with the Vermont Natural Resources Board but now applicable to petitions filed with DEC. (In 2012, the Vermont Legislature transferred UPW rulemaking authority from the VNRB to ANR, and ANR has designated DEC as the starting point for UPW petitions.) These Rules of Procedure further provide that the rulemaking requested by this petition be undertaken in accordance with the Vermont Administrative Procedure Act, 3 VSA § 800 et. seq.

**Petitioners:** Petitioners are the Lake Parker Association, Inc. and the Town of Glover Selectboard.

**Nature and Purpose:** Petitioners, together with those entities and individuals who have submitted attached letters of support, believe that Wakesports on **Lake Parker would result in damage to ecological lake systems and wildlife, safety concerns for traditional lake users, and conflicts between wake sport enthusiasts and those enjoying traditional lake uses.**

**Draft Rule:** Petitioners request that Appendix A of the UPW be amended to adopt, under Lake Parker, a new rule, as follows:

“B. Wakesports are prohibited.”

**The Petitioner’s Proposed Rule is Consistent with Existing Vermont Laws.**

Prohibiting Wakesports from operating on Lake Parker is not only consistent with existing law but also advances specific public policies and objectives of the Vermont rules and statutes that govern the use and protection of our public waters:

**1. Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules.**

The UPW Rules require ANR to consider the “safety and best interests of both current and future generations” of Vermonters when managing the State’s public waters. A



recurring theme of the UPW Rules is the avoidance and resolution of conflicting uses of public waters. (e.g., UPW Rules 1.1(c), 2.2(b), 2.6(a)).

- UPW Rules 1.1(a) includes this statement, “The Rules establish a number of general management rules **to protect normal uses** on all lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.”
- UPW Rules 2.2(a) states, “In evaluating petitions and associated public comments, the following factors, at a minimum, shall be considered: the size and flow of navigable waters, **the predominant use of adjacent lands, the depth of the water, the predominant use of the waters prior to regulation**, the use for which the water is adaptable, the **availability of fishing, boating, and bathing facilities**, and the scenic beauty and **recreational uses** of the area.”
- UPW Rules 2.2(b) “The public waters **shall** be managed so that the various uses may be enjoyed in a reasonable manner, **considering safety and the best interests of both current and future generations** of the citizens of the State and the need to provide an appropriate mix of water-based recreational opportunities on a regional and statewide basis.”
- UPW Rules 2.3 Recreation-related criteria. In evaluating **normal** recreational and other uses, the following uses shall be among those considered: fishing, swimming, boating, waterskiing, fish and wildlife habitat, wildlife observation, the enjoyment of aesthetic values, quiet solitude of the water body, and other water-based activities.
- UPW Rules 2.6(a) Use conflicts shall be managed in a manner that **provides for all normal uses to the greatest extent possible** consistent with the provisions of Section 2.2 of these Rules.
- A recurring theme of the UPW Rules is the avoidance and resolution of conflicting uses of public waters. (e.g., UPW Rules 1.1(c), 2.2(b), 2.6(a)).

The new wakesport rule recently adopted by ANR fails to address Lake Parker’s situation as being in a fragile ecological state and as home to a summer camp for young children engaged in traditional normal-use activities. This petition seeks to remedy deficits in the broader rule as it applies specifically to Lake Parker. As such, the rule proposed here addresses the lake’s ecological state and the irreconcilable conflict between wakesports and the many traditional normal uses pursued on Lake Parker including those by a particularly vulnerable, young population. Petitioners’ new proposed rule honors and gives effect to the State’s requirement that Lake Parker’s public waters continue to be enjoyed “considering safety and the best interests of current and future generations.”

## 2. Vermont Statutes

Many Vermont statutes demonstrate the State's strong commitment to the protection of the water quality of its lakes and ponds and the enjoyment of recreational uses.

- 10 VSA § 1421 et. seq. Use of Public Waters gives The Secretary the authority to establish rules. § (c) The Secretary shall attempt to manage the public waters so that the various uses may be enjoyed in a reasonable manner, in the best interests of all the citizens of the State. **To the extent possible, the Secretary shall provide for all normal uses.** It is significant that this statute, unlike the UPW Rules, omits any requirement that use conflicts be managed using the “least restrictive approach.” The term “shall provide” implies safety as a necessary consideration. All normal uses must be provided for in a manner that ensures safety, especially in situations where children are involved. **Any rule that benefits a specific non-normal use at the expense of the safe practice of normal uses by a vast majority of traditional lake users contradicts the stated intent of the statute.** Petitioners’ proposed rule promotes the safe enjoyment of all normal uses on Lake Parker. It is a necessary extension of ANR’s wakesports rule as it applies to the specific circumstances on Lake Parker. The presence of a summer camp and the children learning to enjoy normal uses on the lake make Lake Parker especially vulnerable to safety issues created by the powerful and dangerous wakes central to wakesports.
- Other examples include laws addressing water pollution (10 VSA § 1250 et. seq.); laws protecting navigable waters and shorelands (10 VSA § 1421 et. seq. and § 1441 et. seq.); and laws controlling the further spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) (10 VSA § 14514 et. seq.). Petitioners’ proposed rule remains consistent with, and serves to promote, the many water quality policies underlying these various laws, and enhances protection for Lake Parker and its recreational users. Given the well-documented negative impacts of artificially enhanced ocean-sized wakes on water quality, lake, and shoreline ecologies, the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and public safety, Petitioners’ proposed rule is essential to the continuing health and safety of Lake Parker.

## Narrative Summary

### 1. Wake Sports Zone

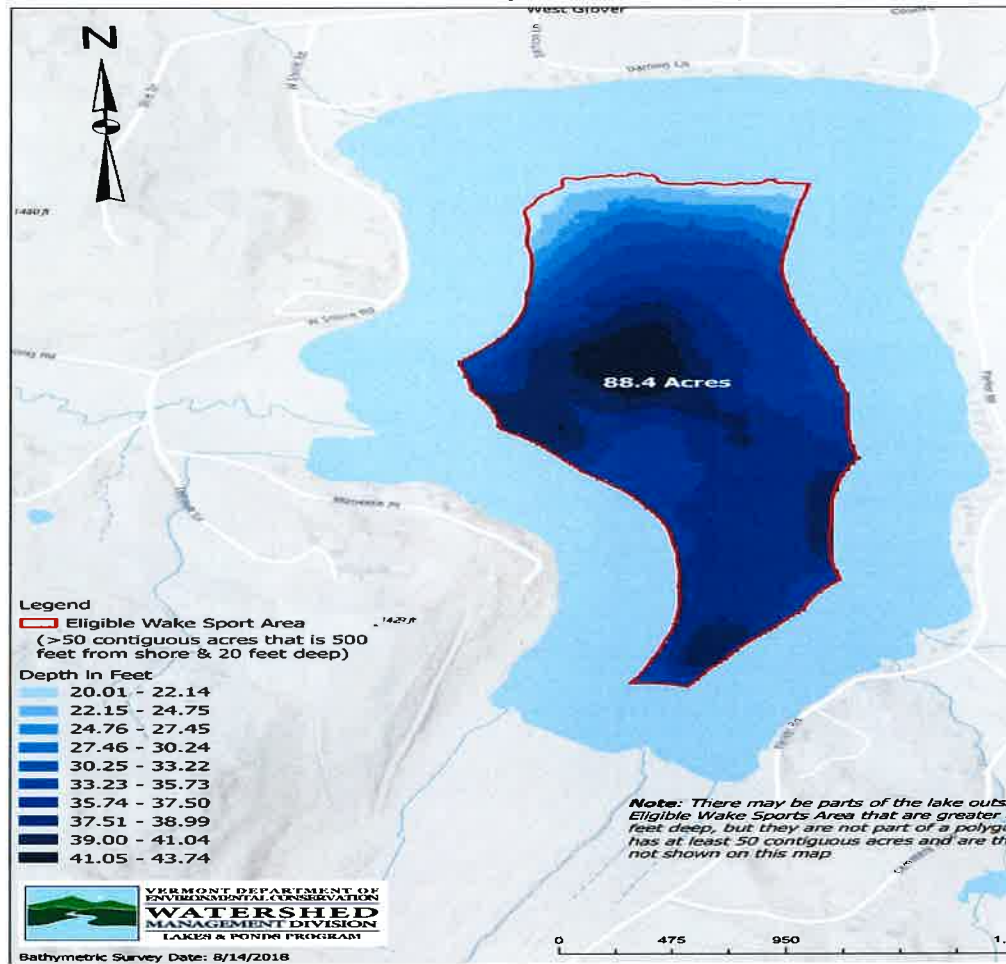
The recently concluded ANR rulemaking process resulted in a new UPW Rule (§ 3.8, “Wakesports”) that limits the operation of Wake Boats on Vermont’s inland lakes to at least 500 feet from shore and in water at least 20 feet deep, provided the area on a given lake meeting those two criteria is at least 50 acres. In addition, the Rule seeks to

mitigate the further spread of AIS by requiring wake boats to declare a “Home Lake,” and to undergo decontamination of their ballast tanks at a state-certified facility prior to launching in another body of water within Vermont or entering the home lake after use at any other waterbody.

