

GREGG LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Joan Gorga

When a request came out this fall for proposals for funding to develop watershed management plans, a group of Antrimites thought it was the perfect opportunity to address some of the concerns we've had over Gregg Lake's water quality. We quickly put together a Pre-proposal and submitted it by the October 21 deadline. Here's the abstract:

Gregg Lake hosts Antrim's popular public swimming beach and boat launch, a community of summer and year-round homes and a thriving youth camp. The tranquil warm water fishery attracts anglers and wildlife, including nesting loons, and nature enthusiasts who paddle the wooded shoreline and marshes. The Gregg Lake watershed contains some of the "Highest Ranked (Wildlife) Habitat" in New Hampshire, (NH Fish and Game). However, elevated phosphorus and chlorophyll-a and low dissolved oxygen levels put Gregg Lake in the "Slightly Bad" category for water quality and threaten the lake's capacity to support wildlife and recreation. Fortunately, Gregg Lake ranks high in "Recovery

Potential" (NH NPS Management Program). The requested funds will support development of a watershed management plan to lower phosphorus and chlorophyll-a levels. Two lake associations and the Town of Antrim already actively support conservation through Lake Host, Weed Watch and VLAP water testing programs. A written plan will guide a coalition, including the Antrim Parks and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission and Highway Department, lake associations, property owners and recreational lake users, to identify pollution sources and set long-term goals for reducing pollutant loads and restoring Gregg Lake to its highest potential wildlife and recreation uses.

We have been invited to continue with our application; the full proposal will be due on January 13. If you have any interest in joining in the effort to determine what needs to be done to restore Gregg Lake's waters and develop a plan to achieve the restoration, please contact Joan Gorga at 588-2569 or email jgorga2@gorga.org. *



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