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CHAIRMAN

*State of New Hampshire  
Public Water Access  
Advisory Board*

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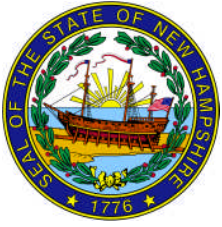
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*2006  
ANNUAL REPORT*



**Millsfield Pond Public Boat Access Facility, Millsfield, NH**



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July 17, 2007

His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch  
State House

The Honorable Terie Norelli  
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Sylvia Larsen  
Senate President

The Honorable John T. Gallus, Chairman  
Senate Wildlife, Fish and Game Committee

The Honorable Judith Spang, Chairman  
House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee

The Honorable Dennis Abbott, Chairman  
House Fish and Game Committee

Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board's ("PWAAB" or "Board") 2006 Annual Report. This report is organized starting with the general report of the PWAAB, then an article on the Board and its history, followed by individual reports by most of the member state agencies of the Board as follows:

Fish & Game Department  
Department of Environmental Services  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Department of Transportation  
Office of Energy and Planning  
Governor's Commission on Disability (Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee)

The above statute requires that the PWAAB's Annual Report "shall include a list of existing public access points, and a target date for publication of all access points". That information is found in a number of different sources and media. The most comprehensive source will be available on-line through the GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer at: <http://mapper.granit.unh.edu/>. That information is a product of an ongoing effort by the Office of Energy and Planning since the early 1990s to inventory all available public access to the State's public waters, whether publicly or privately owned, whether they are free or charge a fee, etc. The Fish & Game Department has published a "New Hampshire Boating & Fishing Public Access Map" since 1999. That map contains a list of mostly publicly owned and operated access sites to the State's public waters. It is widely distributed throughout the state including the state highway information centers. That map, which was last published in 2003, is currently being updated and revised. In addition, all of the more than 100 access sites to public waters managed by the Fish & Game Department are described in detail at that Department's website: [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor Recreation/access\\_sites\\_table.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Outdoor_Recreation/access_sites_table.htm).

The Fish & Game Department is in the process of putting all these sites and more on a GIS mapping system to assist in its duty to "establish priorities for the siting and development of public boat access areas, based on the demands and needs for different types of public boat access areas and public water bodies . . .". RSA 233-A:4, I. Maps of over 400 lakes and ponds, with some showing access sites and information are also found at the Fish and Game website: [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/bathy\\_maps.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Fishing/bathy_maps.htm). Efforts to update these lists are ongoing. The DES Coastal Program has also developed a map of those public access facilities in the 17 communities that make up the coastal zone. The "New Hampshire Coastal Access Map" has been completely updated and revised and will be available to the public on August 1<sup>st</sup> in either hard copy or on the Coastal Program's website: <http://www.des.state.nh.us/Coastal/>.

Much of the Board's work with regard to advising, monitoring and coordinating state agency public water access efforts, is detailed in the attached reports of the above State agencies. In that regard, the Board and these agencies have been particularly focused on large lake access, one of the most expensive and difficult missions of the Board. Much of the Board's efforts in 2006 involved work on the pending development of a trailer boat access site to Winnisquam Lake at Water Street in Laconia. That project is just about to begin construction with an expected opening date in 2008. In addition, planning efforts move forward for increased parking and development of the Fish and Game Department's existing site at Merrymeeting Lake; the Wild Goose access site at Lake Sunapee in Newbury and Harilla's Landing, in Moultonborough, providing access to Lake Winnepesaukee.

The Board generally meets monthly. In addition to advising state agency efforts, the Board also responds to concerns from the public. In 2006 such concerns regarding access to the Pemigewasset River in Woodstock and an existing access site to the Merrimack River at Greeley Park in Nashua were addressed. In addition, the Board monitored legislation that concerned or affected public water access. It has also monitored state surplus land disposals where it has an advisory role to the Council on Resources and Development with regard to the sale or lease of state lands that could or do

provide public access to the State's waters. In that regard, the Board has been active in studying the current issues regarding leasing of state railroad right-of-ways by private parties to place docks and moorings in public waters.

Thank you for this opportunity for providing information about our Board and its work. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me at 695-8641 or our Board's secretary, Ellen Harrington at 271-2224.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Quarles, Jr., Chair  
Public Water Access Board

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT  
“STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS PROGRAM”

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s “Statewide Public Boat Access Program” focus is to provide fair, adequate and reasonable public access to the State’s waters. Funding for the program primarily comes from two sources: 1.) A five-dollar surcharge placed on New Hampshire boat registrations where this five-dollar surcharge and any other public access funds donated to the State are placed in a non-lapsing, continually appropriated, statewide public boat access fund; and, 2.) The Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, which collects excise taxes placed on sport fishing equipment, trolling motors, flashers, motorboat fuels, and import duties on tackle, pleasure boats and yachts. When a state accepts Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds, it must use at least 15 percent of these monies for motorized boating access projects. Federal boating access funds may be spent on the acquisition of land to develop new access facilities, or to renovate and improve existing facilities. Renovations and improvements may include items such as launching ramps, docks, fueling stations, buoys, retaining walls, parking lots, utilities and restrooms. Projects that

help expedite access to open water may also be funded, they include; channel improvements, vegetation clearance and the installation of navigational aids.

The Department uses the aforementioned funds to carry out the provisions of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program established under RSA 233-A. This statute directs the Department to acquire lands, construct, refurbish, maintain, operate, enforce and inspect new and existing public boat access facilities.

During calendar year 2006, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department continued its work to expand and improve public access to State waters by performing the following: construction of two new boat access sites; the planning and pre-construction activities on two major access projects; several existing sites were improved; the evaluation of a number of properties for future acquisition or development; and, 136 existing sites were maintained and operated.