This new Rule results in Lake Parker being eligible for wakesports in the Wake Sports Zone (WSZ) shown in [Figure 1](#) and Attachment #4. Petitioner and other supporters contend that Lake Parker has special circumstances warranting the additional protection provided by this petition’s proposed rule. On Lake Parker, as distinct from other inland lakes and ponds, wakesports pursued even within the confines of a designated WSZ would:

- Directly contravene the UPW Rules requirement that the State of Vermont protect normal uses on Lake Parker, UPW Rules, § 1.1(a).
- Directly affect the fragile ecological balance of water quality and release of latent phosphorus resulting in excessive weed growth.
- Directly and irreconcilably conflict with and excessively restrict the long-standing normal uses important not only for the enjoyment and safety of all lake traditional users but also, for the young campers attending the summer camp on the east side of Lake Parker – UPW Rules, § 2.6(a).

## Lake Parker, West Glover, VT



**Figure 1:** Lake Parker Wake Sports Zone.

The WSZ is bounded by its shorelines in West Glover and as is evident in Figure 1.

## 2. Allowing Wakesports on Lake Parker Would Further Damage Its Already Fragile Ecological Balance

Lake Parker is a relatively shallow lake (average depth only 25 feet), which has been designated by the State of Vermont as “Stressed” regarding water quality standards. “Highly Disturbed” in its watershed, and “Stressed” for phosphorus and dissolved oxygen levels. See Attachment #5.

Much of the surrounding watershed (21%) is considered by the State as “Agricultural”; according to the Vermont Lay Monitoring and Community Outreach Coordinator, this is a relatively high percentage and results in a higher concentration of runoff into the lake,

increasing the levels of phosphorus which provides nutrients for plant growth. Although the local farming industry has adjusted its fertilizing procedures, in past decades, concentrations of latent phosphorus from farm runoff have accumulated on the lake bottom.

Since agribusiness provides the livelihood for so many Glover residents, this means that agricultural stressors to Parker's lake water are **unavoidable** and not likely to change in the foreseeable future. However, the addition of wakesports to the mix would only add to the further deterioration of an already "stressed" lake and is **entirely preventable**.

Allowing wake sports on this shallow lake will undoubtedly disturb the lake bottom, releasing additional phosphorus, resulting in a degradation of water quality and additional plant growth.

The Town of Glover and the Lake Parker Association can do just so much to reduce the nutrients entering the lake; the State needs to step up and make sure that the latent phosphorous that already exists within the depths of this relatively shallow lake remains undisturbed by prohibiting wakesports, a measure within its authority and responsibility.

For the past three years, the Lake Parker Association has been battling phragmites, an invasive weed which has taken over several shallow areas around the lake. According to the "Invasive Phragmites-A Guide to the Control and Management" publication by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources (See Attachment #6), phragmites spread through various means including the breaking off of rhizomes (similar to roots which run across the surface of the lake bottom) due to wave actions; large, powerful and unnatural waves caused by wakesport activities would result in the spreading of phragmite growth at Lake Parker.

While total eradication of phragmites is not likely, the removal and controlling of this invasive weed has cost the Lake Parker Association considerable time and money. We finally have the phragmite situation under control and do not wish the remaining weeds to be disturbed and spread by large waves created by wakesports.

The Lake Parker Association continues to be stewards of the lake and does not want wakesports to reverse the "phragmite mitigation" progress it has made.

### **3. Unsafe conditions for traditional uses on the lake.**

A 2022 survey conducted by the Lake Parker Association revealed that the vast majority of vessels on Lake Parker are non-motorized, or “people powered” (95 kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and pedal craft; 4 or 5 sailboats; 25 motorboats; 12 pontoon boats) . Studies have shown that kayaks have a “freeboard” height of only 7” ; canoes, 7” ; wake sport waves at 200 feet have a wave height of 16” ; at 500 ft, wake sport waves have heights of over 12” ; waves of this size can easily flood or capsize kayaks and canoes.



Lake Parker has been and continues to be the home of the Pioneer Camp for children ages 6-14; the camp has been in operation since 1996; the children attending camp typically swim every afternoon (see Pioneer Camp Letter of Support, Attachment #7) and the small children would be susceptible to injury from powerful wake boat waves.



**Young Children from Pioneer Camp Swimming in Lake Parker**

### **UPW Rules § 3.8 Fails to Protect Normal Users**

A major shortcoming of the new, statewide wakesport rule is its lack of attention to public safety. ANR acknowledged during the rulemaking process that it was unable to fully consider whether the new rule would provide adequate protection for public safety. ANR deferred issues of public safety for later consideration, preferring to approach safety issues on a lake-by-lake basis.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Use of Public Waters Rules, Responsiveness Summary for Wakeboat Rulemaking, January 2024, Response 76 states, “As the comment notes, additional rulemaking may be approached on a waterbody-specific basis. The Agency anticipates receiving and responding to several waterbody-specific wake boat rulemaking petitions. ***The Agency expects that such petitions will demand particular focus on aquatic recreation and safety planning —areas where current Agency staff does not have deep professional experience.***”

Therefore, in preparation for consideration of waterbody-specific petitions, the Agency will explore retaining services of external consultants with relevant expertise.”

LCAR – 02-15-2024 Meeting [starting at minute 14:59](#), Katelyn Ellerman, ANR Staff Attorney, “We acknowledge that ***the staff doesn’t have the fine level expertise on safety and recreation conflict*** that might make this go even further, in particular identifying specific criteria at the intersection of conflicting uses.”

1. The UPW Rules ***require*** ANR to consider the “safety and best interests of both current and future generations” of Vermonters when managing the State’s public waters.

- As mentioned, ANR acknowledges that the development of the new UPW Rules § 3.8 did not take into consideration whether the rule is adequate to provide safe enjoyment of existing normal uses on Vermont’s inland lakes despite this consideration being required. UPW Rules 1.1(a) includes this sentence: “The Rules establish a number of general management rules ***to protect normal uses*** on all lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.”
- UPW Rules Definition: § 5.6 “Normal use” means any lawful use of any specific body of public water that occurred on a regular, frequent, and consistent basis prior to January 1, 1993.
- Wakesports are not a “normal use” as they did not occur on a regular, frequent, and consistent basis prior to January 1, 1993.
- Jason Batchelder, DEC Commissioner confirmed that wakesports are not a normal use during the February 15, 2024, LCAR hearing on ANR’s proposed statewide rule to manage wakesports. During the hearing, the Commissioner stated, “***Boats operating in wakesports mode to our view do not meet the definition under UPW Rules of a normal use.***” (LCAR Meeting 02-15-2024 min. 10:49)

2. UPW Rules 2.2(a) states, “In evaluating petitions and associated public comments, the following factors, at a minimum, shall be considered: the size and flow of navigable waters, ***the predominant use of adjacent lands, the depth of the water, the predominant use of the waters prior to regulation***, the uses for which the water is adaptable, the ***availability of fishing, boating, and bathing facilities***, and the scenic beauty and ***recreational uses*** of the area.”

3. UPW Rules 2.2(b) states, “The public waters ***shall*** be managed so that the various uses may be enjoyed in a reasonable manner, ***considering safety and the best interests of both current and future generations*** of citizens of the State and the need to provide an appropriate mix of water-based recreational opportunities on a regional and statewide basis.”

- UPW Rules 2.3 Recreation-related criteria. In evaluating ***normal*** recreational and other uses, the following uses shall be among those considered: fishing,



swimming, boating, waterskiing, fish and wildlife habitat, wildlife observation, the enjoyment of aesthetic values, quiet solitude of the water body, and other water-based activities.

- These are activities enjoyed for decades by residents and by young campers on Lake Parker. The summer camp provides an environment in which users pursue these traditional activities more frequently than most residents. The presence of campers on the lake distinguishes Lake Parker from other lakes in the area, creating a situation unique among Vermont's many Northeast Kingdom lakes and ponds.
- It therefore follows that protection of normal uses in situations where a non-normal use creates issues of public safety, becomes not only reasonable but a *required consideration*.

4. UPW Rules 2.6(a) states, "Use conflicts shall be managed in a manner that **provides for all normal uses to the greatest extent possible** consistent with the provisions of Section 2.2 of these Rules."

- Situating a WSZ – and consequently inviting wakesport activity – within an area having an existing summer camp with a concentration of inexperienced children pursuing traditional, normal uses, makes no sense. It creates a dangerous environment for children. It changes the essence and character of the lake and dramatically curtails safe access to a portion of the lake for normal uses. ***This WSZ does not provide for all normal uses to the greatest extent possible.***

#### **4. The Operation of Wake Boats on Lake Parker Would Negatively Impact the Breeding Population of Common Loons**

The Common Loon has been a fixture on Vermont's northern lakes for millennia, and are widely cherished for their beauty, behavior and eerie calls. Also known as "The Great Northern Diver," they are iconic symbols of wilderness. For the past several years, there has been one breeding pair on Lake Parker. For the first time in 30 years, loons successfully bred a chick in 2021; this year (2024), the loons produced 2 eggs which were dislodged from their nest when heavy rains resulted in a 5" increase in lake elevation; waves from wake boats at 500 feet would surely have dislodged these loon eggs. The loon population in Vermont has recovered significantly from its former status as an endangered species (1987-2005), increasing from seven breeding pairs in 1983 to currently close to 100. ( [See https://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/.](https://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/))

Despite this remarkable comeback, loons continue to face several challenges in Vermont including lead poisoning, mercury contamination, predation of eggs and chicks,

increasing shoreland development, degradation of water quality, and nest disturbance. Lacking most of these threats, Lake Parker continues to offer ideal habitat for these birds in many ways. The water is clear, much of the shoreline is relatively underdeveloped, the water quality is high, the fish are healthy, and up to now, human disturbance has been minimal.

