





Lake Pocotopaug Commission Survey 2007

Do you own a residence in the watershed of Lake Pocotopaug?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.4%	290
No		11.6%	38
		<i>answered question</i>	328
		<i>skipped question</i>	<u>5</u>

If you answered yes to question #1. How long (in years) have you owned your residence?

		Response Percent	Response Count
1-5 years		31.3%	91
6-10 years		17.9%	52
11-15 years		10.3%	30
16-20 years		10.3%	30
21-25 years		7.2%	21
More than 25 years		23.0%	67
		<i>answered question</i>	291
		<i>skipped question</i>	<u>42</u>

Is your residence

	Response Percent	Response Count
A Single Family 	79.3%	257
A Two Family 	4.3%	14
A Condo 	16.4%	53
	<i>answered question</i>	324
	<i>skipped question</i>	<u>9</u>

Is your home a

	Response Percent	Response Count
Full Time Residence 	85.2%	271
Part Time Residence 	14.8%	47
	<i>answered question</i>	318
	<i>skipped question</i>	<u>15</u>

If part time, when do you stay there?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Summer Only	65.5%	38
Fall, Winter and Spring	1.7%	1
Other (please specify)	32.8%	19
	answered question	58
	skipped question	275

Do you rent out your residence part of the year?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	5.8%	17
No	94.2%	275
	answered question	292
	skipped question	41

How do you gain access to the lake? Check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Sears Park	54.5%	176
Member of association that has waterfront	35.6%	115
Own waterfront land	25.7%	83
Have friends with access	13.0%	42
From North Main Street or Lake Drive	13.3%	43
Have deeded rights to use other private waterfront	4.0%	13
Other (please specify)	4.3%	14
Do not use the lake		
We keep our boats on the water with a friend who has waterfront land		
could buy into assoc but won't		
Edgemere condo assoc lake access		
Family with waterfront		
associations		
associations		
Existing easements		
don't use in past Sears Park		
don't use lake		
backyard		
never on lake		
Don't have access		
Edgemere		
	answered question	323
	skipped question	10



How often do you spend doing each of the following on your Lake? (5 - Highest 1 - Lowest)

	1 (Lowest)	2	3	4	5 (Highest)	Rating Average	Response Count
swimming	25.5% (81)	22.0% (70)	20.8% (66)	18.9% (60)	12.9% (41)	2.72	318
canoeing	43.5% (120)	21.7% (60)	15.9% (44)	12.0% (33)	6.9% (19)	2.17	276
sailing	73.3% (176)	6.7% (16)	12.1% (29)	4.2% (10)	3.8% (9)	1.58	240
power boating/waterskiing	42.2% (116)	9.5% (26)	17.5% (48)	18.9% (52)	12.0% (33)	2.49	275
ice skating or skiing	64.7% (180)	16.9% (47)	8.3% (23)	7.6% (21)	2.5% (7)	1.66	278
snowmobiling	87.0% (227)	8.8% (23)	1.1% (3)	2.3% (6)	0.8% (2)	1.21	261
fishing near shore from shoreline or docks	51.4% (144)	18.9% (53)	18.9% (53)	5.7% (16)	5.0% (14)	1.94	280
fishing open water from boats	55.6% (148)	15.4% (41)	16.5% (44)	8.3% (22)	4.1% (11)	1.90	266
fishing ice fishing	85.8% (212)	6.9% (17)	3.6% (9)	3.2% (8)	0.4% (1)	1.26	247
answered question							324
skipped question							9

If you use a boat on Lake Pocotopaug do you also use it on other bodies of water?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	24.1%	59
No 	75.9%	186
answered question		245
skipped question		88







If yes do you check your boat for aquatic weeds and other invasive species? (i.e. Variable Milfoil)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.7%	57
No		31.3%	26
answered question			83
skipped question			250

How would you rate the condition of your lake for the following? (please rate for each category):

	poor	fair	don't know	good	excellent	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
swimming	28.4% (90)	40.1% (127)	9.5% (30)	18.9% (60)	3.2% (10)	0.0% (0)	2.28	317
boating	9.5% (25)	18.6% (49)	20.1% (53)	36.0% (95)	11.7% (31)	4.2% (11)	3.23	264
canoeing	9.0% (26)	20.4% (59)	19.4% (56)	35.3% (102)	10.7% (31)	5.2% (15)	3.19	289
sailing	8.6% (23)	13.4% (36)	32.3% (87)	29.0% (78)	7.1% (19)	9.7% (26)	3.14	269
power boating/waterskiing	9.7% (27)	18.8% (52)	24.5% (68)	32.1% (89)	9.4% (26)	5.4% (15)	3.13	277
fishing	16.6% (46)	24.5% (68)	27.8% (77)	22.7% (63)	3.6% (10)	4.7% (13)	2.71	277
drinking water, washing or other domestic uses	63.4% (185)	7.2% (21)	18.8% (55)	5.8% (17)	0.3% (1)	4.5% (13)	1.67	292
aesthetic appeal	27.2% (82)	28.8% (87)	9.6% (29)	21.9% (66)	10.6% (32)	2.0% (6)	2.59	302
overall condition	25.6% (81)	42.0% (133)	10.4% (33)	20.8% (66)	1.3% (4)	0.0% (0)	2.30	317
answered question								324
skipped question								9