### **LAND LEASE PROGRAM**

The Department is working with several towns that have expressed an interest in the "Land Lease" program initiative. This program is designed to provide Department funds to landowners who enter into a lease agreement with the Department and agree that the facility will remain open for public use for the life of the capital improvements. In return, the Department agrees to design, construct, operate, maintain, manage, inspect and/or enforce regulations

pertaining to these public water access sites, or any combination of the aforementioned services.

Last year's report revealed that the Town of Orford was the first Town interested in participating in the Land Lease Program. Currently, the Department is working through the details with the Town's Attorney, who is working with Orford Town officials on the conditions of the lease. Hopefully, the Department will have a fully executed lease in 2007, which will allow the Department to improve the town-owned boat access fronting the Connecticut River. In addition, the towns of Allenstown and Newmarket are looking into the program. In each case, the town owns an existing boat ramp that is in need of renovation and/or improvements. It should be noted that this program is not limited to towns; either private ownerships or county ownerships are all eligible, as long as they are willing to meet the conditions of the lease for the public good.

The primary benefit of this program is that the public will enjoy increased boating and fishing opportunities, while the Department reduces its cost by not having to purchase land. The money that is saved can then be used towards additional construction projects. Conversely, a participating town or individual has a chance to have a new access site developed, or an existing site repaired, with funds through the Statewide Public Boat Access Program. It is expected that as the program grows, more cooperators will partner with the Department to improve water access opportunities.

## **ICE DAMAGE REMEDIATION**

In 2006, the Department's engineer and construction personnel continued to address the problems of winter ice-damage to Department boat ramps. Since New Hampshire waters are subject to a freeze up each winter, some ponds and lakes are susceptible to boat ramp damage caused by the horizontal and vertical forces exerted from these ice loads. The damage is mostly confined to the concrete logs used in the boat ramp design, and can be so severe that it renders a ramp inoperable the following spring. This damage requires the Department to prematurely replace these ramps.

Last year, the Department installed a poured in-place dead man at Sand Pond, Marlow and replaced the concrete logs with a new design. This past spring, an inspection of this ramp indicated that it suffered minimal ice-load damage. However, the winter of 2005/2006 damaged the boat ramps at Lake Umbagog, Cambridge, and Cedar Pond, Milan. Therefore, the Cedar Pond ramp was replaced with an improved design in 2006. The Lake Umbagog ramp is scheduled for replacement in 2007 with a design similar to the one used at Cedar Pond. The premature ice-damage to Department boat ramps is costing the Department monies that could be better used on other projects. Evaluation of this ice-damage remediation strategy will occur in 2007 and 2008.

## **POWER LOADING**

The Department is constructing longer and deeper ramps, where necessary, to deter the damage caused by loading and unloading boats from a

trailer while under power, commonly referred to as “power-loading”. However, the Department will continue its ongoing education program to alert the public to the damage caused by loading a boat on a trailer under power. Press releases, as well as signage at boat ramps are part of a program that alerts the public to the problem and asks for their cooperation.

### LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Similar to the last four years, the Department has collaborated with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Lakes Association with a “Lake Host Program”. A total of 12 NH Fish and Game Department facilities have been enrolled into the program:

<u>Water Body</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Hosting Program Participants</u>
Beaver Lake Association	Derry	Beaver Lake Improvement Association
Clough Pond	Loudon	Clough Pond Association
Crystal Lake Association	Enfield	Crystal Lake Improvement Association
Lake Tarleton	Piermont	Lake Tarleton Association, Inc
Merrymeeting Lake	New Durham	Merrymeeting Lake Association
Newfound Lake	Bristol	Newfound Lake Association
Pawtuckaway Lake Association	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association
Pleasant Lake	Deerfield	Pleasant Lake Association

Squam Lake	Holderness	Squam Lake Association
Stinson Lake	Rumney	Stinson Lake Association
Swains Lake	Barrington	Swains Lake Association
Warren Lake	Alstead	Warren Lake Association

Lake Host volunteers provided free boat inspections at a number of Department boat access sites throughout the summer. The intent of the program is to educate boaters about exotic invasive aquatic plants and their accidental introductions into State waters by boaters. There is always the potential for invasive aquatic plant fragments to travel from lake to lake by being attached to fishing equipment, boat trailers, boats and their motors. Lake Hosts educate boaters and anglers on the proper way to inspect their equipment, where plant fragments tend to collect. In addition, anglers and boaters are taught how to properly dispose of invasive plant fragments so that accidental introductions can be prevented.

The Lake Host Volunteer Program reaches thousands of boaters and anglers and will continue throughout the 2007 boating season.

### LAND ACQUISITION

Each year, the Department receives offers to purchase lands fronting water, as well as, requests to address ownership issues associated with existing State-owned properties. These land offers require staff to devote time to assess each one. Those properties that can provide opportunities to enhance water

access, while meeting the legal, environmental, engineering and regulatory standards are purchased for subsequent public access activities.