But, as the letter from Eric Hanson — the Project Biologist for the Vermont Loon Conservation Project — explains, the introduction of Wakesports would change that. (See Attachment #8). Most immediately, existing nest locations carefully selected on the west shore for protection from prevailing winds would be directly exposed to unnaturally large wakes. Even if operating in compliance with the 500-foot distance from shore required by Rule 3.8, a Wake Boat wake could be 8-12 inches high when reaching the shoreline. Loon nests are typically only 2 to 5 inches higher than lake level, so even legally conducted Wakesports would disturb or even capsize a nest. That risk would be greatly increased by a Wake Boat operating closer to shore, which seems likely to occur from time to time. Over time, the littoral zones — critical to the food chain of healthy lakes — would suffer to the detriment of the Common Loon and other species. Finally, the powerful engines and downward thrusting propellers of Wake Boats would disturb the phosphorus containing sediment of Lake Parker, resulting in both reduced water quality and clarity, and increasing aquatic plant growth.

## **5. Prohibitions Against the Use of PWC**

The prohibition against the use of personal watercraft (PWC or “jet skis”) on lake Parker implemented in 1995, further contributes to its quiet, enjoyable character. Petitioners strongly believe that if PWC were previously deemed to be incompatible with the traditional uses, aesthetic values and quiet solitude of these bodies of water, the Wakesports—with huge wakes and powerful, noisy engines and audio systems—would be much more so.

## **6. Economic Impact Analysis**

Lake Parker’s natural environment is a uniquely valuable and important resource of unspoiled natural beauty within the Northeast Kingdom. If the rule requested by this petition is adopted, the petitioners including the Town of Glover believe that there would be no economic impact because the rule would result in a continuation of the status quo. Restrictions on boating activities, such as the PWC rule, have not negatively

impacted property values around the lake or tourism, primarily when those restrictions, like a wakesports prohibition, will protect the waterbody and its ecosystem.

If the proposed rule of this petition is not adopted, wakesports may have severe consequences for Lake Parker and its neighboring community. The petitioners strongly believe that allowing enhanced wakes on this small, very shallow lake poses a hazardous risk to public safety including children at the summer camp, jeopardize shoreline property structures, cause adverse impacts to shoreline and shoreline restoration efforts, damage near-shore habitat, cause sediment dispersal, and release latent phosphorus into the lake. Wakesports will increase algal and Cyanobacteria blooms, and the introduction of aquatic invasive species will cause irreparable harm to the lake's ecosystem.

Preserving Parker's relatively clear, clean water quality will be at risk, and wakesports may disrupt wildlife and threaten loon's safety and conservation efforts. The loud motor noise will ruin the tranquility of the lake, diminishing the lake's attraction for fishing and driving away tourists. The hazards of wakesports will preclude all traditional normal-use water activities. Property values will eventually decrease, and the local business community will see economic loss. The magnitude of the negative impacts of enhanced wakes on Lake Parker cannot be overstated. This lake community, well-known for being very friendly and supportive, will lose its sense of place and may turn to confrontation. Environmental and social impacts must be thoroughly considered so there is no reduced enjoyment or lasting damage to our lakes.

**Seasonal Residents.** If wakesports are allowed on Lake Parker, the petitioners anticipate that the wakesports activities will significantly harm the lake environment, ecosystem, shoreline, and water quality. The lake's aesthetics and traditional recreation uses would diminish, and the lakeshore properties would lose market value. Purchasers of waterfront property have long been drawn to Lake Parker's clean water quality and peaceful quietude, including the absence of jet skis.

**Permanent Residents.** Glover is a small town. The current year-round population is estimated at 1,114. If wakesports are allowed on Lake Parker, petitioners anticipate the well-documented array of adverse impacts resulting from wakesport activities would inevitably harm the lake environment, eventually reducing the value of lakefront properties and likely resulting in a relative shift of the property tax burden to the town residents.

**Visitors.** If wakesports continue to be allowed on Lake Parker, the petitioners anticipate wakesport activities would be very loud and disrupt the quiet solitude of the

lake. The hazardous enhanced wakes could create turbulence throughout the lake and threaten public safety while recreating on the water and swimming, making the lake unpleasant. Visitors won't swim with their kids anymore, afraid of the giant waves or take the drive to unload paddlecraft that could easily be swamped, won't be able to fish quietly, canoe, or sail, enjoy the scenery and listen to the loons, leading to fewer visitors to the area resulting in an economic negative impact on the following local businesses:

<b>Busy Bee Diner</b>	<b>C &amp; C grocery store</b>
<b>Currier's Quality Market</b>	<b>Orleans County Fair</b>
<b>Parker Pie Restaurant</b>	<b>Parsons Dinner House</b>
<b>Hill Farmstead Brewery</b>	<b>E.M. Brown &amp; Sons Hardware</b>
<b>Local Air B&amp;Bs</b>	<b>Taylor Automobile Service</b>
<b>Labor of Love Landscaping</b>	<b>Produce farms and farmer markets</b>

### **State Agencies.**

**Vermont Department of Public Safety.** If wakesports continue to be allowed to operate on Lake Parker, their oversized enhanced wakes and wave train energy and power would create dangerous conditions and a recreation conflict of use covering almost the entire lake surface, warranting calls to public safety enforcement, further straining the limited, available wardens' time in the Northeast Kingdom.

**Department of Environmental Conservation.** If wakesports continue to be allowed, petitioners anticipate the introduction of AIS from the ballast tanks despite the best decontamination efforts. The myriad adverse ecological impacts — several of which are yet to be fully understood and require further study — will degrade Lake Parker's ecosystem and clear water quality, likely requiring expensive mitigation and demands on DEC staff time, increasing the budgeting woes and efficiency of the lakes and ponds programs.

## CONCLUSION

Lake Parker is irrefutably too small and too shallow to accommodate a wakesports zone. The existing fragile ecological balance including the disturbance of latent phosphorus on the lake bottom and the spread of phragmites will be negatively affected by wakesport activities. Adding wakesports to the existing recreational mix is inappropriate, creates an unnecessary safety risk and a high level of conflict of use.

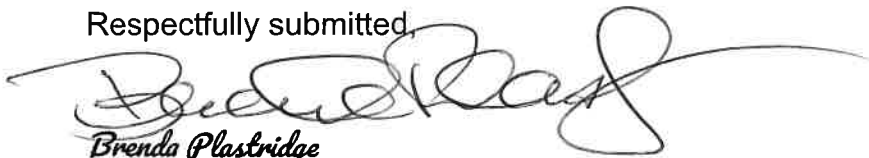
This petition is supported by the Lake Parker Association, those residing in the Lake Parker watershed, the Town of Glover Select Board, the Town of Glover Planning Commission, the Glover Pioneer Camp, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP), See Attachment #10.

As the trustee of Vermont's inland lakes, the Agency of Natural Resources is required to promote public health, safety, convenience, and the general welfare of Vermont's waters for the best interests of all Vermont citizens. Similarly, under Vermont's Water Quality Standards, the Agency must "protect the quality, character, and usefulness of Vermont's surface waters," by supporting their "designated and existing uses." The State of Vermont has already designated Lake Parker as "Stressed", its watershed area as "Highly Disturbed", and "Stressed" for phosphorus and dissolved oxygen levels.

To fulfill this mandate, the Agency must manage public waters to ensure that current and future generations of Vermonters may **reasonably and safely** enjoy an appropriate mix of water-based recreational opportunities.

For the foregoing reasons, petitioners request that the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources exercises its rulemaking authority and grant this petition, as it has previously done with PWC, and adopt a rule to prohibit wakesports on Lake Parker in West Glover, Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,



*Brenda Plastridge*

Brenda Plastridge, President,  
Lake Parker Association, Inc.

[bplastridge@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bplastridge@myfairpoint.net)

P.O. Box 157

Glover, VT 05839

802-525-3479

*Phil Young*

Phil Young, Glover Selectboard Chair

[phil@townofglover.com](mailto:phil@townofglover.com)

Town of Glover

51 Bean Hill Rd, Glover, VT 05839

802-525-6227



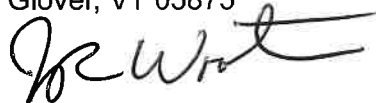
*John Wooten*

John Wooten, LPA Wakesports Petition Committee

[jrw@hbfishman.com](mailto:jrw@hbfishman.com)

764 Parker Rd, West Glover, VT 05875

860-402-7181



## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Lake Parker Association 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, Vote for Prohibition of Wake Sports (Highlighted)

Attachment 2: Town of Glover Selectboard Letter dated 16 August 2023 in Support of Lake Parker's Independent Petition to Prohibit Wake Sports

Attachment 3: Town of Glover Selectboard Co-Petitioner Letter dated 25 April 2024

Attachment 4: State of Vermont, Lake Parker Wakesports Map

Attachment 5: 2023 Lake Parker Water Quality Report, VT DEC, Watershed Management Division, Lakes and Ponds Program, Pertinent Pages.

