

Milfoil ... Why We Care, and What We Should Do

Moultonborough is a beautiful community with a wealth of opportunities that attract residents and visitors:

Recreational: More waterfront than any town in the state, offering beaches and boat launches for swimming, boating, fishing, snowmobiling, skating, ice racing, world's largest steamboat rally.

Red Hill & Ossipee Mts. for hiking, snowmobiling, skiing, wildlife observation.

Cultural: Award-winning library, Historical Soc., Castle in the Clouds, Loon Center, Old Country Store
Music and theater productions at the schools and Lions club

Water resources: Lake Winnepesaukee, Squam Lake, Lake Kanasatka, Lees Pond, Garland Pond, Berry Pond, Wakondah Pond, Meadowbrook Pond, Red Hill River, other brooks and streams

Milfoil is a major threat:

Milfoil is an invasive, non-native, water weed the NH Department of Environmental Services has found in over 240 acres of Moultonborough's lakes and ponds. Two thirds of Moultonborough's Shoreline is not yet mapped.

Milfoil chokes out native species and reduces water clarity.

It hampers boating, swimming and habitats for moose, beaver, herons, loons, eagles, bass, salmon trout, etc.

Milfoil has a huge impact on our economy and property values:

Studies show milfoil infested water causes property values to drop 10% to 20% - **Professor John Halstead, Ph. D.***

71% of Moultonborough's \$2.85 Billion property valuation (\$2.0235 Bill) comes from **shoreline properties only** -

Just a 10% drop in shore values would lower the town's total tax valuation by \$202Mill., causing the tax rate to jump from \$7.7 to \$8.29. If the problem is ignored, the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay an **additional \$118/year***

Studies show that visitors who see less water clarity or purity will cause 27% to leave the state, 18% to leave lakes region, 17% to leave the area, This affects businesses: rentals, motels, restaurants, stores, recreational, etc. - Dr. Anne Nordstrom*

What's to be done about the problem?

Current measures have been sporadic, costly, and ineffective.

The Moultonborough Milfoil committee proposal: A multi-year, coordinated effort between the State of NH, the Town of Moultonborough, and lake associations to successfully control the problem. This will include:

Identifying the most effective treatment method for each area.

Lake Host program to keep milfoil from entering and exiting our lakes.

Weed Watchers program to identify and mark new infestations.

To be effective, we estimate a cost of \$200,000 per year for the first 5 years.

Please support the Milfoil Control Warrant Article at our 2010 Town Meeting

Estimated cost to owner of \$200,000 home would be an additional \$14/yr as opposed to an increase; of \$118.00/yr if shoreline property values are reduced 10% because milfoil problem is left untreated, of \$184.00/yr if shoreline property values are reduced 15% because milfoil problem is left untreated, of \$255.00/yr if shoreline property values are reduced 20% because milfoil problem is left untreated.

Our Master Plan document has identified protecting Moultonborough's water resources as one of our highest ranked objectives. We'll never be totally free of milfoil any more than we will be free of dandelions, but *we can* protect our economic base. YOU can help, by attending town meeting and supporting this milfoil fund warrant article.

Thank you, Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, a subcommittee of the Moultonborough Conservation Committee:

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