

**Keep Our Waters
Clean & Healthy**

VISITOR'S GUIDE

how to enjoy
your stay and
leave minimal
impacts on
our waters

WELCOME

The lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams that bring so many visitors to this region are part of a fragile ecosystem.

Even if you are only visiting for a day, a weekend, or a week, water quality is impacted by everyone's actions in this community.

Whether you are a seasoned visitor or a first-timer, this guide is your best resource on how to enjoy your stay and leave minimal impacts on our waters.

We dedicate our efforts to the children of our community. The actions we take today can preserve water quality for generations to come.

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- Center for Ecology Based Economy (CEBE)
- The Otisfield Conservation Committee
- The Otisfield Resilience Committee
- The Town of Otisfield
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How you can help keep our waters CLEAN & HEALTHY



BE MINDFUL OF WATER USAGE

Turn off faucets when not in use, report any leaks promptly, and use water responsibly.



USE PHOSPHATE-FREE LAUNDRY, DISH, AND DISHWASHER DETERGENT

It is illegal to buy household laundry detergent with phosphates in Maine. But there are no state regulations on dish and dishwasher soaps. Many brands offer phosphate-free options. Read labels!



USE PHOSPHATE-FREE HANDSOAP & SHAMPOOS

Make environmentally smart choices when buying personal cleaning products. Look for phosphate-free, biodegradable options.



DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) PROPERLY

Collect and dispose of hazardous waste safely at the appropriate waste center. Don't put toxic chemicals down the drain or in the lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams.



CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

To prevent the spread of invasive species, make sure you clean, drain, and dry your watercraft BEFORE putting it in water. It's the law! Watercrafts should NOT be drained on boat ramps.



COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS

Inspectors are trained to spot and remove plant fragments on your watercraft and trailer to stop the spread of invasive species. Be courteous and thank them for protecting our watershed!



CLEAN AND REFUEL BOATS RESPONSIBLY

Maine law prohibits washing vehicles and boats in lakes and ponds. Gas spillage from fueling boats in the water contributes to pollution. Please fuel on land or use a siphon.



MINIMIZE BOAT WAKE NEAR THE SHORE AND IN SHALLOW WATER

Within 200 feet of the shoreline, maintain headway speed or less. it's the law! Perform wake sports in deeper water, at least 500 feet from shoreline to reduce wave impacts.



RESPECT WILDLIFE

Please respect their space as it is illegal to chase, harass, or herd wildlife. Do not feed animals, as it can disrupt their natural behavior and diet.



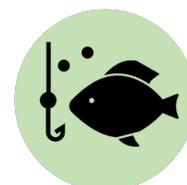
LOOK OUT FOR LOONS

Watch loons from a distance. Boat slowly near loons and obey no-wake speeds within 200 feet of shore or islands. Do not approach loon nests and do not collect eggs.



FISH RESPONSIBLY

Make sure to obtain the appropriate fishing license. Release fish that you don't intend to keep or exceed your legal limit, following proper catch and release techniques to minimize stress and injury to the fish.



FISH LEAD-FREE

Ingested lead tackle is the leading cause of death for adult loons. Switch to lead-free tackle! Also, dispose of fishing-related litter (e.g., fishing line, bait containers) properly to prevent it from entering waterways.