Attachment 6: "Invasive Phragmites- A Guide to the Control and Management" by State of Michigan, DNR, Pertinent Pages

Attachment 7: Glover Pioneer Camp, Letter of Support

Attachment 8: Vermont Center for EcoStudies Letter of Support dated 1 April 2024

Attachment 9: Town of Glover, Planning Commission, Letter of Support

Attachment 10: Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. (FOVLAP), Letter of Support dated 1 June 2024

# ATTACHMENT #1



# Lake Parker Association (LPA) Annual Meeting

West Glover, Vermont

Saturday July 8, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:16 a.m. by Brenda Plastridge, President with a welcome and a thank you to all attendees. There are currently 62 paid members in the LPA and 1 associate member. There were 28 voting memberships in attendance which represents more than the 20% of membership needed for a quorum to hold the meeting. There were 39 individuals in attendance and 1 proxy. The meeting notice was posted on the Lake Parker Association (LPA) website on June 26, 2023 and emailed and mailed to those with no email address, to members on June 28, 2023, satisfying the notice requirement.

**Secretary's Report**—A copy of the minutes from the July 9, 2022 annual meeting was provided in the packet of reports and information. Brenda Plastridge stated that the minutes had been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors and posted to the LPA website.

**Treasurer's Report**—Joyce Croteau spoke of the reports included in the packet (see attached), last year January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Joyce reviewed the period January 1, 2023 to date. \$2,000.00 received to date in donations.

A motion was made by John Wooten to approve the Treasurer's reports as presented and seconded by Art Greenbaum. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:** (SEE ALL WRITTEN COMMITTEE REPORTS ATTACHED)

Highlights of:

**Boat and Water Safety:** Steve Cutler shared observations of safety devices with paddle boarders. He also shared observations of larger faster boats on Lake Parker. Steve mentioned the changes in weather patterns and how the weather directly affects the lake.

**Membership:** Linda Alderton mentioned the increase in membership and Brenda Plastridge thanked Linda for the hard work she has done to increase membership.

**Recreation:** Tim Plastridge mentioned that the walking path remains too wet for use and the Ice Cream Boat Toss held on Monday July 3 was very well received. A boat social is scheduled for Saturday August 19<sup>th</sup> with a backup date of Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Quality:** Mike Pierce provided a review from the cutting of phragmites which took place last fall. Luke Hardt sprayed the phragmites just once. 90-92% have been removed from shoreline and 75% have been removed from the water. There will be a weed removal work bee on Saturday July 22, or Sunday July 30, or August 6<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed.

Mike covered the purchase of the LaMotte water sampler and the ability to obtain a phosphorus level at the bottom of the lake. Mike said the level of phosphorus has been stable and the LaMotte sampler will provide even more information.

Mike spoke of the LakeWise Program and the importance of shoreline buffers to filter sediment especially phosphorus from entering the lake. The State of VT assists with a plan to plant filter type plants such as blueberries. Lakes such as Seymour have had great success with the program. For more information go to [waterqualitychairman.org](http://waterqualitychairman.org) and contact Mike Pierce if interested. There was a workshop held on June 24<sup>th</sup> with Shadow Lake. A question was asked about the Town of Glover Road Crews involvement regarding roads and culverts.

Brenda Plastridge mentioned the scheduled Waste Water Workshop on July 29<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 12:30 at the Glover Town Hall.

**Fish and Wildlife:** John Wooten shared that 900 rainbow trout were stocked in the lake and the loon nesting raft platform was installed which the loons did not nest on therefore the raft will be removed. Eric Hanson, biologist with Vermont Center of Eco studies recommends moving the raft to another lake as the loons will likely never use it at Lake Parker.

A tube container/receptacle will be installed at the fishing access/boat launch for disposal of lead weights and fishing line.

John Wooten provided an update on the wake boat petition and shared that Lake Parker area response has been very strong.

**Old Business:** John Wooten expanded on the update on wake boat petition. The State of Vermont continues to move forward with a compromise of 500 feet and 50 acres. Vermonters are supporting the 1,000 feet and 60 acres. There is a meeting scheduled in Montpelier, Tuesday August 1 at 4:00 pm on the Statehouse lawn. Also a second virtual meeting scheduled for Thursday August 3. Need to sign up in advance to speak.

Ken Kasz covered results of the wake boat survey:

- 1) Support wake boat petition = 92% yes
- 2) Support distance of 1,000 feet = 88% yes
- 3) Support total ban of wake sports on Lake Parker = 81%

If we wish to actually ban wake boats from the lake, we need a special reason like the presence of invasive species or some other special situation.

- 1) John Wooten made a motion to continue to support the RWVL petition to regulate wake boats and was seconded by Ken Kasz. Motion carried. 28 in favor, zero opposed, 1 abstain
- 2) John Wooten made a motion to encourage VT ANR to use the 1,000 ft rule and was seconded by Joe Laferriere. Motion carried. 28 in favor, zero opposed, 1 abstain
- 3) John Wooten made a motion for the LPA to support and file a separate independent petition to ban wake sports on Lake Parker if the ANR regulation, when enacted, still allows

wake sports in eligible areas on Lake Parker. Motion carried. 28 in favor, zero opposed, 1 abstain

4) If the LPA files a separate, independent petition to ban wake sports on Lake Parker, the LPA will need to form a committee to work on this.

Brenda Plastridge covered the Lake Parker Association status of 501(c)(4) therefore the association can lobby for the lake. This is all volunteer work and there are no LPA funds expended for this work.

**Nomination and election of officers:** Nominations committee consisting of Ken Kasz, Mike Pierce and John Wooten. Two open board positions are Vice President and Secretary. The nominating committee presented Charise Baker for a 2 year Secretary term and no one for the Vice President position. When nominations were requested from the floor, Joyce Croteau nominated Tim Plastridge, seconded by Rachel Blanchard to fill the 2 year term for Vice President. Tim agreed and since there were no other nominations the below were presented:

Vice President/2 year term – Tim Plastridge

Secretary/2 year term ---Charise Baker

A motion was made by Ken Kasz to accept the nominations as presented with the addition of Tim Plastridge for Vice President and seconded by Steve Cutler that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate presented. Motion carried with an affirmative vote by membership..

**New Business:**

Brenda Plastridge thanked members for their generous monetary donations. Brenda mentioned book donation/swap container at Andrea Neil's house on Parker Road.

Peggy Day Gibson spoke on behalf of the Glover Trails Committee and a plan to mark the Black Hills and Lake Parker loop providing maps with historical information.

**Adjournment-** A motion was made by Steve Cutler and seconded by Sue Greenbaum to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Charise Baker , Secretary

Minutes approved by Board of Directors at a meeting held on 10/21/23

# ATTACHMENT #2

**TOWN OF GLOVER**

**51 Bean Hill Rd  
Glover, VT 05839  
(802) 525-6227  
(802) 525-4115 Fax**

August 16, 2023

Secretary Julie Moore  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

Commissioner John Beling  
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
Davis Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3901

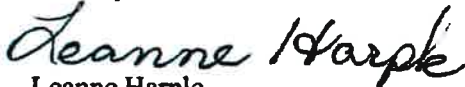
**RE: WAKE BOATS**

Dear Secretary Moore and Commissioner Beling:

On August 10, 2023, the Glover Select Board met. Vermont's ANR proposed wake boat regulation which includes restricting wake boat operation to a 500 foot distance from shore was discussed as was the possibility of prohibiting wake boat sports from Lake Parker, Shadow Lake and Daniels Pond, all of which are located within the Town of Glover.

A motion was made by the Glover Select Board and approved by the Glover Select Board to support the Lake Parker and Shadow Lake Associations' independent petitions to prohibit wake boat sports from Glover lakes if the ANR proposed regulation is not amended to a distance from shore which would eliminate wake boat sports from these lakes.

Thank you.



Leanne Harple  
Glover Select Board Chair

# ATTACHMENT #3



Town of Glover  
51 Bean Hill Road  
Glover, VT 05839  
802 525-6227

April 25, 2024

To: Brenda Plastridge, Lake Parker Asso. President

Please be advised that during its April 25, 2024 meeting, a motion was made, and the Town of Glover Selectboard voted to be a co-sponsor of the Lake Parker Association's independent petition to prohibit wake sports on Lake Parker.