In 2006, 13 property issues were addressed:

	<u>Water Body</u>	<u>City/Town</u>	<u>Access Type</u>	<u>Project Status</u>
1.	<b>Big Diamond Pond</b>	<b>Stewartstown</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Department to close on town-owned tract, in July, of 2007.</b>
2.	<b>Connecticut River</b>	<b>Orford</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Department working to finalize "Land Lease" agreement document. Lease being reviewed by Town.</b>
3.	<b>Crane Neck</b>	<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>Remote Pond</b>	<b>Department awaiting subdivision by owner.</b>
4.	<b>Forest Lake</b>	<b>Winchester</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Department waiting for support documentation from landowners.</b>
5.	<b>Lamprey River</b>	<b>Newmarket</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Feasibility analysis initiated.</b>
6.	<b>Merrimack River</b>	<b>Allenstown</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Feasibility analysis completed. Site analysis underway.</b>
7.	<b>Merrimack River</b>	<b>Merrimack</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Awaiting town improvements to town road.</b>
8.	<b>Merrimack River</b>	<b>Nashua</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>City to secure public crossing over railroad.</b>

9.	<b>Merrymeeting Lake</b>	<b>New Durham</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Offer extended.</b>
10.	<b>Robb Reservoir</b>	<b>Stoddard</b>	<b>Canoe/kayak</b>	<b>Department working with Trust for Public Lands to secure the necessary property for the project.</b>
11.	<b>Stinson Lake</b>	<b>Rumney</b>	<b>Refurbishment</b>	<b>Encroachment issues resolved.</b>
12.	<b>Success Pond</b>	<b>Success</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>New landowner is not interested in selling or providing an easement. They may be interested in leasing access site to the Department. The A.G.'s Office is reviewing the terms of the lease.</b>
13.	<b>Winnisquam Lake</b>	<b>Laconia</b>	<b>Trailerred Boats</b>	<b>Department has secured all necessary land for proposed boat access project. Design phase and environmental documentation commences.</b>

**PROGRAMMATICAL, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES**

Securing all necessary permits; evaluating potential sites for hazardous wastes; investigating sites for potential historic resources; wetlands delineation; legal package preparation; threatened and endangered species reviews for plants and animals; National Environmental Policy Act Compliance and grant

preparation and submittals are all examples of programmatical, legal, environmental and regulatory issues. This work must be completed before the Department can purchase property for subsequent access development, or to improve an existing Department-owned site. The tasks associated with this work exemplify the Department's pro-active approach in addressing State and Federal requirements. This saves time and monies by addressing any issues that may create costly delays, or in the worst case, stop a proposed action from occurring. During the past year, programmatical activities were conducted at the following water bodies:

<b><u>Water Body</u></b>	<b><u>Town</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Project Status</u></b>
<b>Baker River</b>	<b>Plymouth</b>	<b>Access path re-designed.</b>	<b>Construction completed in 2006.</b>
<b>Baxter Lake</b>	<b>Rochester</b>	<b>Development of new site.</b>	<b>Construction completed in 2006.</b>
<b>Connecticut River</b>	<b>Woodsville</b>	<b>Development of new site. MOU with NHDOT completed.</b>	<b>Site assessment in progress.</b>
<b>Connor Pond</b>	<b>Ossipee</b>	<b>Development of informal site.</b>	<b>Survey completed.</b>
<b>Hot Hole Pond</b>	<b>Concord</b>	<b>Refurbishment of boat ramp.</b>	<b>Site assessment &amp; design in progress.</b>
<b>Lake Umbagog</b>	<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>Boat ramp replacement. NHDES Permit amendment procured.</b>	<b>Construction to be completed in 2007.</b>

<b>Manning Lake</b>	<b>Gilmanton</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. NHDES Wetlands Permit submitted.</b>	<b>Permit being reviewed.</b>
<b>Merrimack River</b>	<b>Hooksett</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. NHDES Wetlands Permit submitted.</b>	<b>Permit being reviewed. 2007 construction planned.</b>
<b>Merrymeeting Lake</b>	<b>New Durham</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. Project being re-designed.</b>	<b>In progress.</b>
<b>Millsfield Pond</b>	<b>Millsfield</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site.</b>	<b>Constructed in 2006.</b>
<b>Onway Lake</b>	<b>Raymond</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. Pre-construction activities.</b>	<b>Site review in progress.</b>
<b>Pleasant Lake</b>	<b>Deerfield</b>	<b>Development of new site. NHDES Wetlands Permit approved.</b>	<b>Construction to be completed in 2007.</b>
<b>Stratford Bog</b>	<b>Stratford</b>	<b>Development of new site. Landowner contact initiated.</b>	<b>In progress.</b>
<b>Sunapee Lake</b>	<b>Newbury</b>	<b>Development of new site. Highway review.</b>	<b>Project on hold.</b>
<b>Turtle town Pond</b>	<b>Concord</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. NHDES Wetlands Permit approved.</b>	<b>In progress.</b>
<b>Lake Winnepesaukee</b>	<b>Moultonborough</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. NHDOT working to resolve commercial use and encroachment issues.</b>	<b>Project pending.</b>

<b>Winnepesaukee River</b>	<b>Northfield</b>	<b>Refurbishment of site. Awaiting NHDOT MOU acceptance.</b>	<b>In progress.</b>
<b>Winnisquam Lake</b>	<b>Laconia</b>	<b>Development of site. Design in progress.</b>	<b>In progress.</b>

### **CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

The Baxter Lake project for trailered boats in Rochester was completed in the fall of

2006, and is ready for the 2007 fishing and boating season. In addition, the Baker River

canoe/kayak site in Plymouth was modified to make it easier for visitors to use. The boat ramp

at Cedar Pond in Milan was replaced with an improved ramp technology that is believed to be

better able to withstand ice-damage. A canoe/small boat access at Spectacle Pond in Meredith

was constructed. A complete refurbishment was undertaken at Millsfield Pond in Millsfield that

makes launching of trailered boats easier; and, NH Fish and Game construction personnel

provided the over sight for the demolition of several greenhouse buildings at the Water Street

site in Laconia, which will provide boat access to Winnisquam Lake once constructed.