What is the most important criteria to you for judging the quality of your lake? (choose one):

	Response Percent	Response Count
clarity of lake water 	67.8%	219
quality of fisheries 	2.2%	7
swimming (ideal water temperature or sandy bottom) 	2.8%	9
remoteness/solitude 	0.9%	3
proximity to stores, restaurants, or entertainment establishments 	0.6%	2
proximity to other residence or work 	0.3%	1
friendliness of neighboring lake residents 	0.3%	1
scenic surroundings 	4.0%	13
clean environment 	17.0%	55
Other (please specify) 	4.0%	13
Noise		
algae blooms		
overall environmental health		
unpolluted clear water		
sharing use of		
all the above		
Aquatic health and ecology function		
free of chemicals, pollutants, monitoring of boats, speed - safety		
few natural resources		
no more powerboats or snow mobiles		
motor boating		
Too many people, boats, houses		
Can't get near it to see		
	<i>answered question</i>	323
	<i>skipped question</i>	<u>10</u>

Have you noticed any deterioration in water quality? (check as many as appropriate)

	Better	Worse	Not Sure	Response Count
since last year	10.7% (29)	33.8% (92)	55.5% (151)	272
in the last 5 years	9.0% (24)	62.5% (167)	28.5% (76)	267
in the last 5-10 years	4.9% (12)	57.6% (141)	37.6% (92)	245
in the last 10-25 years	6.4% (15)	55.1% (130)	38.6% (91)	236
			answered question	319
			skipped question	14

Do you believe the following conditions are a problem in your lake? (choose one in each category)

	No Problem		Minor Problem		Serious Problem	Rating Average	Response Count
rooted aquatic weeds	21.8% (61)	11.1% (31)	29.3% (82)	16.8% (47)	21.1% (59)	3.04	280
algae blooms (green scum)	2.6% (8)	3.6% (11)	8.1% (25)	17.6% (54)	68.1% (209)	4.45	307
turbid/colored waters	3.5% (10)	7.0% (20)	18.5% (53)	25.4% (73)	45.6% (131)	4.03	287
undesirable taste or odors	15.6% (41)	17.9% (47)	28.2% (74)	16.8% (44)	21.4% (56)	3.10	262
lake level too high or low	34.4% (93)	20.0% (54)	23.3% (63)	14.1% (38)	8.1% (22)	2.41	270
poor bottom conditions for swimming	21.1% (58)	16.7% (46)	27.3% (75)	22.2% (61)	12.7% (35)	2.89	275
swimmers itch or bacteria problems	27.7% (72)	16.9% (44)	16.2% (42)	14.2% (37)	25.0% (65)	2.92	260
acid rain	28.4% (69)	22.6% (55)	22.2% (54)	14.8% (36)	11.9% (29)	2.59	243
toxic chemicals from landfills, agriculture, or industry	19.5% (51)	11.8% (31)	20.2% (53)	17.6% (46)	30.9% (81)	3.29	262
poor fishing	18.1% (46)	26.0% (66)	28.0% (71)	16.9% (43)	11.0% (28)	2.77	254
fish kills	14.2% (37)	18.4% (48)	23.0% (60)	19.5% (51)	24.9% (65)	3.23	261
too many people	21.0% (55)	18.7% (49)	26.0% (68)	17.2% (45)	17.2% (45)	2.91	262
boating: too many boats	16.6% (47)	11.0% (31)	26.5% (75)	17.3% (49)	28.6% (81)	3.30	283
excessive boat speed	11.9% (35)	8.5% (25)	20.1% (59)	21.2% (62)	38.2% (112)	3.65	293
intoxicated boaters	16.0% (43)	21.6% (58)	23.4% (63)	13.4% (36)	25.7% (69)	3.11	269
						answered question	321
						skipped question	12

Which of the following do you believe are the cause of the most significant problems in the lake? (circle one choice in each category)

	Not related to any water quality problems		Relates to some of the water quality problems		Causes all of the water quality problems	Rating Average	Response Count