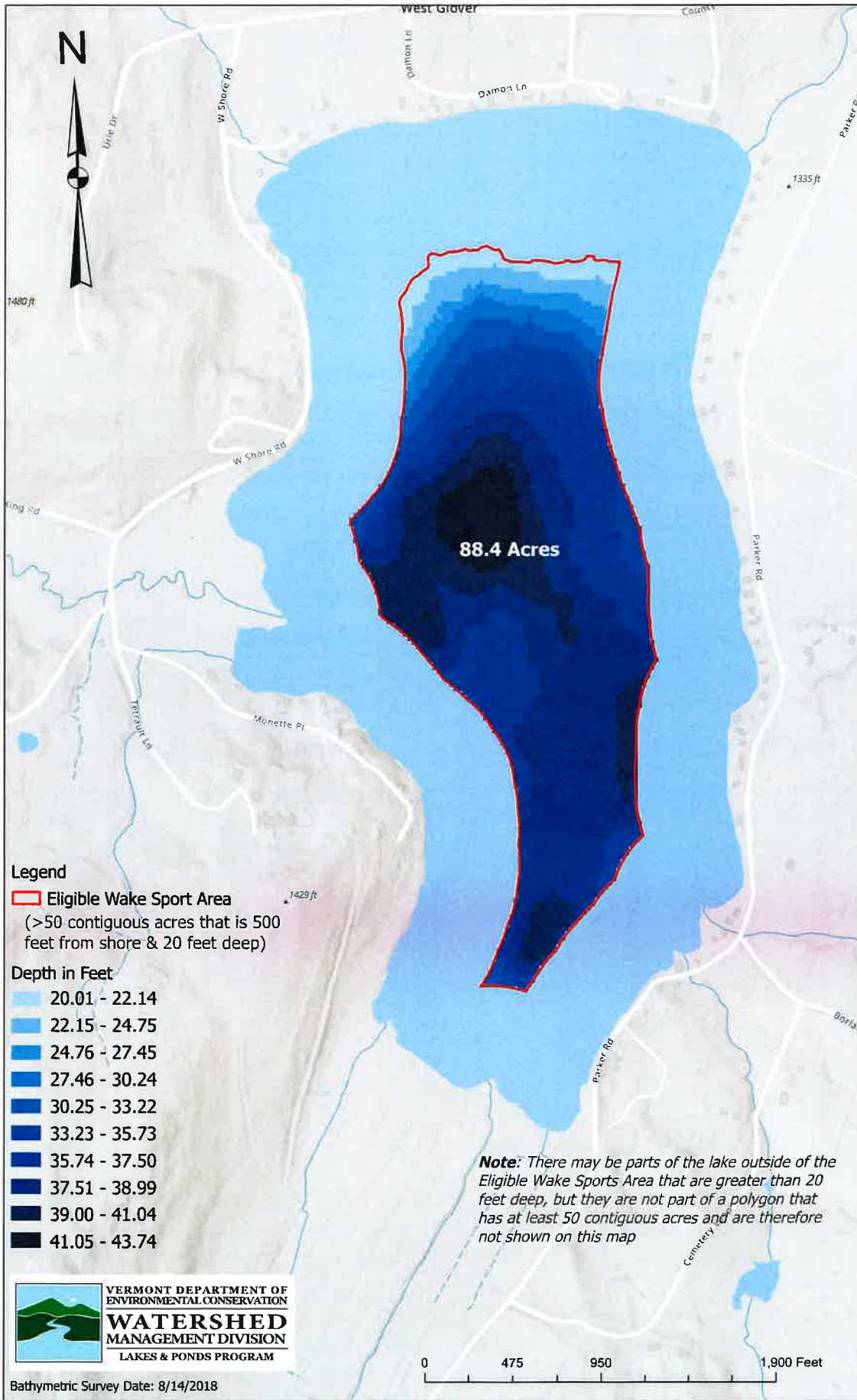
Respectfully submitted,

Phil Young  
Glover Selectboard Chair

# ATTACHMENT #4



# Lake Parker, West Glover, VT



# ATTACHMENT #5

# 2023 Lake Parker Water Quality Monitoring Results: Lay Monitoring Program and LaRosa Partnership Program

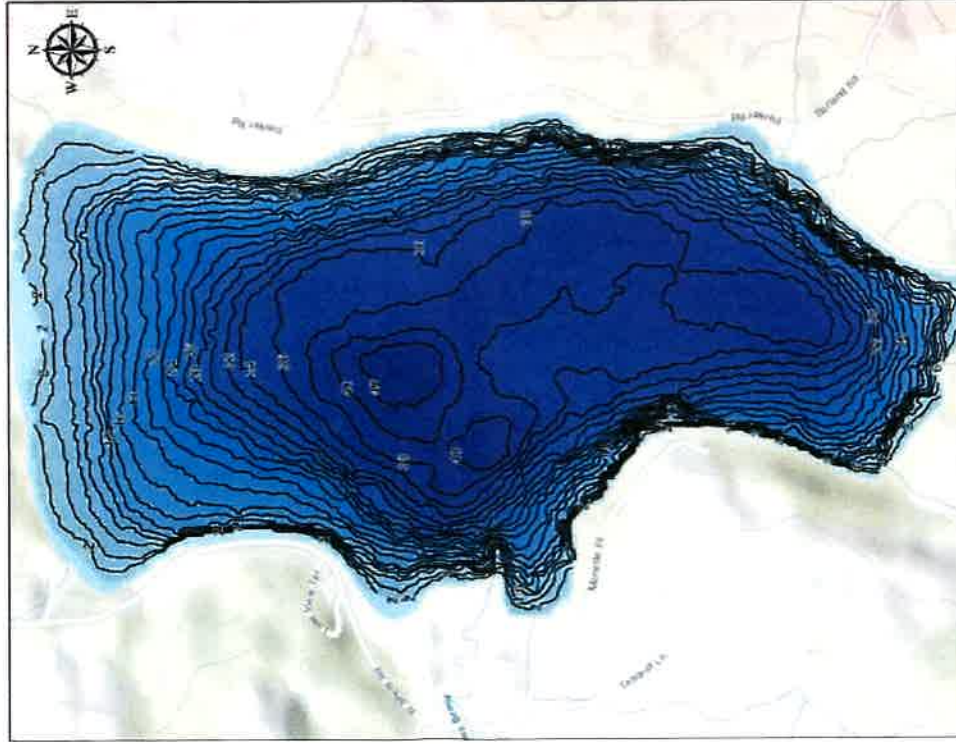
Mark Mitchell, Limnologist

Lake Monitoring and Community Outreach Coordinator

UVM Lake Champlain Sea Grant and VT DEC Lakes & Ponds Program



Lake Parker, West Glover, VT



**Legend**  
 Depth (ft.)  
 High : 0  
 Low : 44

— Depth Contour (2 ft.)

Source Data Collected: 8/14/2018

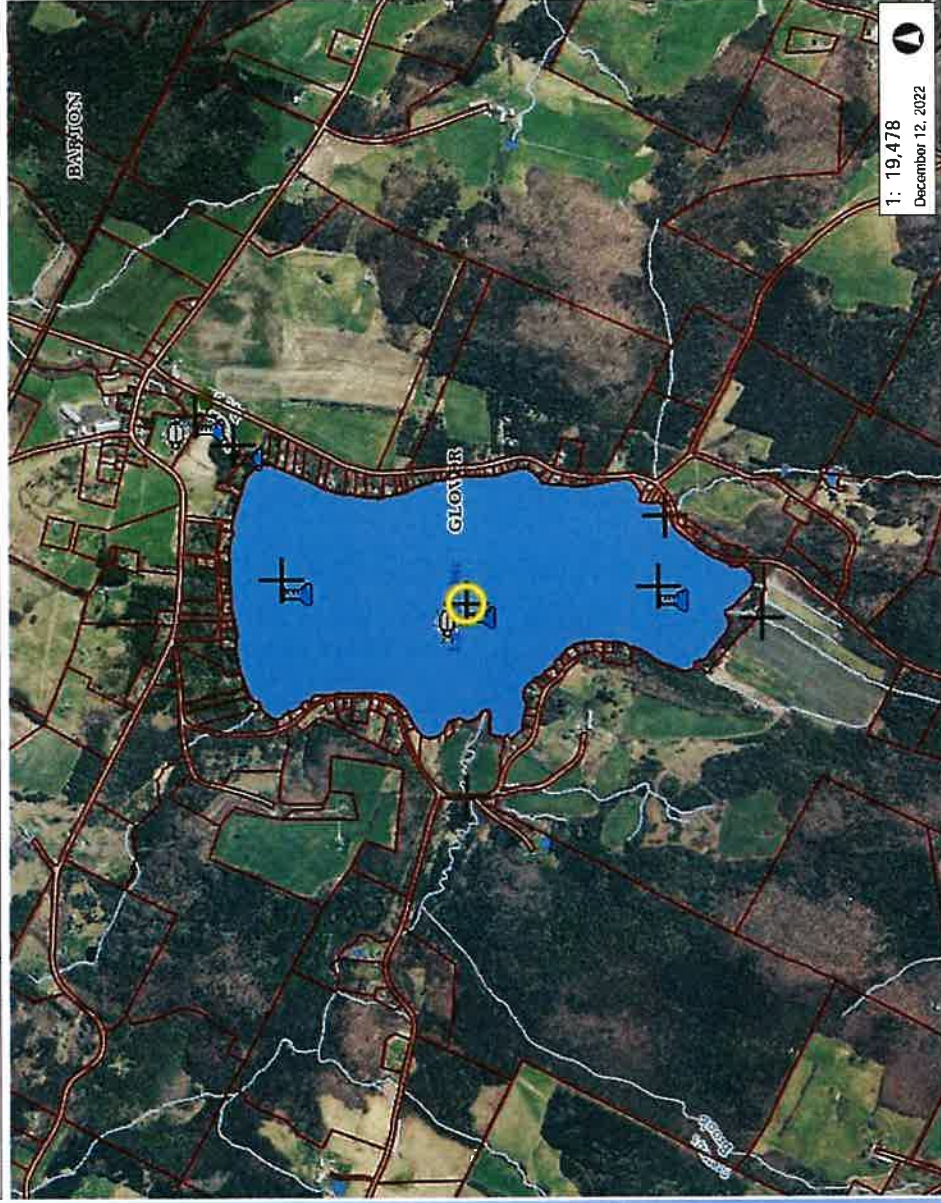
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF  
**WATERSHED**  
 MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
 FISH & WILDLIFE



Lake Parker Monitoring Station #1 (Center)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

vermont.gov



990.0 0 495.00 990.0 Meters

1" = 1623 Ft. 1cm = 195 Meters

WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

© Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. AHR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.