### **MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES**

The Department takes its maintenance duties seriously. Since the useful life of a facility is directly correlated to its upkeep, a pro-active maintenance program is a necessity. The Department currently performs maintenance at 136 access

facilities. Maintenance activities are divided into two categories: Type I – Construction Crew Maintenance Activities; and Type II - General Maintenance Crew Activities. Construction Crew Maintenance Activities are those jobs that require the use of heavy equipment, whereas, General Maintenance Crew Activities are jobs of a lighter nature, and are usually done on a routine basis. Regularly scheduled operation and maintenance activities ensure safe, functional, attractive, and user-friendly public access sites. In addition, pro-active maintenance initiatives prevent little problems from becoming bigger problems that require costly repairs. As new access sites are constructed, the costs of operation and maintenance of these sites continues to increase.

#### Type I Activities – 2006

Several access facilities were addressed during 2006. The road into Knights Meadow Marsh was repaired after summer rains made access to the marsh difficult for waterfowl hunters bringing in their boats. The NHF&G Department Construction crew fixed a NHDOT saltwater boat access facility at Hilton Park, Dover. Flood damage to the kayak/canoe access facility at Sewalls Falls Multi-Use Recreation area was repaired, as well as the three fishing piers at this site. The Department's boat ramp at Lambert Park in Hooksett received a concrete patch.

## Type II Activities – 2006

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues are important. This past year saw seasonal employees collect over 600, 30-gallon bags of refuse from 136 Department access sites. The Department has a carry-in/carry-out policy. However, trash is still an issue that is addressed each and every operating season. Over 800 feet of road was graded, and 100 feet of ditch/culverts were maintained. All 136 sites required either mowing, brush removal and/or trimming. In addition, kiosks were installed at three sites. Twenty-one portable toilets were contracted and installed, as well as the pumping of the septic tank at the Department's Newfound Lake access site. The Department steam cleans 12 vault toilets on a monthly basis each and every season.

Prepared by,

Richard J. Tichko

Fisheries Biologist II

Project Leader "Statewide Public Access Program"

# # #

**2006 Annual Report to the Public Water Access Advisory Board**  
**Programs and Activities of the**  
**NH Department of Environmental Services**  
*January 2007*

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During 2006, the Department engaged in numerous programs and activities associated with recreational opportunities and public access to the state's waters; these items are described below. The Department continues to be extremely active in its efforts to expand and/or improve public access opportunities across New Hampshire.

**Cooperative Projects with Other Agencies/Organizations:**

**Public Boat Access Facility on Winnisquam Lake, Laconia** – Throughout 2006, DES continued to work with the NH Fish & Game Department (NH F&G), the City of Laconia, the Public Water Access Advisory Board and the Lake Winnisquam Association to develop an access site on the Winnepesaukee River which will provide access to Winnisquam Lake. The Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP) and the Lakes Management and Protection Programs (LMPP) within DES have been the lead DES programs providing assistance for this cooperative effort.

**DES Bureaus and Programs that Support Public Access:**

**Dam Bureau**

Owns and Operates 113 Dams - DES provides boating recreational opportunities by regulating the water level of the controlled waterbodies. Many of these dam sites have public access facilities which require constant maintenance, repairs and enhancements. As part of the plans, the need and the opportunities to improve public access is fully evaluated.

Maintain and Monitor Existing Lease Agreements - DES leases properties and facilities to several communities and other agencies across the state. The department works cooperatively with towns and agencies to provide public access at these locations, including: Bow Lake, Strafford; Lovell Lake, Wakefield; Goshen Lake, Goshen; Oliverian Brook Flood Control Impoundment, Benton; Deering Reservoir, Deering; Milton 3 Ponds, Milton; and the Waumbek and Rowe sites on the Salmon Falls River, Milton.

**Work Related to the Flood events of October 2005 and May 2006:**

East Washington Dam, Washington - replaced railing/minor work

Pittsfield Mill Dam, Pittsfield – installed new gates and repaired downstream erosion

Conducted flood damage repair consisting of correcting erosion problems and replacing culverts at the following sites: Stratford Bog, Stratford; Stark Pond Dam, Dunbarton; Hirst Marsh Dam, Boscawen;

Barnstead Parade, Barnstead; Stirrup Iron Dam, Salisbury; and Buck St Dam, Pembroke and Allenstown.

**Site Enhancement Projects:**

Goose Pond, Canaan - bulldozed parking lot, hauled ledge pack, repaired existing public access area, constructed and installed information kiosk at public boat launch

Baxter Lake, Rochester - Worked cooperatively with Fish & Game to construct a public boat access facility which includes 20+ car/trailer parking lot and a kiosk

Installed DANGER DAM signs at the following sites: Mascoma Lake, Lebanon; Goose Pond, Canaan; Ossipee Lake, Effingham; and Horace Lake, Weare.

**Maintenance, Repairs, and Upkeep to Existing Dams:**

Goose Pond, Canaan – replaced pins and flashboards

Waumbek Dam, Milton Mills - investigated/repared sinkhole

Baker & Souhegan Rivers Flood Control Sites - mowed the earth embankments, emergency spillways, and flowage areas on approximately 20 sites in varying towns

Milton 3 Ponds, Milton - repaired/rebuilt failing abutment wall  
Jones Pond Dam, New Durham - repaired/rebuilt failing embankment  
Merrymeeting Lake, New Durham - stabilized stop-log bay section  
Newfound Lake, Bristol – repaired downstream concrete spillway  
Repaired or replaced safety railings and cat-walk grates at: Pleasant Lake, Deerfield; Pequawket Dam, Conway;  
Newfound Lake, Bristol; Great East Lake, Wakefield; Barnstead Parade, Barnstead; Howe Reservoir, Harrisville.

#### New Projects:

Ossipee Lake, Effingham - cut brush to establish an access road which will be used to bring heavy equipment into the dam for repairs, once permits, funding, and engineering has been completed.  
Deering Reservoir, Deering - major project repairs to the dam are proposed to be conducted in 2007; permits, funding and engineering design work currently in progress; commenced tree removal and excavation to recover a buried outlet pipe.