failing septic tanks	20.2% (53)	19.4% (51)	46.4% (122)	11.0% (29)	3.0% (8)	2.57	263
runoff from farmlands/agricultural fields	16.2% (43)	18.4% (49)	34.6% (92)	16.5% (44)	14.3% (38)	2.94	266
new development soil erosion	4.3% (12)	8.2% (23)	28.7% (81)	29.1% (82)	29.8% (84)	3.72	282
existing property soil erosion	5.1% (14)	16.3% (45)	42.4% (117)	22.1% (61)	14.1% (39)	3.24	276
excessive phosphorous	3.3% (9)	6.9% (19)	24.8% (68)	35.4% (97)	29.6% (81)	3.81	274
runoff from lawn fertilizers	3.6% (10)	5.4% (15)	23.2% (65)	34.6% (97)	33.2% (93)	3.89	280
droppings from ducks and other animals	10.9% (30)	22.5% (62)	33.5% (92)	22.9% (63)	10.2% (28)	2.99	275
gasoline or oil from boats	9.5% (27)	17.3% (49)	34.6% (98)	25.1% (71)	13.4% (38)	3.16	283
pollutants from lakeside roadways	5.3% (15)	11.6% (33)	32.0% (91)	31.7% (90)	19.4% (55)	3.48	284
car washing or power washing, etc	17.3% (45)	28.1% (73)	33.5% (87)	15.0% (39)	6.2% (16)	2.65	260
pipd discharge from wastewater treatment facilities or industrial operations	24.5% (60)	20.8% (51)	27.8% (68)	18.8% (46)	8.2% (20)	2.65	245
other	24.0% (23)	11.5% (11)	25.0% (24)	16.7% (16)	22.9% (22)	3.03	96
_____						answered question	307
_____						skipped question	26

How much do you think the water quality in the lake affects the value of property?

	none	very little	somewhat	much affects	very much affects	Rating Average	Response Count

on the lake shore	2.2% (7)	4.2% (13)	8.7% (27)	20.5% (64)	64.4% (201)	4.41	312
within 500 ft of the lake	3.3% (10)	5.2% (16)	19.7% (60)	29.2% (89)	42.6% (130)	4.03	305
within 1000 ft of the lake	5.6% (17)	10.6% (32)	29.8% (90)	24.8% (75)	29.1% (88)	3.61	302
within the watershed	7.5% (23)	19.3% (59)	29.5% (90)	17.7% (54)	25.9% (79)	3.35	305
_____						answered question	320
_____						skipped question	13

How well do you think the storm/surface water drainage system in your area is protecting the Lake?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Some protection		19.8%	64
No protection		15.7%	51
Needs to be updated		35.5%	115
Don't know		29.0%	94
answered question			324
skipped question			9

If you have municipal sanitary sewers, has your septic tank been crushed or filled with sand after the sewer project was completed?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		31.9%	79
No		9.3%	23
Don't know		58.9%	146
answered question			248
skipped question			85

Do all gray water sources from your home discharge into a sewer? (sink, shower, washing machine, and out door shower water)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		84.6%	253
No		15.4%	46
<i>answered question</i>			299
<i>skipped question</i>			<u>34</u>

Do you have erosion problems on your property due to storm water?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		27.8%	87
No		72.2%	226
<i>answered question</i>			313
<i>skipped question</i>			<u>20</u>

Do you have a dog?

		Response Percent	Response Count
_____	Yes	33.8%	105
_____	No	66.2%	206
_____		<i>answered question</i>	311
_____		<i>skipped question</i>	<u>22</u>


If you have a dog, do you walk the dog around or near the Lake and pick up its droppings?

		Response Percent	Response Count
_____	Yes	60.5%	78
_____	No	39.5%	51
_____		<i>answered question</i>	129
_____		<i>skipped question</i>	<u>204</u>

The State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has designated Lake Pocotopaug as an impaired Lake. Do you agree with this assessment

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		78.4%	254
No		3.4%	11
No opinion		18.2%	59
		<i>answered question</i>	324
		<i>skipped question</i>	<u>9</u>

Phosphorous runoff from lawns and other sources is good for lakes and streams.

		Response Percent	Response Count
True		3.2%	10
False		96.8%	301
		<i>answered question</i>	311
		<i>skipped question</i>	<u>22</u>

Would you support a town ordinance limiting the use of phosphorous fertilizers in the watershed?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		93.6%	290
No		6.5%	20
<i>answered question</i>			310
<i>skipped question</i>			23

Please describe any changes in lake water quality that have affected your use of the lake: (for example: excessive algae or weeds, fish kills, shallow water, loss of clarity, taste or odor problems, high or low water temperature, etc.)

	Response Count
See responses, below.	191
<i>answered question</i>	191
<i>skipped question</i>	142

Algae blooms and general loss of clarity.

Murky green water makes the lake unsafe to swim in due to poor visibility for boaters and to people on shore watching. Also feel there could be health issues with the green/discolored water.

mostly algae don't know how healthy it is?

increase in algae and loss of clarity - people used to drink water from the lake but no longer.

the algae and poor clarity of water has kept me from swimming in the lake at all. I only kayak in the lake. I fish but would never think of eating anything that came out of this lake. My son gets severe allergic reactions to the lake if he swims in it.

algae blooms

We always seem to get an algae bloom, loss of clarity and shallow water.

I grew up in mallard cove on the lake and I now live at Edgemere so I still see the lake often. Since I moved here at the age of 5, and I am now 24, I have seen the lake deteriorate. This includes odor, weeds, algae growth, fish kill, loss of clarity, just plain dirty and gross. I no longer will use the lake for any purpose because I am afraid I will end up sick from using it to swim, etc. I think it is beautiful, I just wish it was cleaner and better taken care of overall.

