

Lake Moraine Association

Long Range Plan

Approved by the Lake Moraine Board of Directors on May 18, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the LMA to improve the water quality of the lake through weed control, waste/pollutant management, education, and other methods while at the same time maintaining the recreational use of the lake, encouraging water safety, and protecting the environment.

I. STRENGTHS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Financial structure in place.
 - A. Specific budgets for LMA and the Aquatic Tax District
2. Organizational structure in place with the LMA and the Aquatic Tax District
 - A. Board of Directors and LMA membership
3. Lake Ecology and Lake Management Plan
 - A. Natural Upper Lake filtration
 - B. Adequate water supply and streams that can be monitored for volume and quantity
 - C. Erosion controls in place with weirs and soil erosion collectors
 - D. Septic System Pumping/Incinerating toilet /composting toilet reimbursement policy in place
 - E. State and local organizations available, including NYSFOLA and MADFOLA, PRISM
 - F. CSLAP Program (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) to monitor water quality readings and e-coli testing
 - G. Lake is satisfactory for recreational use
 - H. Monitoring harmful algal blooms in concert with pertinent agencies
 - I. High-Water Plan in place
 - J. Boating Safety courses are available as noted on the website
 - K. Wake Board Ban passed by Madison Town Board
4. Beautiful scenery
5. Swimming, sailing, fishing, boating
6. Good facilities for group meetings
7. Regular and informative LMA Newsletters
8. Institutional Interests, including Colgate University and White Eagle
9. Good relationships w/town, county, and neighbors
10. Good relationship with NYS Canal Corporation (water level control for fall drawdown and year-round)
11. Active Social Committee, including July 4th Boat Parade, Ladies Of the Lake, picnic, concerts, socials
12. Welcome Wagon Committee
13. Annual NYSFOLA conference allows opportunity to improve knowledge of grant programs, as well as common issues with other NYS lakes
14. LMA Website: <https://www.lakemoraineny.org/> Facebook page, Constant Contact e-mail system
15. Communication Coordinator
16. Partnership with SUNY Oneonta's Biological Field Station

II. CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

1. Siltation of lake lends itself to weed growth
2. Large watershed lends itself to nutrients leaching into the lake
3. Shore erosion
4. Septic systems' impacts on water quality
5. Increased presence of harmful algal blooms
6. Many high-powered boats and PWCs affect safety and noise level
7. Lack of enforcement for safe boating rules

III. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Many areas of action in this section are long underway by the LMA

1. IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

- A. Algae and Weed Control**—copper sulfate, pulling, herbicides (Sonar or Renovate)
- B. Monitor Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)** and work with relevant agencies to reduce their frequency
- C. Banning boats with ballasts** that potentially bring invasive species from other lakes
- D. Educational and Scientific Programs**
 - 1) Publicity - website and newsletter, General Membership meetings
 - 2) Maintain emergency communication with lake residents
 - 3) Instruction on individual harvesting
 - 4) Use of weed mats
 - 5) Lake users monitor lake for evidence of invasive species and algae
 - 6) Maintain Stewardship program at boat launch to monitor and educate boaters
 - 7) Active CSLAP program
 - 8) Investigate benefits of purchasing a dissolved oxygen probe
 - 9) Test Sediments
- E. SEPTIC SYSTEM CONTROL**
 - 1) Distribute free educational material
 - 2) Encourage cooperation
 - 3) Encourage property owners to make improvements to their septic systems
 - 4) Continue rebates for pumping septic tanks (fifty percent of cost of septic clean out once a year up to \$350, with BOD-approved exceptions in special circumstances). All riparian property owners are included for the rebate even if they are not members of the Lake Moraine Association.
 - 5) Encourage alternative devices for septic control (Chemical/incineration/composting toilets)
 - 6) Publicity
- F. SEDIMENT CONTROL/EROSION PREVENTION**
 - 1) Pursue funding sources for sediment control
 - 2) Continue to work with Agencies to improved watershed practices
 - 3) Build, construct and maintain retaining ponds, catch basins, and weirs
 - 4) Improve stream side plantings
 - 5) Investigate new methods of sediment collection
 - 6) Educate through Newsletters and General Membership meetings
 - 7) Continue to enforce ban on wake board boats to reduce shore erosion
 - 8) Continue to publicize and enforce No Wake Zones

G. MAINTAIN RECREATIONAL USE OF THE LAKE

1. FISHING

- a) Work with DEC to document and analyze fish species/populations in the lake
- b) Investigate stocking of walleyes (LMA) after upcoming drawdown
- c) Stay informed regarding NY State tiger muskie stocking

2. SAFETY

- a) Distribute NYS Boating Equipment laws and requirements in every spring newsletter and via the website
- b) Remind boaters of the need to take Boater Education Course
- c) Maintain signs at boat launch listing criteria for safe swimming and boating including local laws and regulations
- d) Maintain ongoing communications with the sheriff's office
- e) Encourage strict enforcement of the Wake Board Boat ban to protect the shoreline, docks, and rafts as well as provide safe swimming, boating, and kayaking
- f) Encourage responsible boating, skiing, and tubing to protect the shoreline, docks, and rafts as well as provide safe swimming, boating, and kayaking

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Revise and periodically distribute pamphlet describing the workings of the Lake Moraine Association and Aquatic Tax District
- b) Periodically distribute lake use safety laws and guidelines
- c) Communicate high water protocol as needed

4. OTHER

- a) Coordinate lake level with Canal Authority
- b) Continue social activities
- c) Work with property owners and public authorities to secure a walking path around the lake

IV. ACTION STEPS

1. The whole BOD should review this long-range plan annually in the spring
2. The BOD should communicate the Boating Safety Law in spring of every year
3. The LMA Welcome Wagon should distribute a Boating Safety Pamphlet including regulations to new lake residents
4. The BOD should consider additional dredging of impacted areas along East Lake Road and Lake Moraine Road
5. The BOD should educate residents about the necessity to obtain permits for shoreline improvements
6. The BOD should develop and maintain relationships with the NY State Canal Corporation, Madison County Soil and Water, Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), NY State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), and Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)
7. The BOD should update and publicize the High-Water Plan
8. The BOD should vigorously educate all lake residents about the urgent need to understand and maintain septic systems
9. The BOD should consider planning a youth fishing derby
10. The BOD should investigate large-scale watershed improvement projects (working with relevant agencies and organizations)
11. The BOD should encourage the election of members to the Town of Madison Town Council and the Town Planning Board to represent Lake Moraine
12. The BOD should encourage ever-greater participation in the LMA