#### Site Enhancement Crew:

Typically, the DES Dam Bureau Site Enhancement crew improves, develops and maintains public access at DES dam sites. Due to budget constraints, DES did not staff a Site Enhancement crew during the summer of 2006.

#### Wetlands Bureau

The Bureau ensured that public access was provided whenever a marina was proposed for a lake, a river, or the seacoast.

The Wetlands Bureau has a liaison to work with the NH F&G Public Access Program to coordinate reviews and approvals of various jurisdictional programs within the Department in an effort to facilitate construction of public access sites proposed by NH F&G.

#### Watershed Management Bureau

##### **Clean Vessel Act Program**

Every year, DES requests funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the installation of new pumpout systems throughout the state and to operate the mobile pumpout boat service in coastal waters.

Coastal Waters - The Clean Vessel Act program provided funds to the Hampton River Marina to install a new pumpout system. This new system fixed-location pumpout facility has been installed and inspected by DES. A new portable unit will service boats in which people live aboard during the winter months. DES hopes to purchase a new pumpout boat during 2007 to better service seacoast area boaters.

In September 2005, EPA approved a No Discharge Area for New Hampshire's coastal waters, thereby prohibiting all boat sewage discharges within three nautical miles of the shoreline. Boats with on-board toilets were previously allowed to discharge within the three mile boundary. DES successfully proved to EPA that adequate pumpout facilities existed and that there was a need to protect resources from pathogens and nutrients found in boat sewage discharges.

Inland Waters - No new pumpout facilities were funded for the state's inland waters during 2006. DES is pursuing a pumpout facility for Lake Sunapee, which is currently serviced by a dump station. Dump stations accept only portable toilet wastes, while a pumpout system removes wastes from fixed toilets. DES is also working with the Newfound Lake Region Association to identify a site for a new pumpout facility. In addition to the work for these two waterbodies, the Clean Vessel Act program anticipates funding other replacement systems on other waterbodies in the near future.

### **Boat Inspection Program**

The Boat Inspection Program conducted 57 first-time inspections and a total of 68 inspections on Lakes Winnepesaukee and Winnisquam. Violations of sink and shower and/or Marine Sanitation Device regulations were the most common violations. The major source of violations continues to be boats brought in from other states, especially those coming from the ocean. Under pressure from local marine dealers, most manufacturers modify boats destined for New Hampshire to comply with the state's No-Discharge law.

### **Public Beach Inspection Program**

New Hampshire receives an annual EPA grant to enhance the existing Coastal Beach Program. The grant focuses on implementing and enhancing current monitoring and notification programs. New Hampshire has several goals including: 1) to identify and implement an improved beach advisory notification system; 2) to better identify sources of Enterococci (bacteria) and initiate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce bacteria loading; 3) to establish a beach recognition and rewards program for public beaches that provide safe and healthy recreational experiences, and; 4) to employ recent technological advances in beach monitoring. The NH Coastal Beach Program is considered one of the best in the country and these grants further the state's efforts to protect public health.

DES inspected a total of 15 coastal public swimming beaches. Coastal beaches were inspected twice per week, once per week, or once every other week for a total of 299 inspections. Six (6) coastal beach advisories were issued for exceedances of public beach water quality standards for Enterococci (bacteria).

DES inspected a total of 173 freshwater public swimming beaches, on a monthly schedule, for a total of 588 inspections. Forty-eight (48) freshwater public beaches were issued a total of 61 advisories for exceedances of the public beach water quality standards for E. coli. Six (6) freshwater beaches were issued cyanobacteria advisories for the presence of a potentially toxic cyanobacteria scum. Eighteen beach (18) advisories were issued at Ahern State Park, Laconia as a result of a pre-emptive advisory following > 0.25 inches of rainfall.

### **Exotic Species Program**

Milfoil Control Funds - DES provided milfoil grant funds to 15 organizations to chemically control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2006. Also, one grant was awarded to the Lake Massasecum Improvement Association to harvest variable milfoil from the northern end of the lake.

Milfoil and Other Exotic Plants Prevention Fund - DES issued grants to the New Hampshire Lakes Association for a Lake Host Program, to Milton Three Ponds Protective Association for prevention and Weed Watching activities, and to the Squam Lakes Association for work in preventing the spread of milfoil throughout the rest of the Squam Lakes system. One Milfoil Research Grant was awarded to Plymouth State University to evaluate the effects of 2, 4-D on benthic fauna in Kimball Marina on Little Squam Lake.

Public Education and Outreach - DES distributed 50 milfoil signs and 15,000 educational pamphlets throughout the state. There are more than 500 volunteer Weed Watchers from across the state working in cooperation with DES on more than 250 waterbodies.

Management of Exotic Plants - DES worked in 20 waterbodies using techniques such as hand-pulling, placement of bottom barriers, harvesting, and/or the application of herbicides to control exotic plants.

New Infestations of Variable milfoil - There were five new infestations of exotic aquatic plants in New Hampshire that were documented in 2006. They are as follows:

Halfmoon Pond, Barnstead - Lake residents and volunteer monitors found a few stems of variable milfoil in a shallow cove of the lake. DES responded immediately and staff hand-removed the plants by scuba diving. There was a small amount of re-growth, and DES dove a second time and also swam the entire cove to look for other infestations. Fortunately, no additional plants persisted. At this time, DES is not listing this lake as infested.

Great East Lake, Wakefield - Weed Watchers found three tall stems of variable milfoil near the boat launch. The plants were in one clump, and the Weed Watcher dove down and hand removed the plants and the roots and turned them over to DES for DNA verification. DES confirmed that the plants were variable milfoil and the Weed Watchers were instructed to boost their Weed Watcher activities in that cove and all around the lake. There were no

other plants found anywhere in the lake for the rest of the summer. At this time, DES is not listing this lake as infested.