Excessive algae, loss of clarity

excessive algae,, fish kills, odor problems

Loss of clarity and speedboats that speed. I kayak on the lake.

we went swimming 2x since moving to East Hampton. We choose not to swim in the lake because of the green color and the fact that my son had a leech on him immediately after leaving the water.

use to swim in it. Stopped a few years ago. Water quality affects my ears, noise and general health. Lake looks ok up until august, then I won't even think of going in.

Excessive algae

All I know is that neighbors say the lake used to be a lot worse. Since I moved here 3 years ago, I have not noticed any changes in the lake. My kids still swim in it.

Excessive algae and weeds. Dirty water. The area around the perimeter of the lake, especially North Main Street and Lake Drive, looks like a trash dump with docks, etc., scattered about.

Annual algae bloom after first heat wave. Not pleasant. Also all the floating oil/gasoline slicks. Occasional dead fish.

Water level is extremely high in Spring - cannot put out full dock because it is too deep.

excessive algae and fish kills

1. EXCESSIVE ALGAE, LOSS OF CLARITY: Basically the lake always looks dirty and people who own property and docks do not pick up litter on grass property and along the shore and do not fix their docks; A BLIGHT LAKE INSPECTION should take place to see what areas are affected by blight esp. along North Main Street and the Lake Boulevard Area.

Litter, beer bottles, beer cans, cigarette butts, etc. and old pieces of junk decaying also bring filth and other rodents and insects along everyone's area. WE ARE ALL AFFECTED BY OTHER RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEGLECT! 2.

OTHER FACTORS THAT HAVE AFFECTED OUR USE OF THE LAKE: The illegal length of docks which are a hazard for all boat users. These illegal lengths are utilized mainly for commercial use and is not acceptable. This is a danger to all boaters. NO ONE BUSINESS OR PERSON(S) OWNS OUR LAKE. THIS IS TO BE RESPECTFULLY SHARED BY ALL! 3.

OTHER FACTORS THAT HAVE AFFECTED OUR USE OF THE LAKE: A. LOUD MUSIC DOES NOT MAKE IT AN ENJOYABLE ACTIVITY TO QUIETLY ENJOY OUR LAKE ANYMORE. This should not be allowed at all! B. LOUD NOISE FROM BOAT ENGINES DOES NOT MAKE IT AND ENJOYABLE ACTIVITY TO QUIETLY ENJOY OUR LAKE ANYMORE. This should not be allowed at all! Please tell us eventually where is the respect for the residents that live here? Thank you. 4. LAST BUT NOT LEAST IS IT OR IS IT NOT IN THE BUDGET TO PURCHASE A DECIBLE READER? THIS IS ONE PRIORITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. (and another speed control monitor for the roads) AS MOST OF YOU KNOW NOISE

LEVEL AND SPEEDING LEVELS ARE MAINLY AFFECTED ON NORTH MAIN STREET FOR OBVIOUS REASONS; AND PLEASE PRAY THAT AFTER A FEW DRINKS THEY ARE NOT ON THE LAKE DRIVING A SPEED BOAT. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONCERNS AND ATTENTION AND WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO A HAPPY SUMMER.

Excessive algae is the biggest quality problem I see with the lake at the present time. I firmly believe the excessive boat traffic stirs up bottom nutrients which help feed the algae blooms.

Shallow water, green water. Sediments carried by storm water runoff through storm sewers that discharge into the lake are infilling the lake, not to mention the water quality problems they cause. Roadway salt and sand are routinely discharged to the lake in the Winter and Spring through the sewers; catch basins do not capture the bulk of the sediments. Road sweeping and storm drain clean-out must be completely often and prior to large storm events to prevent this from happening.

The lake is dead. Algae is rampant. Water clarity is a ghost of the past, shame on us all! The water tastes like H2S and smells like H2S. Non-planing, high torque outboard motor driven pontoon boats are everywhere stirring up the lake bottom turning the water tea-colored by the 1st week of June each year. In addition, these hulks of aluminum plow the lake all summer long to further mix the water and make sure that the algae blooms early and long! It isn't the noisy boat that draws 3" of water @60 mph that is the problem, its these pontoon boats whose population has grown to over 6 dozen. I would also like to add that I am so stirred to anger when I see humans discarding trash of all kinds into the lake...smoking materials, plastic bags, uneaten food, bread for the ducks, plastic shampoo bottles, plastic toys etc. Oh, it's also pleasant to see humans down on the sand by the "bow & arrow" changing a baby's diaper and burying its contents or it and its contents in the sand for the next person to enjoy. Do you think that the town will ever police that area and actually issue a summons for violations or do you think that this would affect the sale of tickets to win the

annual watercraft? I must not forget to comment on the drunken night-time boaters who speed across the lake late at night without boat lights uttering obscenities that can be heard from anywhere on the shore. And of course, I mustn't forget to say how much I really appreciate the 4th of July and the annual fireworks over the lake. Do you know that enough phosphorous goes into the lake around the 4th of July to raise the ppm level significantly? I wonder if that's why the algae blooms so well during the 2nd & 3rd weeks of July? Maybe "around and over the lake fireworks" should be banned. But who would enforce it? Only the human race is capable of not appreciating what God has given to them in this country and in this state of Connecticut. Go traveling anywhere in this world and I guarantee you that you will bend down and kiss the tarmac at Bradley when you return as I have. What is it going to take to put rules in place to save this natural resource? If action to reverse the current degradation doesn't happen now, the lake will be dead beyond recovery by 2015 and that's a fact; just spend an afternoon and evening and watch. excessive algae, loss of clarity, oil leaking from boats. Film on the lake from fuel concerns me the most! I am a kayaker, motorboats and jet skis should be restricted. Boats are overcrowding the waters. Lake appears to be shallower, definitely less clear, greater algae.

