



Lake Host Program Local Funding Avenues

Secure Municipal Funding to Support Your Lake Host Program:

- Encourage your municipal budget committee to include funding to supplement your local Lake Host Program in the annual budget. Most of the groups participating in the Lake Host Program receive supplemental funding from their municipality with the median amount being \$2,500. Contact NH LAKES if you would like a letter of support to bring to your municipal officials.
- Submit a warrant article requesting that the town voters at the annual town meeting approve the dedication of municipal funds to supplement the local Lake Host Program. Contact your municipal office to find out the requirements and deadlines for warrant article submission.
- **In the months, weeks, days, and even the hours leading up to the town meeting, educate the voters about why they should support the local Lake Host Program.**
 - ✓ Write letters of support to the local paper.
 - ✓ Display educational posters in support of the Lake Host Program in public meeting places.
 - ✓ Meet with local groups to discuss the importance of the local Lake Host Program. (Contact NH LAKES if you are interested in receiving a Lake Host Program PowerPoint presentation.)
 - ✓ At Town Meeting, distribute flyers and set up signs about the importance of the local Lake Host Program.

Ask Neighbors to Support Your Lake Host Program:

- Encourage local businesses owners, particularly those affected by lake-related tourism, to provide financial

Your Community Can Help.

Local funding resources can be used to sponsor MORE paid Lake Host Inspector time spent protecting your lake from aquatic invasive species.

NH LAKES developed **Lake Host Charitable Giving** to help our local partners raise funds for their Lake Host Program payroll expenses and to provide individuals for an easy way to support their local program.

Lake Host Charitable Giving helps your supporters make a tax-deductible charitable contribution directly to your local Lake Host program's payroll through a secure online portal.

Your donors receive a timely thank you letter/tax receipt for their donation prepared by NH LAKES staff.

100% of all donations are applied to your groups Lake Host payroll.



Lake Host Program Local Funding Avenues

support to your group through Lake Host Charitable Giving. Their donations to the local Lake Host Program are tax-deductible and NH LAKES takes care of sending the tax receipt.

- Encourage friends, neighbors, and individual members of your association to donate through Lake Host Charitable Giving. Some individuals may not want to volunteer their time as a volunteer Inspector but may be inclined to donate a small amount so that your group is able to staff the ramp with paid Lake Host Inspectors for longer periods.
- Suggest that cove associations, road associations, or other groups of neighbors/members sponsor paid coverage gest that individual association members sponsor a paid Lake Host for a shift at a ramp for a day, weekend, or even a week.
- **Raise awareness and funding for local Lake Host Program at community events.**
 - Include a Lake Host and Invasive species themed float in your annual lake association street parade or boat parade.
 - Staff a Lake Host Charitable Giving booth at your town's annual fair
 - Have an association yard sale or a raffle and donate a portion of the proceeds to the local Lake Host Program.
 - Include the link to your groups Lake Host Charitable Giving donation portal in your email signature.
- When you send out your group's annual membership renewal notices, include an option for members to donate specifically to the Lake Host Program at your lake through **Lake Host Charitable Giving**.

Provide recognition to individuals and groups that support the program.

Consider posting a "Thank You" in the local newsletter or putting up a sign at the launch while your Inspectors are on duty to show your appreciation!

Why Should People Support Their Local Lake Host Program?

- New Hampshire is home to approximately 1,000 lakes and ponds and these resources enhance the New Hampshire quality of life for its residents and its visitors in many ways.

The presence of invasive milfoil can reduce property values of an average home in New Hampshire by 16%



Lake Host Program

Local Funding Avenues

- Lakes and ponds provide aesthetic, ecological, recreational, and economic values to the local community and to the overall state of New Hampshire.
- Recreational opportunities on New Hampshire's freshwater bodies such as boating, fishing and swimming translate to millions of dollars in sales and income and thousands of full-time and seasonal jobs in the state.
- Aquatic invasive plant and animal infestations make recreation in and on lakes and ponds dangerous and unpleasant and they disrupt the ecological balance of the waterbody.
- Aquatic invasive species infestations reduce shoreline property values through the reduction of aesthetic and recreational uses of the water body. All property owners in a municipality shoulder this problem, not just the ones that own shoreline. As tax revenue generated from shoreline property values decreases with an invasive species infestation, tax revenue from non-shoreline property may need to increase.
- The cost of managing and controlling an aquatic invasive species infestation in a water body quickly becomes a local problem:
 - Invasive species management is time, labor, and financially intensive and there is currently no method to completely eradicate aquatic invasive plants or animal infestations.
 - New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) only pays for the first year of management efforts for newly discovered aquatic invasive plant infestation. There is currently **no management options for aquatic invasive animal infestations** in New Hampshire.
 - The demand for DES grant funding typically exceeds the amount available and managing an infestation quickly becomes the local municipalities problem and a staggering local financial burden.

The main way invasive aquatic species spread from lake-to-lake in New Hampshire is through the transportation of plant fragments or animal larvae from infested water bodies to uninfested water bodies on boats and trailers.

Prevention is key!