Rockybound Pond, Croydon - A lake resident and a volunteer monitor found suspicious looking plants while snorkeling in the pond during the summer. She brought the plants in to DES, and they were identified as curly-leaf pondweed. DES dispatched two divers to check the site, and thanks to the efforts of the volunteer monitor who marked all the sites and the DES divers who worked to remove the infestations, the lake is now free from this invasive plant. At this time, DES is not listing this lake as infested.

Piscataquog River, Goffstown and Lake Pemigewasset, Meredith - Milfoil infestations were found in these waterbodies at the end of the growing season. These were not field inspected or verified in terms of the size of the infestations. It is suspected that the infestation in the Piscataquog River is extensive, based on the fact that Scobie Pond, the headwater of the river system, is also infested, and fragments have been known to flow out of the pond and downstream into the river. Both waterbodies were added to the infested list for this year, and will be field checked in 2007.

### **Clean Lakes Program**

Baboosic Lake, Amherst - DES is continuing to develop the draft Lake and Watershed Diagnostic Study. This report may remain as a draft due to an incomplete data set.

Partridge Lake, Littleton – The draft Lake and Watershed Diagnostic study was submitted to the lake association for review and comment in 2006. No additional comments were received from the Partridge Lake Property Owners Association or the Town. A presentation was made to the association and the town in 2006. Additional revisions to the Hydrologic and Nutrient budget occurred in the fall of 2006. It is anticipated that the final report will be available during the summer of 2007, following an internal, DES review.

Rust Pond, Wolfeboro - The draft Lake and Watershed Diagnostic study was completed in 2006 and has been reviewed internally at DES. The draft report will be sent out to the Rust Pond Association early in 2007.

Perkins Pond, Sunapee – The draft Lake and Watershed Diagnostic study was completed in December, 2006. Draft appendices should be finalized early in 2007. Perkins Pond is in the process of being evaluated using a land use based model, ArcView Generalized Watershed Loading Function (AVGWLF). The output of this model will be compared to the output of the standard diagnostic feasibility analysis. Future land use changes and their impact on the water quality of Perkins Pond will also be evaluated in 2007.

### **Lake Trophic Survey Program**

Limnological surveys were conducted at 41 stations on 39 different lakes in 2006. Many of these lakes have public boat access. Lake Sunapee was one of the lakes surveyed.

### **Mercury in Fish Program**

With tremendous assistance from the Fish and Game Department and some volunteer help, 204 fish were collected from the state's lakes and ponds in 2005. The fish were frozen upon collection and analyzed for total mercury in the DES Limnology Center in late 2005 and early 2006. In the winter of 2006, ten fish were collected and analyzed from the Winnepesaukee Ice Fishing Derby. In the summer of 2006, and again with outstanding cooperation from the Fish and Game Department, an additional 153 (approximately) fish were collected. As of the end of December, 2006, 61 of these fish have been analyzed; the remainder will be analyzed in early 2007. Most of the lakes and ponds from which the fish were collected have public access facilities.

### **Biomonitoring Program**

DES collected macro-invertebrate samples, evaluated fish populations, and conducted habitat assessments at 20 river stations. These data are used to assess the biological health of numerous streams, which support fishing access.

### **Surface Water Quality Assessments**

Water Quality Monitoring of Rivers – While DES has conducted these assessments for several years, there are a total of 9,628 river and stream miles that need to be tested. For the “swimming” designated use, 84% of the state’s river miles have not yet been assessed. Of the 16% of the river miles that have been assessed, 54% support swimming while 45% do not. For the “aquatic life support” designated use, 77% of the state’s river miles have not yet been assessed. Of the 23% of the river miles that have been assessed, 15% support aquatic life while 84% do not.

Water Quality Monitoring of Lakes – While DES has conducted these assessments for several years, there are a total of approximately 164,472 surface acres of lakes and ponds that need to be tested. For the “swimming” designated use, 28% of the state’s surface water acres have not yet been assessed. Of the 72% of the surface water acres that have been assessed, 92 % support swimming while 8 % do not. For the “aquatic life support” designated use 39% of the states surface waters have not been assessed. Of the 61% that have been assessed, 2% fully support aquatic life while 98% do not.

### **Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP)**

During 2006, approximately 450 volunteers throughout the state sampled a total of 164 lakes. In addition, it is estimated that the VLAP program generated approximately 14,000 total sample results in 2006. By sampling a lake several times each year over a period of years, long-term water quality trends can be discerned. The sampling efforts of the volunteer monitors supplement the sampling and assessment efforts of DES, saving the state personnel and travel costs. Only through the help of volunteer monitors can such a volume of sampling be accomplished throughout the state.

### **Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)**

During 2006, the VRAP program supported twenty-eight volunteer groups. VRAP volunteers monitored 298 river and stream water quality monitoring stations, providing over 9,000 water quality parameter measurements useable for the Clean Water Act mandated water quality assessments. For many of the VRAP rivers and tributaries, the volunteers are providing DES with its only source of water quality data. As with the VLAP program, the VRAP volunteers provide the agency with high quality data while saving the state significant expense.

### **Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP)**

Development of river trail and public access was identified in the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee’s (PiRLAC) River Corridor Management Plan. As a result, RMPP staff assisted PiRLAC in developing grant applications to support a river trail initiative that would stretch from Manchester to New Boston. The assistance resulted in PiRLAC receiving a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service to coordinate the creation of a recreational trail along the Piscataquog River. This success speaks to the effectiveness of the RMPP’s state and local partnerships to protect and manage New Hampshire’s designated rivers for their outstanding characteristics and resources.

