

Frequently Asked Questions

Public Lake Use and Shoreline Use Permitting Policy

Under its FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) license, it is our policy to manage its lands and waters at Lake Wallenpaupack in accordance with federal, state and local laws and ordinances; to protect the scenic, recreational and environmental values of the lake; and to restrict the uses of its lands and waters to promote their full use and enjoyment by the general public.

Listed below are some of the most frequently asked questions regarding our policy. For an online copy of the policy, please visit www.lakewallenpaupackhydro.com and then click on "Property Ownership".

General

1. What is the difference between the Project Line (FERC Boundary) and the normal high water mark?

In most locations, we own the basin of the lake and a strip of land that runs along the edge of Lake Wallenpaupack. The strip of land we own around Lake Wallenpaupack is not always the same width. The Project Line is the same as the FERC Boundary in *most* locations around Lake Wallenpaupack.

The normal high water mark is the level that the lake normally reaches by June 1 of each year (Elevation 1187).

2. I heard that the project property fronting my property was inspected. How do I find out the results of that inspection? Inspection results are always in writing and are sent to you by mail.

3. How do you measure land encroachments?

When measuring land encroachments, we take into consideration the total encroachment on our property. For instance, when measuring a path, any border placed along the sides of the path is included in the total measurement.

4. What are the guidelines for burning on your property?

Any fire burned on our property must be contained in a loose stone fire pit or circle. Burning in the fire pit or circle is subject to local ordinances and restrictions. Only natural materials such as leaves and vegetation matter may be burned on our property. Any burning of garbage or household waste in the fire circle is strictly prohibited. Burning is not permitted below the normal high-water mark (Elevation 1187) of the lake. The fire pit or circle must not exceed a total encroachment size of 4 feet wide by 4 feet long and 1 foot high.

5. What does it mean to allow something to “naturally regress”? To allow something to return to its original state over time.

6. Am I allowed to store gasoline on my dock?

The storage of gasoline, oil, propane or any other combustible material is strictly prohibited on docks or on our property for environmental as well as safety reasons. The only allowable propane is a 20 pound tank attached to a grill during the active boating season.

7. Am I allowed to fuel my boat or PWC from my dock?

Yes, gassing up your boat from a dock is permitted as long as the gas is removed from our property when done. It cannot be stored on our property. However, many communities and marinas do not allow residents to use gas on their docks and you must abide by their regulations.

Vegetation - Tree Removal - Landscaping

8. What do I do if there is a dead tree(s) on your property?

If there is a dead tree on our property that might affect a home or other structure, please contact our office to arrange a site visit with our consulting forester. Any vegetation must be assessed by our forester. When appropriate, a permit will be issued to the front-lot owner authorizing the removal. Front-lot owner is financially responsible for removal, once permit is issued.

9. Do I need a permit to remove vegetation within the lake?

For any issues pertaining to vegetation removal, please contact our office to arrange a site visit with our consulting forester.

10. As a front-lot owner, how can I possibly improve my view from my home at Lake Wallenpaupack?

Under our vegetation removal permit system, there are two types of "vista view" permits granted to improve a front-lot owner's view of the lake. Front-lot owners can request one of the following:

- Ground level to 10' - This permit will allow front-lot owners to remove side branches on trees located on our land up to 10' above ground level to the extent of their frontage on our land as long as it does not affect the health of the specific trees.
- 12' X 12' window - This permit will allow front-lot owners to remove side branches on specific trees located on our land to provide a open window measuring 12' square through the forest canopy to obtain a specific view of the lake as long as it does not affect the health of trees in question.

This is the only vegetation-related permit that has a cost associated with issuance. The cost of this permit is \$60, payable when the forester visits the site. Please contact our office to arrange a site visit.

11. Can I spray herbicide on your property?

Yes, herbicides containing glyphosate (brand name Roundup) can be used on our property but it requires a vegetation removal permit. Please contact our office.

12. What do I do with all the leaves on your property?

The raking of leaves into the lake basin, i.e. below the normal high-water mark (Elevation 1187) of the lake, is prohibited for environmental reasons. Once in the water, leaves break down and release nutrients which promote excessive algae growth. The leaves can be burned in a loose stone fire pit or circle, raked, or completely removed from our property.

13. Why can't I landscape project property?

While we can appreciate the aesthetic effect that landscaping can have for a property, our goal for our property is to keep the lake and its surrounding land looking as natural as possible and to preserve the natural beauty that surrounds Lake Wallenpaupack. Broadcasting wood chips, mulch or gravel across our property or planting vegetation which is non-native to this area does not preserve that natural beauty nor does it help to maintain the aesthetic character of the project lands; therefore these actions are not permitted.

Water Uses (docks, mooring buoys and floats)

14. How are docks measured? (see sketch illustrating width vs. length)

A maximum dock length of 50 feet per front-lot property is permitted, unless otherwise limited by us in the Standard Shoreline Use Permit. Dock length may be limited due to restricted water space. This length is measured from the beginning of the first section containing flotation. The width of the dock is dependent on the front-lot property width at the Project Line. Please refer to table in the "Shoreline Use Permitting Policy".



15. I bought a bigger boat; can I have a bigger dock?

Our dock size regulations have been in place for decades and will not change due to boat size. The permitted sizes take into consideration boating safety and navigation concerns to keep the lake as safe as possible.

16. My neighbors dock is too close to mine, what can be done?

We require that the dock be positioned as close as possible to the midpoint of the property. If the dock cannot be placed near the centerline, positioning must be done so as to not impose upon the water frontage of adjacent front-lot owners. We will not mediate such disagreements.