None

Algae and overall water quality have reduced the amount of time I spend swimming. Having company over for picnics next to the green lake detracts from the enjoyment of the day. A program to remove rocks that are a hazard to boating should be created. People who fish might balk but there are plenty of deep rocks for fish to live around. The algae problem in Lake Pocotopaug continues to worsen. It seems to start earlier and earlier each year. When the algae is in full bloom, the lake is very unappealing for swimming or any other activities.

Although the algae bloom didn't seem to be as severe this past summer as the summer before, the clarity of the lake is not good. Excessive algae, the fish kill and odor are all problems.

We have a pool- so we don't frequent the lake now. We use to use it alot- we avoided August because it would be so green. It does seem to be better the past couple of years.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR ANY OTHER INPUT YOU MAY NEED: [name, address, number removed for privacy] 1. By July the lake turns green and has an odor - we don't swim as much when this happens. 2. The lake is becoming more shallow (in our area) due to storm drains and road sand. We can easily see this happening at our end of the lake. 3. The lake is beautiful until it turns green. 4. For boating the rocks need to be more clearly marked or the flood gates need to be raised.

I like to swim in the lake in June and early July. The lake has excessive algae in it from Late July though the end of the season so I do not swim during that period.

I like to swim in the lake in June and early July. The lake has excessive algae in it from Late July though the end of the season so I do not swim during that period.

I don't feel that this lake is fit for swimming to humans. (Actually, I don't even let my dog go in because he smells foul for several days afterward). The color and clarity appear to be very unhealthy to me. I grew up in the Finger Lake region of upstate NY, and judge all lakes accordingly. This is more like a pond.

loss of clarity of the water excessive algae and weeds

We were told to stay out of the lake in late summer due to green algae buildup.

Excessive algae and the addition of a new weed off of Scraggy island and Spellman point. Soil has been seen coming across lake road from seven hills and entering the lake. storm drains are bringing in all kinds of pollutants into the lake The lake has always had an algae bloom in the summer for the past 50 years. I don't drink the water so don't know if it "tastes" bad and in the past 3 summers have not noticed any odor. Clarity does change in it.

loss of clarity, excessive algae

We used to spend a lot of time at Sears Park in the summer. We rarely go there now, due to the algae blooms and fish kills. The water quality is disgusting by the time it is warm enough to consider getting wet.

excessive algae fish kills

I have lived on the lake for more then half my life. At 27 years old I can remember swimming, skiing, tubing, and fishing in the lake. I used to be able to see my feet when standing in the water you can't anymore I stopped going in the lake at 17 years old that is when the water started to change from all the construction of building new homes like Mr. Wise house on South Wangonk Tr. right next to my old house. We sold our home that my grandfather built as a summer house to vacation from New York the year all the fish were dead in the ice and I am glad we did the lake isn't what it used to be it is very sad.

algae, clarity

The beginning of the season is acceptable, but it gets extremely green towards the end of the summer...so much where we don't let the kids go swimming in it.

The lake has always had issues. When I was a child here, my father wouldn't let me swim in the lake because it was so "dirty". Now it is algae. I grew up swimming in the lake (unknown to my dad) and I'm fine. Green isn't always appealing to jump into, but it isn't going to kill you if you don't make a habit of swallowing it. Even then I'm not sure it would.

The killing of fish. The horrible color it turns, which seems to happen earlier every year.

excessive algae

algae unfriendliness of lake property owners

algae, clarity

Tons of algae, wood debris, just nasty looking. I would be afraid to drink the water by accident, you would probably get sick.

Loss of clarity and odor problems.

excessive algae and weeds cloudy water eroding beach slimy feel extremely rocky bottom

excessive algae and/or phosphorus (green), rocks in swimming area, loss of clarity, poor fishing, rocks visible out of the water while boating.

Too much algae looks very "dirty"

last year noticed a significant amount of algae during August.

Green water late in the season

excessive algae, fish kills, loss of clarity

longer and larger algae blooms; at least some algae throughout season, shallow water (silting, runoff); LOSS OF CLARITY

algae & water clarity

more algae continued loss of clarity warmer temperature sooner in season

Rarely swim because algae blooms now begin so early in the season. Water clarity is lousy June thru the beginning of November when it finally gets cold. the water smells like algae and leaves a smell on bathing suits, hair, dog. my husband never swims in the lake for the same reason. The color and appearance of the water is very unappealing, such that I feel I have to apologize to guests for it. We have lived on the lake since 1985 and have seen dramatic decline in water quality in that time, with the worst decline in the last 7-10 years. We do try to avoid excessive use of fertilizer (1-2 times/yr) and try to apply responsibly (not before expected heavy rain, e.g.)