### **Lakes Management and Protection Program**

Since the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) was first established in 1993, the Lakes Coordinator has served as the DES representative to the Board. In addition to providing the PWAAB with information specific to proposed waterfront state surplus land reviews, the Coordinator facilitated several meetings throughout the year and provided assistance to F&G regarding the proposed public boat access facility on Lake Winnisquam.

### **NH Coastal Program**

The Coastal Program spent 2006 updating the 1999 NH Coastal Access Map, and the revised map will be released in the spring of 2007. Existing access sites were visited and the owners/operators of these sites were contacted to be sure that location and related information is accurate and up-to-date. The updated map, which will be accessible in pdf format on the NH Coastal Program website, will include information for boaters, kayakers, hikers, and bird watching enthusiasts. The map includes all coastal boat access points and also offers a guide to hiking trails, fishing and wildlife viewing locations and will help visitors plan a day of outdoor activities on the beautiful coast of New Hampshire. The guide includes points of interest such as museums and science and education centers offering a wide range of nature-based entertainment for families.

*Department of Resources and Economic Development*  
*Public Waters Access*  
*Annual Report*  
*2006*

The Department of Resources and Economic Development manages 212 fee owned tracts comprising 159,727 acres, 29 conservation easements comprising 212,106 acres and manages 4 federally owned tracts comprising 13,446 acres for a range of natural resource values including public recreation and forest management. Many of DRED managed lands have water resources including developed beaches and boat launches, and lake, pond, river and stream access.

***Division of Parks and Recreation***

- Franconia Notch State Park, Echo Lake Boat Launch – Graveled the access road, trimmed brush and repaired shoulders at parking area.
- Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Working Forest Recreation Program – A grant was applied for in cooperation with the Pittsburg Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club and received from the Connecticut River Joint Commission to accomplish a riverbank restoration and protection project adjacent to Magalloway Road in Pittsburg. The project included installation of culverts, reshaping and resurfacing parking areas, installation of water bars, renaturalization of the river bank, and installation of steps to provide access to the Connecticut River at the one-mile bridge on Magalloway Road.
- Wadleigh State Park - Kearsarge Lake continues to regain its health after previous biological issues. Fresh Water clams are in abundance which is a good indicator that the water body is in good shape.
- Pawtuckaway State Park – Lake is continuing to have numerous bacterial “hits” throughout the past summer season. Beach postings were prevalent throughout the summer. DES is in the process of completing an in depth study of the water body and its surrounding area in order to attempt to determine what factors are causing the problems. The report is in its final stages and should be released shortly.
- Sunapee State Park - The beach is suffering severe erosion issues at the south end of the beach. The erosion is beginning to threaten the parking lot. In addition, the erosion is causing large chunks of soil to be brought into the water, making this part of the beach area basically unavailable for recreation use.
- Greenfield State Park – Lake continues to receive several bacterial “hits” through this past summer, especially in the “middle” beach area. Some speculation has suggested that these “hits” are due to the leaking septic tank in this area. The tank has been shut off and is scheduled to be replaced.
- Silver Lake State Park – The lake is spring fed which seems to allow the water to remain clean, i.e. no bacterial “hits”. The beach is suffering erosion problems due to a faulty drainage pipe.
- Bear Brook State Park - The two swimming areas remain relatively “healthy”. The campground beach, which is extremely small, is being overtaken by a grouping of lily pads. Removal of this grouping will need to be addressed in the near future in order to ensure that there remains a swim able area.
- Clough State Park – The Park was closed for this past summer due to the severe flooding this past fall and spring. Concern about tree health remains due to the tree trunks being under water during the spring growth season. The Division of Forest and Lands believes it will take up to 1 year in order to fully understand the impact, if any. The water was tested in late summer for bacteria and the tests were negative; bacteria absent. Park opening for next summer still is not clear due to potential damage to the parks bathhouse and plumbing infrastructure.

## ***Division of Parks and Recreation***

### ***– Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program***

Grant assistance was provided to the following for water based recreation;

#### City of Nashua: Senior Riverfront Park

The City of Nashua will develop a Seniors Riverfront Park abutting the Nashua River and connecting with the Nashua Riverfront Promenade. The park abuts the Senior Activity Center and Elderly Housing Complex. The park will include an expanded playground with swings for younger children, game tables for seniors, two wooden glider swings, picnic tables and benches, and bocce courts.

#### City of Laconia: Winnepesaukee River Access

The Laconia Historical and Recreational Riverwalk Car-top Boat Access point will provide visitors and residents of Laconia an opportunity to access the river by linking an existing public park and a proposed trailed boat access to this car-top access point.

#### Town of Alstead: Millot Green Restoration

The Town of Alstead will restore the Millot Green after it was damaged with the October 9, 2005 flood and subsequent clean-up of the flood. With this project the infrastructures they are re-building include; baseball field, basketball court, horse rink, picnic tables and benches along the river, and refurbishing of all plants that were once around the Cold River.

#### Town of Meredith: Waukewan Beach Bathhouse

The Town of Meredith is constructing a new bathhouse at Waukewan Beach located on Lake Waukewan. The new bathhouse will provide restrooms, changing area, baby changing station, drinking fountain, beach equipment storage, beach staff workspace, picnic tables, and a service window to serve patrons.

## ***Division of Forests and Lands***

### ***- Forest Legacy Program***

The Forest Legacy Program uses Conservation Easements to protect lands and include the following public access and recreational opportunities as outlined in section iii., “Outdoor Recreation”, of the conservation easement. Outdoor recreation is defined as low-impact, non-commercial activities pursued during leisure time and by free choice that provide their own satisfaction and that make use of nature and the elements in nature including, but not limited to, hiking, nature study, bird watching, walking, snow shoeing, camping, hunting and cross-country skiing; riding snowmobiles, mountain bicycles, and horses on designated trails, if any; and constructing and maintaining unpaved paths and trails.