17. Where do I display the yellow permit tag? Why do I have to mark all sections of my dock, mooring buoy and float with a permit number? Do my Jet Ski docks also need to be marked?

We provide you with one yellow permit tag. The yellow permit tag must be affixed to the front of your dock facing the lake. The number on the yellow permit tag is your property identification number or your permit number. The number will not change even if you sell the property. In addition to displaying the yellow permit tag on the front of the dock your permit number must also be displayed on each section of the dock, including any Jet Ski docks, as well as any permitted mooring buoy or float. It is the front-lot owner's responsibility to find the means by which to mark all permitted water based uses with the permit number.

All sections of docks, Jet Ski docks, mooring buoys and floats must be clearly marked with your permit number for identification purposes as well as in instances where dock pieces break free and are found to be floating in the lake. We can then notify the rightful owner when dock is found.

18. What can I use to mark my dock sections, mooring buoy or float with the permit number? Do you have a certain size, color or location for these numbers?

There are a variety of methods which people use to mark their sections. The most common is the use of a stencil with spray paint. Others have used vinyl numbers, house numbers from a hardware store, or have found a sign company that makes a durable tag, similar to the one we provide. We do not regulate the size, color or location of the numbers. Our only request is that the numbers be large enough and placed in a location where they can easily be seen. They can be any color you wish and of any material as long as the result is somewhat permanent in nature. The use of a permanent marker is not recommended as the numbers will not last more than a couple months.

19. I never received a yellow permit tag from you, how do I get one?

Please call the Lake Office at 1-877-775-5253 to be put on the order list. In the meantime, it is the front-lot owner's responsibility to find the means to mark all permitted water based uses.

20. Are personal watercraft (i.e. Jet Ski) docks/ramps included in the total permissible width of my dock?

Yes, front-lot property owners are permitted to install a personal watercraft, i.e. Jet Ski, lift or ramp onto docks as long as the ramp or lift does not extend beyond the permitted dock width or length as described in the Standard Shoreline Use Permit. For community and commercial properties, personal watercrafts are counted towards your allowable watercraft on your license agreement.

21. When do docks and other water encroachments need to be removed from the lake and when can they be put back in?

Docks and other floating structures, i.e. floats and mooring buoys, must be removed from the lake by Dec. 1 and shall not be placed back in the lake prior to ice being gone.

22. I have a floating trampoline. Do I need a permit to put it in the lake?

Yes, a Standard Shoreline Use Permit is required to have a floating trampoline in the lake. Please refer to "Shoreline Use Permitting Policy" for size limits.

23. I have shallow water at the end of my dock, what can I do?

If you have less than 4 feet of water at the end of your permitted dock, you may qualify for a dock extension. To apply, contact the Lake Office at 1-877-775-5253. Dock extension agreements require us to make a site visit to take a depth measurement. Since this service is at your request, there is a \$75 non-refundable fee charged.

24. I cannot store my dock above Elevation 1187, what can I do?

Under no circumstance do we allow docks to be stored below 1,187 feet (normal high water mark). Alternative arrangements will need to be made.

25. If I purchase a lakefront property, will I qualify for the same size dock as the previous owner?

As long as the current property owner is in compliance with our Standard Shoreline Use Permit, the new owner may qualify for the same size dock. The new owner must apply for permits in their name and applications are reviewed on an individual basis. Permits are not automatically transferred to new owners.

26. Is Styrofoam being banned from the lake?

No, we has no immediate plans for the banning the use of Styrofoam under docks on Lake Wallenpaupack. The use of barrels as a flotation material is not permitted and the use of barrels is being phased out. Currently, you may use Styrofoam or encapsulated Styrofoam under your dock.

Permits

27. What is covered under a Standard Shoreline Use Permit?

This type of permit allows, where applicable, standard land uses as well as a dock, mooring buoy, and float. Standard land uses include gravel or loose stone path, wooden or loose stone steps, wooden or loose stone patio, loose stone fire pit, shoreline lighting, a storage box, a flag pole, and a reasonable amount of lawn furniture. All of these standard uses must be installed inland of the normal high water mark. Standard land uses are subject to the additional requirements in the "Shoreline Use Permitting Policy".

28. Why do I need a Nonstandard Shoreline Use Permit?

Front-lot owners interested in doing any work at or below the normal high water mark or any work which causes more than minor earth disturbances on our property requires a Nonstandard Shoreline Use Permit. Examples include, but are not limited to, steps and gravel paths below the normal high water mark and loose stone walls at the normal high water mark. A \$300 non-refundable application fee applies. In most cases, federal, state or local regulatory approval and/or permits will be required.

29. I have shoreline erosion and would like to do repairs. What approvals or authorizations do I need?

Front-lot owners may want to install certain structures on our property for the purposes of stabilizing the shoreline in order to maintain the aesthetic character of the lands fronting their property. Or perhaps you have an existing stone wall at the normal high water mark and it is beginning to fall down and you would like to repair it. To begin this process, you must apply for a Nonstandard Shoreline Use Permit. Typically, due to the shoreline stabilization structure being of mutual benefit to us, the \$300 application fee is waived. As with other nonstandard property uses, the front-lot property owner must acquire additional necessary federal, state and local permits prior to receiving our permission for these structures.

30. If I request cancellation of one or more permissions (dock, buoy, float) on my Standard Shoreline Use Permit, can I get them back at a later time?

Once individual permission(s) are removed from your Standard Shoreline Use Permit, they can only be re-activated by your submission and our approval of an Application for Permit form. An application fee of \$150 will be assessed to this request (this fee is in addition to the permit fees).