1: 19,478  
 December 12, 2022

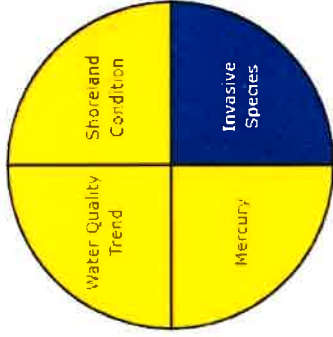
# Vermont Lake Score Card

## Lake Parker

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/data-maps/scorecard>

Scores

Water Quality Data Lake Information



Watershed: **Highly Disturbed**

WQ Standards: **Stressed**

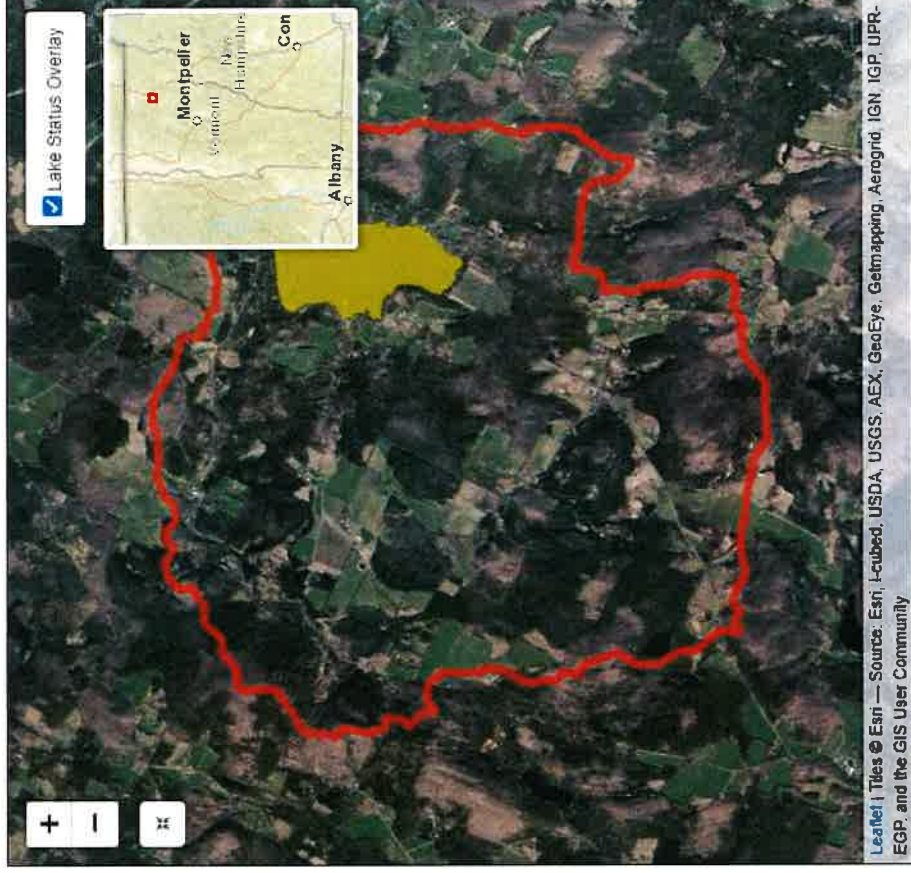
### Details

Stressed – Organic Enrichment - DO

Stressed – Phosphorus

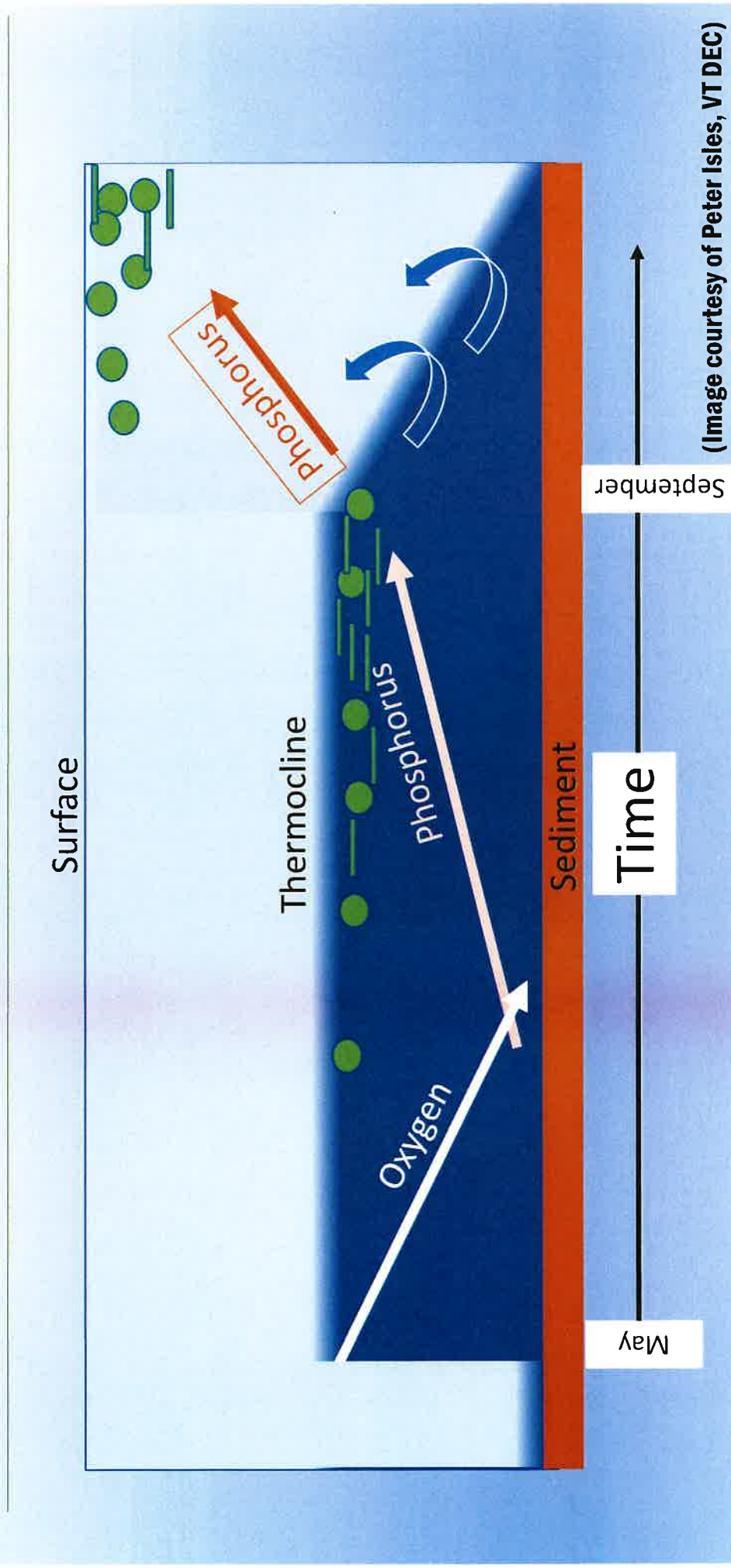
Color Scoring System

- Good Conditions
- Fair Conditions
- Poor Conditions
- Insufficient Data



[Learn How Lakes Are Scored](#)

# Internal Phosphorus Loading From Anoxic Sediment



(Image courtesy of Peter Isles, VT DEC)

# LAKE PARKER

## Annual Data (Station 1)

Year	Days Sampled	Secchi (m)	Secchi View Tube (m)	Chloro-a (µg/l)	Summer TP (µg/l)	Spring TP (µg/l)
1979	23	3.2		6.2		
1980	13	3.7		7.2		17.0
1981	13	3.2		5.9		22.0
1982	13	4.0		5.2		18.0
1983	13	4.2		5.6	14.1	14.0
1984	13	3.6		5.8	14.9	13.0
1985	12	5.3		6.9	15.2	14.0
1986	12	4.5		6.1	13.8	13.0
1987	12	4.0		5.4	16.0	12.0
1988	12	2.4		8.0	17.2	
1989	12	3.8		18.7	22.8	
1990	12	2.5		14.4	20.0	19.0
1991	12	4.2		5.9	14.8	15.0
1992	13	3.6				
1993	12	4.0		4.8	13.0	
1994	10	2.7		7.6	15.9	
1995	11	4.1		8.1	15.1	21.0
1996	9	3.5				
1997	9	2.8		5.7	19.6	14.0
1998	9	3.4		6.5	20.7	
1999	11	4.3		8.5	15.0	16.7
2000	12	3.5		6.5	17.1	19.3
VT Standard*		2.6		7.0	18.0	

\* VT Water Quality Standards Nutrient Criteria for Class B2 Lakes > 20 acres.

