

LAKE PARKER, FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING.

The Committee has been involved in various endeavors this year including:

1. Facilitating the State's stocking of Lake Parker with 850, one year old., 11.2" rainbow trout which occurred on 30 April 2024; several anglers and kayakers have already reported catching or at least seeing 14" rainbows this Spring; please let me know at FishWildlife@lakeparker.org if you have caught or observed any!!
2. Viewing and reviewing reports from others of eagle and other bird sightings!! Seem to be less cormorants this year....
3. Assisting with the removal of nuisance beavers at the south end of the Lake; their dams have impacted the walking trail.
4. Observing loons, geese, osprey, ducks, mink, painted turtles, bears and foxes at various locations around the lake.
5. Participating in the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) volunteer committee meetings and reviewing the State's progress regarding the use of wake boats on VT lakes and ponds and their detrimental effect on lakeshores, docks, swimmers, canoers, kayakers, sailors and stand up boards; relaying updates regarding the Petition and ANR's proposed rules to our membership.

The ANR's rule (500 ft from shore, 20 ft min depth, 50 contiguous acres, home lake rule) went into effect on 15 April 2024, a disappointment to the many who filed public comments supporting either 1000 feet from shore or total prohibition of wake sports on Vermont's smaller lakes.

The ANR rule results in an eligible wake sports zone of some 88 acres near the center of Lake Parker.

As authorized by vote at the 2023 Annual Meeting, we are proceeding to prepare an independent petition to prohibit wake sports on Lake Parker; we have already secured the Town of Glover as a co sponsor, and have letters of support from VT Eco Studies, FOVLAP, Pioneer Camp and the Glover Planning Board. Several other lakes including Shadow have or will soon be filing similar petitions with the ANR.

6. Monitoring the VT Fish and Wildlife website at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com> which provides lots of interesting and educational information as well as the requirements for fishing and hunting licenses.
7. After consultation with Eric Hansen of the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies, on 27 April 2024, the floating loon nest again was deployed in the cove just south of Stevens Brook on the west side of the lake. The loons, however, began to nest in the marsh in this same area; we put the loon nesting warning signs out on 26 May; but by 31 May, the nest had been abandoned.

On 15 June, a loon nest with two eggs was observed at the northwest end of the lake, adjacent to the water's edge. The loon warning signs were moved into position on 16 June and the Eco Studies folks were updated. Unfortunately, a heavy rain on 23 June 2024 raised the lake level, flooding out the nest, causing the eggs to roll into the lake; the eggs are not viable; per VT Ecostudies request, we retrieved the eggs and froze them, awaiting pick up by VT Ecostudies for their examination.

8. Working with the VT Center for Eco Studies, we have emptied the lead weight and fishing line disposal receptacle installed at the Lake Parker boat launch area; we have also modified the receptacle so no cans or bottles can fit in same!!

HOPING ALL ARE KEEPING SAFE AND ARE ENJOYING THIS SUMMER,

Respectfully Submitted, John Wooten, Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee
Email: FishWildlife@lakeparker.org