



RENTER'S AND VISITOR'S GUIDE

WATCHIC LAKE ASSOCIATION

Watchic Lake offers clean water, swimming, good fishing, and a variety of wildlife. The Watchic Lake Association works to improve, protect, and preserve the lake's water quality and fragile ecosystem. This guide explains to renters and visitors on how they can protect the lake and lake wildlife and enjoy their time while here.

Invasive aquatic plants – The State of Maine has strict laws related to the threat of invasive aquatic species. Invasive species are the biggest threat to the quality of life at Watchic Lake. Invasives generally enter a lake via contaminated watercraft. **Help keep Watchic Lake invasive-free - Please inspect your boat, jet-ski, kayak, motor, trailer, fishing equipment, and live well prior to launching.** Drain your bilge pump and dispose of any plant life well away from the lake.

Loons/Wildlife - The entire Watchic Lake area is a wildlife habitat. Please respect our wildlife and **keep at least 150 feet away from all wildlife including but not limited to loons**, turtles, and ducks. Please do not feed any wildlife in the Watchic Lake area. Several of our wildlife have nesting areas throughout the Watchic Lake shoreline and on the islands. Please be extremely careful to stay away from any nesting areas.

Fishing – All Maine fishing laws apply at Watchic Lake – more at www.maine.gov/ifw/. **Lead tackle is illegal in the state of Maine – it's the number one killer of loons.** Please make sure your tackle does not contain lead. Contact the WLA to learn more about replacing your lead-free fishing tackle free of charge.

Boating - All Maine boating laws apply at Watchic Lake – more at www.maine.gov/ifw/. Please respect the 200-foot offshore distance at any speed other than headway, especially if wakeboarding. This is safer, helps keep erosion at a minimum, and protects our lake. When skiing or tubing, you must have a spotter on-board in addition to the driver, and those in the water must wear a lifejacket. Boating while drinking or after dark is strongly discouraged.

Noise Etiquette – Noise carries remarkably well across the lake. Many properties are used year-round by people getting up early for work each morning. **Please respect your neighbors and keep noise down after 10:00 pm.**

Fireworks – Due to state and local ordinances, you can use only consumer fireworks such as sparklers and firecrackers in Standish. You cannot use bottle rockets, missile-type rockets or “helicopters” or floating paper lanterns (aka Chinese lanterns or sky lanterns). Fireworks may be used only with the permission of the property owner and are not allowed on the lake (which is State property).

Fireworks use is generally limited to Friday and Saturday nights July 1 to Labor Day from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Specifically on July 3 to 5, December 31, and January 1 use is allowed from 9:00 am to 12:30 am. More details for Standish can be found at <https://ecode360.com/27323757>

Campfires – Prior to starting a campfire please check the fire hazard warnings on the Maine Forest Service at www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/ or 1-800-750-9777. Watchic Lake is in weather zone 9.

Islands – All the islands on Watchic Lake are privately owned and visitors should stay off and away from the island docks and floats.

Pet Management – The town of Standish has a leash law. It imposes fines up to \$150 for unleashed dogs. For your health and the health of the lake, promptly and properly dispose of dog waste.

Watchic Lake Association – Please visit our website (www.watchiclake.org) for more information on Watchic Lake. Please consider joining the Association or making a donation. We are a non-profit organization that works to improve, protect, and preserve the lake's water quality and fragile ecosystem.