My family uses the lake a lot less due to the overall quality of the water, smell, oily feeling after swimming, noise, pollution from water crafts the boats and jetskis are destroying the lake, someone should put a stop to it.

As a resident with a powerboat, it is very difficult to get through a summer without damage to a prop or lower motor unit because of the many rocks and shallowness of the lake. If nothing else, the rocks should be marked with buoys to protect taxpayers using the lake from incurring unnecessary expenses. Also, the water clarity is always very good in the beginning of the season but in the hotter months, when you want to swim the most, it turns very green and appears unhealthy to swim in. I am strongly opposed to the town allowing any non-residents to launch boats of any kind in Lake Pocotopaug. There are too many weeds and other invasive bacteria to contaminate our lake!

The water looks green and I don't pay to use a lake that was willed to the town.

Shallow water

Trash along the shores especially near Rt 66.

excessive algae, low water table, less fish

towards the end of the summer the water is very dirty and starts to have a bad odor

loss of clarity; excessive algae

excessive algae, loss of clarity, smells

Too many weeds off our dock. Too many stones at Sears Park. Rocks around boat launch.

children used to swim in lake but began getting skin irritations so we no longer use it for swimming

excessive algae/clarity-gross for swimming and have allergies that crop up in summer when there is an algae bloom

Excessive algae and loss of clarity have affected our desire to swim. The condition of the lake makes us sad that what was such a beautiful lake at one time is now impaired.

fish kills, fish, loss of clarity, algae

all mentioned above

all mentioned above

Algae bloom will no swimming lake as often as we use to

It's green, slimy and stinky.

excessive algae

You always feel grungy after swimming in the lake

Other than the green color on occasion which I am guessing is due to the algae the lake seems to be in good condition.

Also, the occasional rock you can hit while boating can be scary.

Algae Bloom prevents swimming and loss of clarity reduces the consumption of water.

MUCH greener - MUCH warmer - Both have to be reversed aggressively and urgently

Loss of clarity / bad color and high algae

Excessive algae and chemical treatments have limited our use of the lake for swimming.

discoloration, excessive algae, weeds, rocky bottom

Lack of clarity, green algae in the water. I have had allergic reactions to the algae at times. Also, creates a real danger if someone in trouble went below the surface (you couldn't see them to save them). This problem has worsened over the past years.

loss of water clarity

Excessive algae, loss of clarity, higher water temp.

I remember 20 years ago I could swim underwater and see a trout 20 feet away. That hasn't been possible for a long time. I am concerned about the algae blooms we have most years now after significant rains in spring and summer.

The fish kills seems to only be after the copper sulfate treatments.

excessive algae

Between 20 & 40 years ago we were feeding over 100 ducks twice a day. The clarity of the water was such that I could see the bottom with clarity about 15 to 20 feet down. Now I can see only about 5 feet down. I could see the bottom around Turtle rock when the top of the rock was 1 1/2' below the surface. Now I cannot see the bottom when the top of the rock is several inches above the water. There are no more black ducks and not more than 25 mallards.

excessive algae

Lack of clarity deters us from swimming.

None

All the above plus all the new development around lake

Excessive algae in the fall.

all of the above

We don't swim as much as we used to. My son has allergies and can't go in the water. I'm hesitant to invite people out to swim with us, because of the water quality.

The lake turns green often during the summer. It has an odor during this time. It is unappealing and embarrassing when having guests visit!

The water turns green and smells a couple of times during the summer. It does not look appealing at all during these times!

seldom swim there - get infected ears - can sometimes taste and smell oil and gas from boats

Algae bloom seems to occur earlier in august almost every year. Fish kills started about 10 years ago. Previously there were none or very few I can remember.

Do not like seeing the water a greenish color

No affect

Excessive algae, affecting the clarity of water is the most concern and of course the quality of water.

Don't use lake. It is not clean

excessive algae in August deters us from swimming
 Moved here in 1976--children both got sick one day after swimming at the lake (vomiting/diarrhea) From that day on, I brought them swimming in Salem
 excessive algae and weeds keeps me from swimming in it - loss of clarity and odor problems also keep me from swimming in it
 Algae and weeds, as well as odor problems has kept me from swimming in the lake.
 fish kills, loss of clarity
 excessive algae
 People don't want to swim and ski in green water. There has been an increase in weeds off the end of Spellman Point and around blueberry island
 owns 3homes rents 2
 lives 2 miles from the lake excessive algae goose feces
 the algae makes for poor clarity and makes my skin itch
 late summer bloom remains a problem
 too many weeds, fish kills, excessive algae town is growing too fast
 excessive algae fish kills loss of clarity
 Do not use the lake enough to notice any change
 excessive development causing erosion into lake loss of clarity
 dirty, muddy water end of July, August slimy bottom
 excessive algae fish kills loss of clarity
 algae problems
 I remember when the lake was crystal clear. Since about 1990 the algae and consequent lack of clarity have grown progressively worse. Sometimes the green appearance of the water makes me decide not to swim.
 When the lake is high during the rainy season the water flows over the dam and it drains off the green off the top of the lake, when the water drains off at the bottom of the dam the green stays on top of the lake and has no way to run off. Don't lower the water level.
 I'm 61 years old and have lived on the Lake all my life. When I was a kid you could see bottom in 10 feet of water, you could sit on your dock with a hook and worm and catch all the sunfish and rock bass you wanted. Today you can only see several feet in the water and very few of these fish are around.
 I grew up on the lake as a child and enjoyed it greatly. However the water clarity has drastically depreciated. I can't even see my toes when I'm waste deep in the water. And I also believe there are too many power boats that are excessively powered. Power boats should not be allowed.
 Excessive algae and water clarity
 Green tint July/Aug-Loce Perro Area upper right corner Bay Rd.
 Boat traffic-I have a kayak Algae
 I would never swim in the lake ever. When I do use the lake my dogs swim in it. I wouldn't swim in slimy, nasty water. My dogs heads don't go under. It is just to cool them off and that is rare. Normally I go to Salmon river. Jet skiing is all I have done in the lake in the last few years because I'm not in the water myself. Also no way would I eat any fish out of the lake.
 excessive algae, weeds loss of clarity
 I would like to see more weeks, if there was the fishing would improve and would help with clarity and algae bloom.
 More hazards need to be marked for boating safety. The boat launch was improved slightly by dredging but it is still the worst launch I've used. It needs to be dug out farther into lake and shore at launch needs to be deeper.
 only lived here 4 months
 less clarity
 Fish kills, excessive algae blooms, non enforcement/regulation of boat traffic, non enforcement of illegal firework discharge into lake, overuse of lawn fertilizers, over development by those given special allowances due to their political affiliations within the town, etc...
 29 not sure
 excessive algae- I won't swim
 Fish Kills, Algae, Loss of clarity, odor problems
 Bad smell and taste of waterfowl droppings, water level too low, no breakwater south park - sand transferring south 1/2 mile causing hard to manage beach and waterfront. Forced to extend docks to get proper depth.
 Stop sanding the roads in the watershed area
 I used to swim every day but now I don't swim at all because of the algae and smell. My allergies get worse when I'm in the water. I have to take a shower every time I do use the Lake.
 Fish Kill, Green color-mid summer
 Quality has not affected enjoyment
 family develops urinary infections after swimming in the lake
 Excessive algae, loss of clarity, green color, too many jet skis. Ban jet skis like other lakes. Storm sewers shouldn't discharge into the lake. If you clean up the lake it won't do any good if you don't stop storm sewers from emptying into the lake and dumping all the pollutants into it.
 We don't go swimming toward the end of the summer because I'm not sure of the quality of the water
 Excessive algae and fish kill make it less appealing
 Loss of water quality, clarity, algae blooms in spring, summer, fall Infections from swimming in the lake Fish kills
 Please do something that makes a noticeable improvement A.S.A.P.
 This beautiful lake seems to get greener from algae blooms earlier every year. The pollution and chemicals from the storm drains flow right into the water. Can't we put catch basins around the lake to preserve it? My street has land avail. for this (O'Neil lane). This pollution also rushes in every time it rains filling in the lake and clouding the water! The lake varies within the season. I have never had anyone in our family sickened by using the lake and have never stayed over because the water quality was too poor. It would be great if it was more clear, but its condition is typical of a well populated lake shore.
 Algae, children getting lake sick from swimming as long ago as '85 oil and other powerboat pollution snowmobile parts in lake from falling through the use. I don't taste the lake but imagine it's not yummy. How about fertilizer crack

factory pollution etc.

all of the above

loss of clarity

The lake has started to look "murky" in the past few years.

Impression that water quality/clarity/appearance has made it so I don't go out of my way to go swimming in the lake.

I would swim more if water quality / appearance/clarity was better.

Excessive algae, fish kills, loss of clarity.

green slime and pea green color

Trap and remove geese and ducks. All catch basins are direct to lake causing large green pools. Failure to drag sand back to banks causes us to lengthen docks to get to usable depths because lake level should be at or above spillway.

To stop smell until Oct. 1 water must be better agitated by motorboats or water fountains. Boat launch should be \$5 / day. This will end non policed terrorists. Owners of waterfront property no charge to launch. I already pay assessed 10,000. Poor management.

Excessive algae, fish kills, loss of clarity. I have lived in East Hampton for 67 years and there have only been 2 fish kills, both occurring in the last 5 years when the town wasted a lot of money trying to reverse the current unacceptable condition of this spring fed body of water. In the 1970's the state and town's attempt to preserve the excellent quality of lake Pocotopaug by installing a public sewer system actually backfired. Thinking this was a cure all, changes were made in the town's rules and regulations which encouraged unprecedented development in the lake watershed area exasperating the amount of runoff, water contained chemicals (such as those found in fertilizer). Clarity? What was once a glass bottom boat quality has become a near sickening discolored quality.

