

How are these areas protected?

Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Littleton Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Conservation Commission regulates work in wetlands, including waterbodies and floodplains, and the 100-foot buffer zone. The State also has its own requirements, the MA Public Waterfront Act, or "Chapter 91".

Why are these areas protected?

These protected areas are recognized for providing a variety of functions and values including protection of water supplies, flood control, storm damage protection, and protection of shellfish, fish and wildlife habitat; and of course preserving recreation and aesthetics! Work in these and around these areas can have unintended consequences to these important functions of the lakes and ponds.

What kind of activities are regulated?

With regard to activities on or adjacent to our lakes and ponds, the Commission regulates docks and piers, placement of sand, aquatic weed control, retaining walls, bank stabilization and similar projects.

Our Lakes and Ponds:

- Cobbs Pond
- Doleful Pond
- **Fort Pond**
- **Long Pond**
- **Lake Matawanakee/Forge Pond**
- Mill Pond
- **Nagog Pond**
- **Spectacle Pond**

Waterbodies in **BOLD** are Great Ponds

Questions? Please contact us:

Littleton Conservation Department
37 Shattuck Street
Littleton, MA 01460
978-540-2429
conservation@littletonma.org



LITTLETON CONSERVATION COMMISSION: LAKE SHORE COMPLIANCE GUIDANCE



Wetlands Protection Regulations - What Do I Do?

If you are doing work in the lake, within 100 feet of the lake or vegetated wetlands, or in the floodplain you will likely need a permit from the Commission. These range from a Minor Project Approval (such as taking down one hazard tree) to a Notice of Intent (such as for a new structure).



If you are considering any new work in these areas, you should contact the Conservation Department as early in your planning as you can. Staff can help you determine your best way forward and what will be required.

If you already have a dock or beach that you want to bring into compliance, please visit the Commission's website or contact the Conservation Department to discuss your particular situation and how to best achieve your goals.

Wetlands Protection Regulations – What Does the Commission Consider for Beaches and Docks?

When considering an application, the Commission looks at several aspects of the project including:

- Is the work above or below the mean annual low or high water?
- Will the project fill a floodplain and have the potential for impacting downstream areas?
- If it's a beach, was it in place before 1983 (certain exceptions can be made for older beaches)?
- If a dock, will it block vegetation underneath or interfere with water circulation, fish passage or boat navigation?
- How will construction occur and what sort of ongoing maintenance might be needed?
- What materials will be used, including information such as floats or type of sand for beach nourishment?
- If a seasonal dock, how will it be removed and where will it be stored
- Is the work accessory to a place of residence or is it intended for public use?



*You can get more docks and beach information at
<https://www.littletonma.org/1066/Lakeshore-Compliance-Guidelines>*

Chapter 91 Waterways Permitting in Great Ponds

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regulates work below mean annual high water as well. Chapter 91 applies to existing unauthorized activities as well as new projects proposed in, under, or over Great Ponds. Some typical projects that might require Chapter 91 authorization are:

1. Placement, construction, or alteration of any structure, regardless of size, whether permanent or seasonal.
2. Placement of any fill or unconsolidated material that is confined or expected to remain in place in a waterway.
3. Any fill or structures not currently authorized.



There are a variety of Chapter 91 permit types from streamlined self-certifications (including small residential docks) to a full License (for larger docks or shore protection structures) or Permit (including beach nourishment).

*You can get more Chapter 91 information at
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/chapter-91-the-massachusetts-public-waterfront-act>*