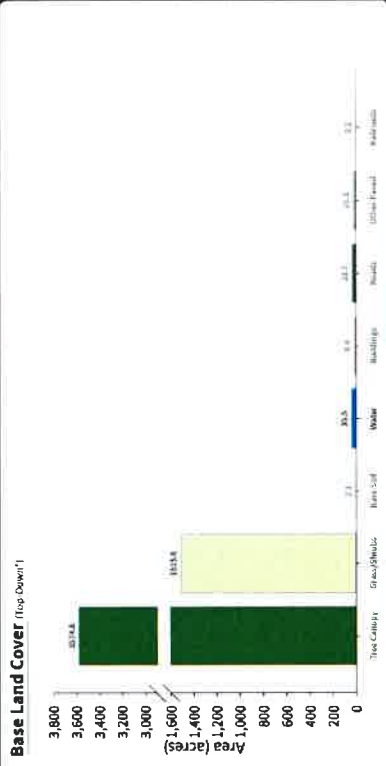
## Annual Data (Station 1)

Year	Days Sampled	Secchi (m)	Secchi View Tube (m)	Chloro-a (µg/l)	Summer TP (µg/l)	Spring TP (µg/l)
2001	11	4.3		4.8	16.6	12.3
2002	10	3.4		5.4	25.7	17.0
2003	12	4.0		16.2	22.0	
2004	13	3.3		7.1	16.6	14.3
2005	11	3.7		8.0	17.7	15.1
2006	12	2.8		8.7	22.3	17.3
2007	12	3.5		6.6	17.0	22.5
2008	14	2.2		16.6	25.3	
2009	15	2.4		6.5	17.4	18.6
2010	14	3.1		8.1	21.6	
2011	14	2.5		8.4	19.2	
2012	12	2.9		4.8	15.4	
2013	9	2.4		14.7	19.7	
2014	12	2.9		5.7	17.5	
2015	15	2.2		7.0	16.1	
2016	14	4.1		7.5	17.7	
2017	12	3.1		8.4	18.7	
2018	13	4.0		5.7	15.5	
2019	15	3.3		8.6	16.1	17.0
2021	13	4.2		4.7	15.6	
VT Standard*		2.6		7.0	18.0	

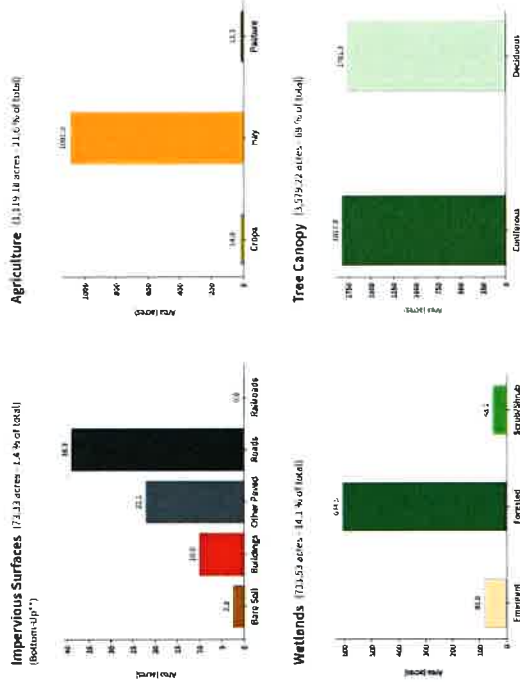
\* VT Water Quality Standards Nutrient Criteria for Class B2 Lakes > 20 acres.



## High-Resolution Land Cover Summary

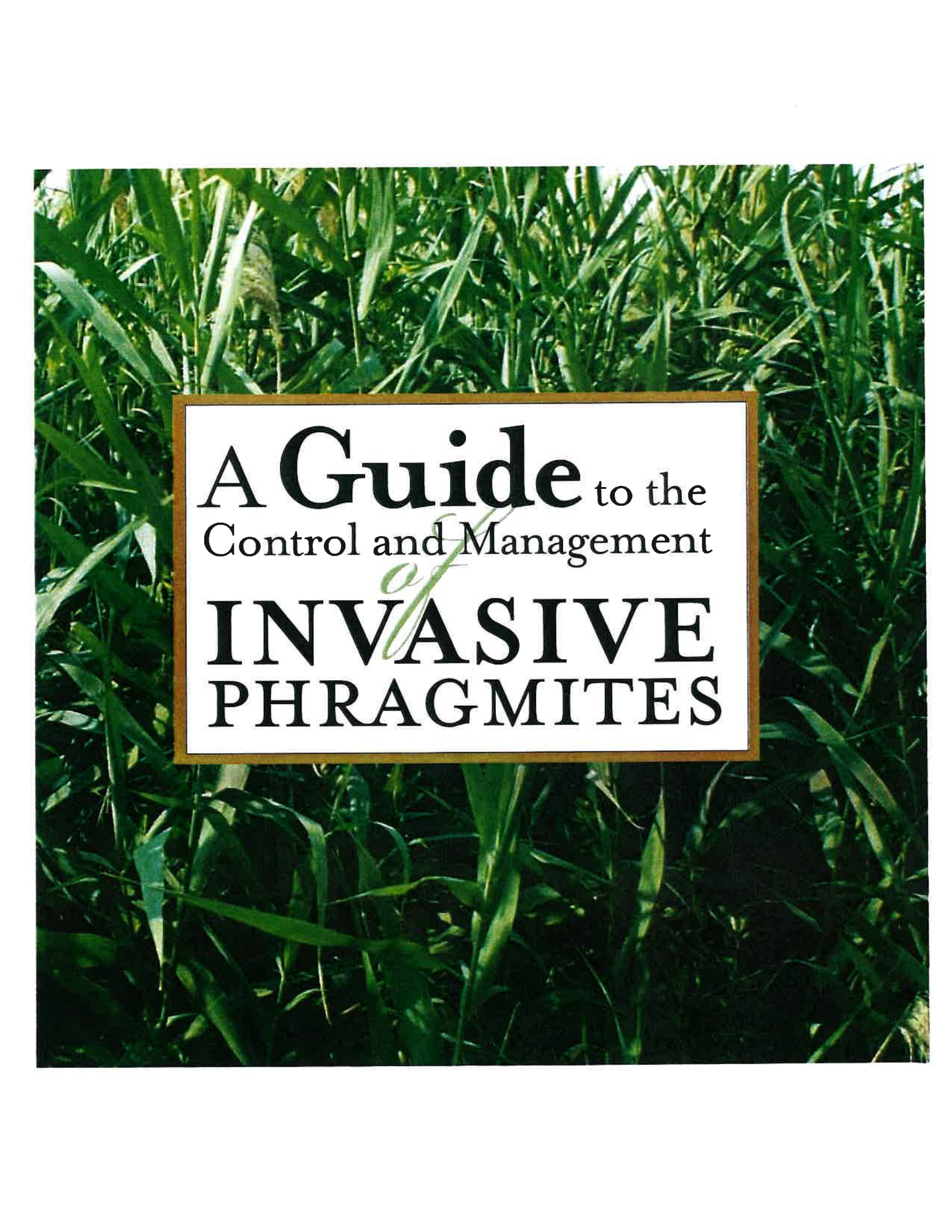


### Supplemental Land Cover





# ATTACHMENT #6



**A Guide** to the  
Control and Management  
*of*  
**INVASIVE  
PHRAGMITES**

A Guide to the  
Control and Management

*of*

# INVASIVE PHRAGMITES





Partial funding for this program is supported by a Cooperative Agreement from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.



# Illustration of the nonnative phragmites plant

[USDA NRCS PLANTS DATABASE]

## SEED HEAD PLUMES

*purple-brown-silver;  
6-20 inches long and up to 8 inches broad*

## FLAT, STIFF LEAVES

*0.5-2.0 inches wide near the base,  
tapering to a point at the end*

## RHIZOME

*horizontal, underground stem;  
sends out roots and shoots from its nodes*



*Nonnative (background, left; dark leaves) and native phragmites (front, right; light green leaves) at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, NY.  
B. Blossy, Cornell University*



## The Problem

Once phragmites invades, it causes adverse ecological, economic and social impacts including:

- Threats to coastal and interior wetlands, which are Michigan's most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems.
- Domination of native vegetation, displacing desirable native plant species such as sedges, rushes and cattails, and reduction of plant diversity.
- Reduction of wildlife habitat diversity resulting in loss of food and shelter.
- Alteration of water regime, causing "drying" of marsh soils through increased evaporation and trapping of sediments.
- Reduction of property values due to use impairment.
- Restriction of shoreline views due to tall, dense stands.
- Reduction of access for swimming, fishing and hunting.
- Creation of potentially serious fire hazard to structures due to dry biomass during the dormant season.