Lake water is much less clear, has a much bottom. Excess algae has been a recurring problem. A program should be set up to dredge the lake on a regular basis. This could be structured like the property tax (i.e., lakefront property pays more) It is important for the whole town to save the lake.

excessive algae - causing sinus problems loss of clarity fish kills

green water

Swimming has deteriorated as a pleasurable past time due to water quality. I think it makes my eyes itchy.

Excessive algae, loss of clarity

No seagulls contributing waste to lake since inception of transfer station. There use to be large flocks. Now there are more geese.

Strong odor, water not very clear - only went back once during my 2nd summer here.

Algae & poor water clarity has almost eliminated my use of the lake for swimming and it's reduced use for boating.

Seeing dead fish floating in the water; too many power boats; power boat owners not being respectful of non-power water craft

Algae causing sinus problems; Loss of clarity with not being able to see all obstructions under water while boating

We like the lake in the early Spring before the big power boats disturb the silt bottom and make it a mess. Once that starts up, it's too noisy, too murky and too dangerous for canoe or kayak.

When it gets real green in August I don't let my dog swim, it makes her itchy.

The clarity of the water has deteriorated badly in the past 20 years. It used to be easy to see the bottom from the end of the dock, 5 feet down. It is now hard to see the bottom at 18 inches. The water is cloudy all year and the algae blooms are more frequent and last longer. The lake bottom is more silt-covered than it was. The lake mussels moved in from 6-12' of water to 1-3' and have been drastically reduced in number. The water smells stronger than it used to. I used to enjoy swimming underwater, chasing fish and looking for "treasure". The visibility is so poor that you can't see anything until you are 6" from it. I feel like I need to shower after swimming, something I never thought to do in the past. The hull of the boat gets fouled more quickly, necessitating frequent scrubbing.

All of my answers are from a newcomer's point of view (7 months). I was surprised that the lake was impaired but I haven't spent any time on the lake - only driving around it during daily driving time. I wouldn't say that there is visual pollution.

Odor problems Sludge buildup on bottom of boats Loss of clarity

Fish kills; Loss of clarity; Taste & odor; Gas powered boats & jet skis. Way too many. Get rid of all GAS POWERED BOATS & JETSKIS. Than maybe the lake will have a slight chance to come back!!!

Algae blooms

Too many high speed power boats.

Limit swimming for young grandchildren due to resulting eye irritation & skin irritations. When water is green (70% of the time) - no swimming. There was a time when the water was crystal clear all season long - no longer is that the case.

Algae blooms July & on Drastically reduced vegetation last year Reduced vegetation since chemical treatments

Drastically changed location of game fish Ineffectiveness of management by town to react & find a solution to lake problems. Wild geese problem causing increase in bacteria counts However compared to most lakes in state ours is in descent condition

Phosphorous fertilizers in lake from lawns!

Green suspended material in August. Lasts 2 weeks then goes away.

Sadly--I will no longer swim in the lake due to the algae, and clarity of the water. I will no longer kayak (or very rarely) or fish because there are too many power boats and especially jet ski's traveling at excessive speeds. Fishing is just no longer good and I would never eat anything caught out of the lake. The water is shallow also - I think we should let it rise! Properties on the lake I believe are allowed or should I say not monitored in their use of fertilizers, pesticides etc... Some have lawns right up to the water. What happens to the lawn clippings? Edgemere cut down all the vegetation between the road & their docks/beach. This vegetation was a buffer, I don't think this should have been done - I called in a complaint at the time and was told, yes they should not have done that but we can't do anything about it. My point here is the condo assoc. in town has no understanding of the large impact they have on the lake. They need to be educated and in my opinion regulated or even restricted as to what they do with their lake front property. While living at Edgemere I saw first hand the chemicals & pesticides used on the property and I could see it in the run off when it rained. Also you can see the erosion of the beach which I believe is solely due to the fact that all the vegetation was cut down.

Excessive algae & weeds, fish kills, loss of clarity, taste & odor problems. Litter in & around surrounding lake.

Excessive algae and poor clarity of water definitely turns you off to swimming. I certainly wouldn't consume any fish caught out of our lake.

Less likely to visit lake when water appears cloudy from algae. At this time, the entire lake takes on a greenish tint that can be viewed from the road.

Algae, taste and odor as our domestic water comes through a lot of sand before we use it. But the algae taste and odor are there during outbreaks. 20 years ago we would have a couple of blooms during the summer and would not swim then. Now almost the entire summer is a bloom.

Question # 13 cannot be answered properly. Lake starts out clear in spring & Jun/July but deteriorates rapidly in August - turns green from algae, no clarity, is unsightly & uninviting. Lake seems more shallow than years past. Swimming is good in early summer, turns bad in late summer. Last year was better than some years. Also considering that the lake area was once filled with wildlife I doubt that animal droppings have anything to do with the lake problems. Human droppings of all kinds is the problem.

Excessive Algae, Loss of clarity.

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