



Fishing & Boating on Lake Auburn

It might not feel much like spring at the moment, but it is technically here! Ice-out will be here too before we know it, and with that will come opportunities to fish, boat, and enjoy the lake! While Lake Auburn is a beautiful place to enjoy all kinds of outdoor activities, it's important to remember that it is also a public drinking water supply. In order to keep the water as clean as possible, there are some special rules in place for those recreating in the watershed:

- Bodily contact of any kind with the water is not allowed, and is subject to a \$2,500 fine.
- Domestic animals are not allowed to wade or swim in the lake, basin, or any streams within the watershed.
- The southerly portion of the lake is a no activity zone – fishing (including from the shore) and boating (including kayaks and canoes) is not allowed in this area (see map).
- Sailboats, sailboards, windsurfers, jet skis, rubber rafts, catamarans, water skis and all other personal watercraft are not allowed anywhere on Lake Auburn.
- Kayaks used on Lake Auburn and the Basin must have a closed hull, be 12 ft. or longer, and the operator must wear a spray skirt.
- The public boat launch (located on Rte. 4; open sunrise to sunset) is required for all trailered launchings and preferred for all boat launchings. Canoes and kayaks can also be launched from the north end of the lake, by the junction of Lake Shore Drive and North Auburn Road.

In addition to following all general fishing laws set by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, there are also some special laws for fishing in Lake Auburn and the surrounding areas:

- Lake Auburn and all direct tributaries are closed to the taking of smelts. (codes S-1, S-3)
- In Lake Auburn, there is a daily bag limit on togue: 3 fish; minimum length limit: 14 in., only 1 may exceed 18 in. (code S-26)
- In Basin Brook, there is a daily limit on brook trout (including splake and Arctic charr): 2 fish. (code S-19)

For a complete list of rules relating to the recreational use of Lake Auburn, visit the [boating and use rules page](#) on the city of Auburn site. For a complete list of fishing regulations, see the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife [fishing laws page](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Lunch Walks

- **When:** Tuesdays in April 12-1pm
- **Where:** Whitman Spring Road Trail - south gate

LAWPC Meeting

- **When:** Wednesday April 9 3pm
- **Where:** 125 Manley Rd. Auburn

Tree ID Nature Walk

- **When:** Saturday April 19 11am
- **Where:** Whitman Spring Road Trail - north gate

Introduction to Birding

- **When:** Tuesday May 6 4-6pm
- **Where:** Auburn Public Library

Birding Walk

- **When:** Saturday May 10 Time TBD
- **Where:** Whitman Spring Road Trail - south gate

For more information about upcoming events, visit the [events page on our website](#): www.lakeauburnwater.org



This event is not hosted by LAWPC, but is a great way to learn about birding before our walk on May 10! Visit the Auburn Public Library's [event page](#) for more details.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to partner with us, or have ideas for events, volunteering opportunities, or other things you'd like to see happening in the watershed, let us know! Send us an email at lakeauburnwater@lakeauburnwater.org, or fill out our general inquiries form at [this link](#). We look forward to hearing from you!



Photo by Danielle Olsen



Photo by Susan Beane



Turner local Rob Crosby and scientists from the Biodiversity Research Institute free a Lake Auburn loon from fishing line.

How Can I Help? Fishing line disposal

If you've spent any time on the shores of Lake Auburn, you've probably seen white PVC tubes attached to signposts, tree trunks, or railings. These are monofilament disposal tubes, used by anglers to safely discard fishing line. Read on to learn how these tubes help your watershed:

What's the problem? Improperly discarded fishing line - tangled in trees, lying on the ground, or left in the water

Why does it matter? Fishing line is generally made of plastic, which means it takes hundreds of years to even begin to break down. Any living thing - plant, bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, or reptile - that lives in or around a fishing area is at risk of getting tangled in stray line. Depending on the severity of the tangle, there may be loss of blood flow to limbs, impaired mobility, or even starvation. Fishing line can disrupt aquatic plant growth, which provides critical fish habitat. It can accumulate in the bodies of fish, birds, and reptiles over time. It also looks similar to many of the materials birds use to build their nests (like grasses, reeds, and horse hair) and so can be accidentally chosen by birds as nesting material. Nestlings born in these nests are likely to get tangled and die.

What can I do to help? If you are fishing on Lake Auburn or the Basin, put your used line in these tubes! Don't put trash, cigarette butts, or anything but line in them - they are maintained by volunteers, and the line is sent away to be recycled. Pick a fishing location away from trees and branches to avoid getting your line caught, and keep your line in an old coffee can or other container so that it's not loose on the ground.

How can I get more involved? Volunteer to help monitor the tubes, or let us know when they are full by emailing lakeauburnwater@lakeauburnwater.org.

Watershed Outreach

Hello! I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and explain my role with Lake Auburn. My name is Phoebe Hopkins and I joined the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission (LAWPC) in February 2025 as the new Watershed Outreach Coordinator. I am incredibly excited to join the caring, involved community that I know this area to be. Before joining LAWPC I taught high school science for seven years, and prior to that I was involved in research and conservation work through a number of different organizations. I am excited to connect with the local community through the Watershed Outreach role, and to learn about the events, programs, and opportunities that you all would like to see LAWPC offer. I love suggestions and feedback! Feel free to email me at lakeauburnwater@lakeauburnwater.org.



Nature Notes

As temperatures rise and rain begins, many frogs and salamanders will migrate this month from their hibernation spots to breeding pools. Often this means crossing busy roads, which can be a treacherous task for a tiny amphibian! Maine Big Night is a community-science organization that trains volunteers to monitor roads and help amphibians cross safely. Visit www.mainebignight.org to learn more about this important work, and drive slowly on rainy nights to give these creatures a chance!



Reptiles & Amphibians



Birds

Bluebirds are inspecting bird houses this month to find nesting sites. Eastern bluebirds are native in Maine, and their populations have been slowly increasing after a steep decline in the early 1900s due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and competition. Look for eastern bluebirds in open habitat like fields, and around snags (dead trees) where they like to nest.



Photo & logo by Maine Big Night

Photo by Matt Cuda via Getty Images



Thank You

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission (LAWPC) is incredibly grateful to have community members like you who care about Lake Auburn and support the protection of the watershed. Together, we can protect the drinking water source for tens of thousands of our neighbors in Auburn and Lewiston, provide a multitude of recreation opportunities, and keep Lake Auburn beautiful and clean for many years to come.

Was this newsletter forwarded to you by a friend? If you'd like to receive our monthly newsletters, [sign up here.](#)

Join Us!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with LAWPC, please fill out our [general inquiries form](#) or email us at lakeauburnwater@lakeauburnwater.org. We are always looking for volunteers, and can work with you to find the best fit for your individual or group needs. We look forward to hearing from you!

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