# Understanding Phragmites

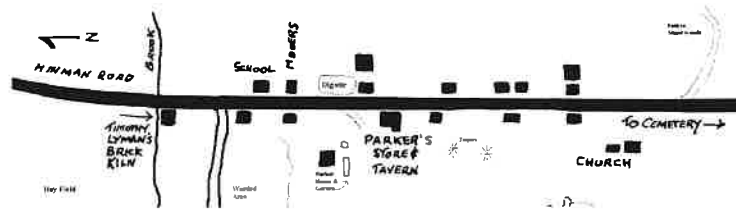
TO BETTER CONTROL AND MANAGE PHRAGMITES IT IS HELPFUL TO UNDERSTAND THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PLANT, AS WELL AS HOW AND WHEN IT REPRODUCES AND SPREADS.

In Michigan, phragmites is found growing in coastal and interior marshes, bogs, fens, swamps, lake margins, roadside ditches and other low wet areas. Typically it prefers the wetland-upland interface, though it can be found in dry uplands.

Phragmites continues to expand within Michigan, in part because it reproduces through wind dispersal of seeds and vigorous vegetative reproduction through rhizomes. Rhizomes broken by natural actions, such as waves, or man-made actions, such as dredging or disking, readily reroor in new locations. Rapid expansion also is facilitated by other disturbances that give phragmites a competitive edge, such as discharge of nutrients, wetland drainage, fire and road salt.

on page 2: Tall, dense stand of phragmites restricting views and access to water, and creating potential fire danger. J. Schafer

# ATTACHMENT #7



**Glover Pioneer Day Camp**  
**765 Parker Rd.**  
**West Glover, VT 05875**

Dear ANR/DEC:

Our town has sponsored a week long day camp for elementary aged children for 28 years. The camp is based at the original settlement in the Town of Glover, which is on our land, beside the ancient Hinman Rd. built in 1791, on the ridge above Lake Parker. The camp has been in operations since 1996, and served multiple generations of local children.

Every afternoon, the campers swim in Lake Parker. The smaller, younger children are susceptible to injury from large, powerful waves, such as those produced by wake sport activities. The older children swim out to a float, scramble up, and are pulled up by the kids already on the float, and then dive off. The waves from wake boats would cause the float to rock violently and could injure the children as they try to get up and when they dive off.

Also, the turbulence caused by the wake boats will stir up the old sediment that has settled in the lake since the introduction of manure pits in the surrounding farms over 45 years ago, and deteriorate the water quality.

The new ANR rule limits wake sports to a distance of 500 feet from shore; the most current studies show that at 500 feet from shore, the wave heights generated by older wake boats are between six and 8 inches. Even at 750 to 900 feet, the wave heights 200 feet from shore are 6 inches in height. Newer, more powerful wake boats produce larger and more powerful waves. These types of unnatural, man-made waves will jeopardize the safety of the small campers swimming in Lake Parker.

For the safety of our campers, Glover Pioneer Camp supports the Lake Parker Association and Town of Glover petition to prohibit wake sports from Lake Parker.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Williams and Betsy Day  
Owners of the Parker Settlement, site of Glover Pioneer Camp



# ATTACHMENT #8

I am writing regarding concerns about wakesports, loons, and water quality on Lake Parker in Glover, Vermont. Loons nest along the southwest/west shoreline of Lake Parker near the inlet. Two of these nests were in locations exposed directly to the open lake, and others nests were in the more protected cove. Loon nests are usually located from 2-8 inches vertically from the water. At 500 feet, a wakeboat could produce a wave that is 5-6 inches tall. The 15 or so current loon nests in Vermont that are directly exposed to where wakesports will occur could be at risk. I am concerned about the intentional or unintentional wakeboater who ends up 300 feet from shore with an occupied loon nest nearby. It only takes one boat to flood out a nest. Waves created 300 to 400 feet from shore could produce waves in excess of eight to ten inches, which will wash out loon nests and will definitely contribute to more erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, and overall decrease in water quality. Even at 500 feet, a wake boat has the equivalent impact (wave force) of a standard motorboat at less than 50 feet.

My long-term concerns about wakesports will be the degradation of lake shorelines and riparian areas and the resulting decline in water quality, especially in sections of lakes that are not naturally conditioned for larger wave action. The results of higher wave action are more erosion, increased sedimentation, and higher turbidity, which contribute to higher nutrient loads in the water column, and decreased visibility. From a recent study in Wisconsin, loon chick productivity has declined over the past 25 years due in part to decreases in water clarity (Piper, et al. 2020, loonproject.org 2023). Adult male and chick weights have declined during this same period. Loons need clear lakes for successful feeding, and declines in weight contribute to declines in a loon's overall fitness and ability to raise young successfully. We have not seen this decline in Vermont, but it is something we'll be monitoring closely. The VT DEC lists Lake Parker water quality as stressed due to organic enrichment and phosphorous, and secchi disk readings have significantly declined. Healthy riparian areas are critical for the base of a lake's foodweb, which plants, aquatic insects, fish, and loons all depend on.

There are many effects of wave action that we do not know because of the newness of wakeboats. How will larger wakes affect small loon chicks who do not have the waterproofing that adult loons do? Non-breeding and breeding loons often congregate in the middle of larger lakes. How will hours of large wakes affect these important social gatherings? We do not know the effects of continued excessive rocking of a raft nest on incubating loons. Wakesports will be an additional stressor on wildlife and lake water quality.

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies supports the petition by the Lake Parker Association to prohibit wakesports on Lake Parker.

Sincerely,  
Eric Hanson  
Vermont Loon Conservation Project Biologist  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Piper, W., J. Grear, B. Hoover, E. Lomery, L. Grenzer (2020). Plunging floater survival causes cryptic population decline in the Common Loon. *Ornithological Applications*. Volume 122, Issue 4, 2 November 2020, duaa044, <https://doi.org/10.1093/condor/duaa044>

# ATTACHMENT #9

Brenda Plastridge  
President - Lake Parker Association

Brenda,

The Glover Planning Commission supports your efforts to have the state restrict the use of wake boats on a lake the size and depth of Lake Parker. The new ANR rule limits wake sports to a distance of 500 feet from shore; the most current studies show that at 500 feet from shore, the wave heights generated by older wake boats are between six and 8 inches. Even at 750 to 900 feet, the wave heights 200 feet from shore are 6 inches in height. Newer, more powerful wake boats produce larger and more powerful waves. These types of unnatural, man-made waves will jeopardize the safety of the swimmers, boaters and fishermen in Lake Parker.

As you are well aware, our lakes in Glover provide a significant quality to life here, both for permanent and seasonal residents alike. We equate the use of wake boats to that of jet skis, not only an annoyance, but a real hazard to everyday users of the lakes. Wake boats could easily negatively affect the seasonal economy of our town. We are hopeful that ANR will see the negative impact on these smaller lakes and act accordingly.

Randy Williams - Chairman  
Glover Planning Commission

# ATTACHMENT #10



The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc.  
P.O. Box 766  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
[www.vermontlakes.org](http://www.vermontlakes.org)

June 1, 2024

Jason Batchelder  
Commissioner, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
1 National Life Dr.  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**RE: Lake Parker Association and Town of Glover Petition to Modify the Wake Sports Rule**

Dear Commissioner Batchelder,

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, a coalition of volunteer lake associations, is dedicated to fostering environmental quality standards and to the protection and preservation of Vermont's lakes and ponds.

Lake Parker is a small and shallow lake of 250 acres with an average depth of only 25 feet. It is one of the state's cleanest and most pristine lakes. It has no aquatic invasive species and high quality waters. Phragmites, an invasive shoreline plant, has been controlled by removal and treatment for the past several years. Due to its small size and the safety hazard they pose, personal watercraft are prohibited on the lake. However, under the current Wake Sports Rule, wake boats will be allowed on the lake and will be able to operate on a very large portion of this small lake.

Under the current rule, the large wakes that these boats create along with their ballast tanks raise concerns especially for small and pristine lakes such as Lake Parker. These include:

- posing safety hazards to other boaters, anglers, people in the water or near-shore, on docks or moored boats;
- significantly increasing the risk of lake-to-lake aquatic invasive species spread due to large capacity ballasts that cannot be fully drained of water and are effectively impossible to inspect or decontaminate;
- eroding shorelines, undercutting trees and other vegetation, resulting in nutrient and sediment influxes that degrade water quality, and possibly reverse efforts to control phragmites.
- inundating the nests of loons and other waterfowl; and,
- disrupting wildlife habitats and wetlands.

Every lake is unique. As the DEC website states: *"Each Vermont lake and pond formed under unique conditions in diverse locations; no two lakes and ponds are alike."* For this reason, it is important to allow modifications of the wake sports rule based on the unique characteristics of particular lakes. While a "one size fits all" rule can set a minimum standard, it does not necessarily work for all, given the many differences among lakes and ponds.

In their petition the Lake Parker Association (LPA) and the Town of Glover describe the unique characteristics of this lake and explain how permitting wake sports on such a lake would lead to irreparable damage to the aquatic ecosystem and would endanger the safety of other lake users.

*To preserve and protect Vermont's lakes, ponds, and their watersheds  
for the benefit of this and future generations.*

The Federation supports the LPA and the Town of Glover in their effort to protect this very special lake, ensure the safety of lake users, and protect this pristine aquatic ecosystem. We urge the DEC to review this petition expeditiously and grant the modifications requested.

Sincerely,

Pat Suozzi  
President  
Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds