



Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

www.cedarmeadow.org

Annual Newsletter & Save-the-Date - April 2024

Mark your Calendar and Plan Join Us In Person at the
**Leicester Fire/EMS Headquarters Meeting Room,
3 Paxton Street, Leicester MA**

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION

on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:30 pm**

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District in person at the Leicester Fire/EMS Headquarters Meeting Room on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 7:30 P.M. ***A quorum of proprietors is necessary for the Annual Meeting. If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please mail in your proxy OR give it to a neighbor or Management Committee Member who will be attending.*** A proxy form will be enclosed with the Annual Meeting Warrant that will be sent by mail 3 weeks prior to the meeting date.

Refilling the Lake & Water Clarity

The lake experienced a very mild winter. High water levels were observed following the opening of the upper channel in December. The lower gate valve was not opened this season due to the high water levels, risk of flooding, and unsafe conditions.

The lake visibility was excellent throughout the summer months in 2023, but significant weed growth has continued to be reported by multiple proprietors since 2020. The weed management efforts have continued. TRC, previously ESS Group, conducted an abbreviated vegetation survey of Cedar Meadow Lake in June 2021. ESS discovered that the dense weed beds were composed almost entirely of invasive variable-leaf milfoil. The invasive weed, fanwort, was also observed during the abbreviated vegetation survey, but its growth was primarily concentrated in the two northern coves. Invasive water chestnut was not observed during the survey. ESS Group recommended that a thorough mapping of the lake occur in early June of 2022 so that herbicide application can be initiated early in the growing season. A post-treatment mapping event to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment was also recommended. These recommendations were followed through in late Spring and early Summer 2022, including a targeted herbicide application.

A comprehensive report can be reviewed on the district website. Recommendations from this report will be discussed at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Although invasive species can be treated chemically, it would be better to strive towards a lake low in excess nutrients to minimize weed growth. To achieve a properly balanced lake, the District urges (1) all Proprietors who use fertilizers to spread low/no phosphorus fertilizer and (2) to curb any water from storm drainage that could potentially add nutrients to the lake. Furthermore, MA law has stated that fertilizer containing phosphorus can only be used on (1) lawns that show a phosphorus deficiency by a soil test or (2) newly established lawns. Please see the following link for further information: <https://www.mass.gov/plant-nutrient-management>

Please remember that feeding of wildlife within, or adjacent to the pond is strongly discouraged by the MA Division of Fish and Wildlife (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/avoid-feeding-wildlife>).

Feeding wildlife can not only impact their well-being, but for our pond specifically, the increased and often concentrated areas of ducks (and geese) significantly contributes to the amount of waste in the pond. Wildlife waste also contributes towards weed growth and algae blooms. The undesired feces can also lead to serious water quality and health related impacts for people and animals that utilize the lake, in addition to increased cost of treating and managing the lake for recreational purposes.

Please DO NOT feed any wildlife in or around Cedar Meadow Pond.

Land Acquisition and Removal of the Trees Behind the Dam

As approved at the 2021 Annual meeting, the District acquired the ~3 acres land located north of Rawson Street (North side of the Rawson St. bridge) identified as Lot B5 on Leicester Assessors Map 27 and as “Cedar Meadow Pond” on a plan of land recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 461, Plan 103. This land is useful for water quality monitoring and treatment of invasive weeds. The District also acquired the ~0.37 acres of land on Charles Street behind the dam identified as Lot A18 on Leicester Assessors Map 28 and as “Tract ‘A’ ” on a plan of land recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 768, Plan 47. The District hired Elliott Tree to remove the trees adjacent to the dam along the Charles Street section, and felled the trees within 20’ of the downstream side of the dam as recommended by the Office of Dam Safety and this work was completed in December 2022.

Boating Safety and Respect Reminder

Please remember: it is illegal to operate a vessel at more than headway speed within 150 feet of shorelines. Headway Speed means the minimum speed at which a vessel may be operated and maintained steerage way, but not to exceed six (6) miles per hour.

Please be mindful of the safety of your fellow proprietors and our neighbors using the beaches / yards and who are swimming and enjoying non-motorized water vessels.

To review the full text of the MA Boater Safety Handbook, go to the District's website, www.cedarmeadow.org or the MA website at www.boat-ed.com/ma/handbook.

Please be respectful to any wildlife that also inhabits our beautiful lake and its shores. No trespassing signage has been posted at the dam and on the Charles Street gate leading to the dam surface.

UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

The District Clerk is updating all email lists and contact information for the proprietors of the district. Please complete this confidential form to have your contact information updated. THANK YOU! <https://forms.gle/C4Q3JwQR3KTFH6PJA>

SKI CLUB

The Cedar Meadow Skiers were quite active last summer. If you are interested, please contact John Moisan (moisan_j@charter.net) for information on joining the club in 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and/or dam, please contact one of the following elected officials:

Chairman	Tommy Lee	774-239-1799	tommyjoelee@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Rich Carr	508 450-8626	rmcarr@aol.com
Member	Brian Waterman	774 272-5654	b63lctr@gmail.com
Clerk	Jillian Spratt	508 502-8054	cedarmeadowclerk@gmail.com
Treasurer	Terry O'Coin	860 836-2327	theocoins@charter.net

We look forward to seeing YOU at the Annual Meeting!

The Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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