Other motorized recreational vehicles may be permitted upon written mutual agreement by the Fee Owner and Easement Holder including; the right to control and manage public pedestrian access across the Easement Area, including hunting, fishing and trapping (trapping requires land owner written permission, but is expected to be granted); specific snowmobiling rights (traditional and negotiated) which are secured through a recorded Agreement; and the right to issues special permits to physically challenged enthusiasts for special recreational pursuits on the Easement area.

The “Moose Mountain” Forest Legacy land protection project – protected 2,189 acres in the towns of Brookfield and Middleton. The lands are owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests with DRED holding the conservation easement on the property. A summary of the easement rights held by the state include extensive snowmobile trail system across the Easement Area, secured in

perpetuity by a recorded Agreement and Trails Map and public pedestrian access to the following, ponds and streams:

Branch River	14,672 lf
Hall Brook	13,512 lf
Horn Brook	13,684 lf
Jones Brook	6,600 lf
Bowser Pond	265 lf



**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



**CAROL A. MURRAY, P.E.**  
**COMMISSIONER**

January 3, 2007

Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2006 the Department of Transportation actively participated as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Board. Currently the Department is readily engaged in actions to improve public access to Lake Winnepesaukee at Harillas Landing, Great Bay at Hilton Park and the Pemigewasset River in Woodstock.

Through the efforts of the Department's Division of Project Development, public access was improved to Webster Lake in Franklin, the Contoocook River in Peterborough, and to the Connecticut River in Stratford. Additionally, the Department continues to investigate opportunities to improve access to public waters during the design process of our projects through regularly scheduled inter-agency coordination meetings with various natural resource agencies.

The Department is pleased to be a partner in the worthy endeavor to provide adequate access to the public waters of our State.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Michael P. Pillsbury  
Michael P. Pillsbury, P.E.  
Assistant Director, Division of Operations

# NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND PLANNING

## ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

The role of the Office of Energy and Planning as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Committee is: 1) to assist in providing information and planning guidance regarding for the development of access to New Hampshire's water bodies and 2) to provide an up-to-date inventory of the water access sites in New Hampshire.

This year OEP organized a presentation on the “**Water Recreation Opportunity Spectrum**” (**WROS**) developed by Dr. Robert Aukerman and Dr. Glen Haas for the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The WROS provides a framework for planning and managing recreation opportunities.

Dr. Robert Aukerman and Dr. Glen Haas that “water recreation management is no longer a matter of simply building a boat ramp, parking area and restroom. Water recreation management involves a thorough understanding of the water resource and its capability, current and future visitors, the type of experiences sought, regional recreation demand and supply, resource management planning, economic and non-economic valuation, visitor capacity and other dimensions.” Further, there is no such thing as an “average visitor”.

The presentation to PWAAB highlighted the variety of activities, physical settings, social attributes and managerial requirements in urban, suburban, rural developed, rural natural, semi-primitive, and primitive settings. The presentation also briefly reviewed how the WROS process was used in planning for and siting a new facility at the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area in California.

OEP also demonstrated the database and website of the water access sites in New Hampshire was presented. New sites have been added to the database.

Additionally, OEP is working with state agencies that hold land in New Hampshire, to develop a database of all state holdings in close proximity to water bodies.

**ARCHITECTURAL BARRIER-FREE  
DESIGN COMMITTEE**

David Gleason,  
Co-Chair

Jeffrey Marden,  
Co-Chair

Cheryl L. Killam, Accessibility Specialist

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January 31, 2007

Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Chairman Quarles,

As the staff person to the Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee [AB Committee], I am pleased to submit this report which summarizes my activities during 2006. The Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee advises the Governor and Council on the accessibility of all state agencies and properties.

As the Accessibility Specialist for the Governor's Commission on Disability, I provide technical assistance on compliance with the accessibility codes that apply in the State of New Hampshire. To that end, I have evaluated over 200 of the 309 polling places in the state, all but 4 of the courthouses – two of which are not accessible, several state parks, and most of the facilities which house state agencies. I have only visited one state public water access site – that being Merrymeeting Lake, in New Durham. I provided one plan review for state public water access - the Winnisquam Access Site - and reported my acceptance of those plans to the Public Water Access Advisory Board in November, 2006.

On June 15, 2006, I met with representatives from Concord 20/20 and H.L. Turner, Inc. to review their proposed design for a new public access site for the Merrimack River, located at the Everett Arena in Concord. A representative from Concord 20/20 stated that they had been working on these plans for many years, but they were not brought to the attention of the AB Committee until August 22, 2006. The AB Committee visited the site on August 31, 2006. The City of Concord issued a building permit for this project sometime after July 27, 2006 but prior to September 18. On September 18, the AB Committee received a code waiver request submitted by H.L. Turner Group on behalf of Concord 20/20 “for providing a handicap accessible pathway to its proposed temporary boat dock and gangway facility to be located at Waterfront Park on the Merrimack River at the Everett Arena, Loudon Road” in Concord, New Hampshire. On December 19, 2006, the Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee voted unanimously to deny this waiver request.

I have filed my annual report with the New England ADA Technical Assistance Center, which covers my activities from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. Below are some of the statistics from that report.

Total number of state agency leases reviewed = 33

Total number of telephone calls = 1476

Technical Assistance = 526

Complaints = 360

Total amount of correspondence (email, mail, fax) = 2892

Site-survey total = 107

Total number of plan reviews = 43

Number of educational seminars provided = 44

Total amount of people trained = 1139

Public Awareness Activities [Exhibits, newspaper, radio, television interviews] = 40

I am now in the process of reviewing the data on the accessibility of public water access sites and look forward to being further involved with access to public waters.

Cheryl L. Killam  
Accessibility Specialist