

Lakes Association

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Representatives

EAST HADDAM LAKES ASSOCIATION 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET REQUEST

East Haddam's Three Lakes are: Bashan Lake-273 acres, Lake Hayward-174 acres and Moodus Reservoir-486 acres. Each Lake has a CT. State Boat Launch

The lake communities of Bashan Lake, Lake Hayward, and Moodus Reservoir represent nearly 20% of the Town's Real Estate Grand List. This is largely due to the significant additional property taxation of about \$1,200,000 levied on them via higher valuation factors. It is in the Town's financial interest to support this important tax revenue source by contributing funds to the substantial private financial expenditures made by the lake communities to protect, preserve and remediate issues facing the lakes. The health and recreational value of the lakes drive property values and resulting increased tax revenues. Sought after lake life helps make East Haddam a desirable and attractive town.

The current threats to the economic value of the three lakes and the properties surrounding them are varied. They consist of invasive aquatic species, excessive algae blooms, storm water runoff and erosion and pollution from poorly functioning septic systems, excessive fertilization, pesticides and detergents. Each lake has a Ct. State boat launch which makes the control of invasive aquatic weeds more challenging and expensive to control. In addition, the issues of over-development and out-of-character development are facing each lake community.

Consistent with prior years, the rationale for the 2023-24 budget request is based on the 1999 Economic Study conducted by the University of Connecticut and Ct Department of Environment and Energy Protection (funded by the U.S. EPA's Clean Lakes Program) entitled "How Much is a Lake Worth To You"...If water quality issues are ignored, tax revenues from lake properties will decrease in direct relation to the deteriorating water quality of the lakes; and if water quality drops to the point where it is unsafe to swim and/or each fish caught in the lakes, lake property values will drop in the range of 36-43%. What does this mean for East Haddam? This could correlate to a tax revenue loss in the range of \$1.650,000 to \$1,9200,000 or 6.2% to 7.2% of tax revenues.

The three Lakes Associations' budget request is made to help with many projects currently in action and for the future to prevent the decline of the quality of our three lakes. These include professional services for herbicide applications, mechanical weed treatment operations, in water testing to measure bacteria levels and other physical, chemical and biological lake parameters necessary to determine further actions required. New emphasis has been placed on the harmful algae blooms (HABS) which are a concern as our climate changes. Monitoring these factors requires professional guidance and laboratory services. In addition to this monitoring, we need to keep our public educated on these topics, risks and prevention methods. This is done with newsletters, e-mails, websites, and in-person presentations. Major products also include state required dam repair and the creation of a bio-detention basin.

	Projected Expense	Request from Town
Bashan Lake	\$26,514	\$13,257
Lake Hayward	31,900	15,950
Moodus Reservoir	23,000	11,500



Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Major Service Level Accomplishments

BASHAN LAKE

- Mapping of milfoil and fanwort was done on several occasions by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES). Fanwort has spread significantly from the boat launch to the large island near the boat launch. Benthic barriers used to smother the weeds have not been effective in stopping the spread.
- CAES mapped and checked the lake for milfoil, fanwort and hydrilla. Hydrilla is a highly invasive weed found in the Connecticut River at the Salmon River boat launch. To date, hydrilla has not been found in Bashan Lake.
- Working with the Town of East Haddam and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the DEEP granted Bashan Lake a 3-foot drawdown starting November 1, 2022 and closing the gate on or about March 1, 2023.
- Bashan Lake Association kept lake residents informed of boating regulations and safety issues.
- Completed a review of the State of Connecticut Boater's Guidelines and ensured Bashan Lake residents were informed.
- Developed a plan to prevent new invasive weeds from getting into Bashan Lake.
- Completed water quality testing at points of high runoff into the lake and at the association beaches.

LAKE HAYWARD

- Continued our twice monthly in season water quality testing with sampling professionally analyzed.
- Completed a bio detention basin on Association purchased property to curb nutrient runoff.
- Continued performing sampling of tributaries leading into our lake to determine nutrient levels using conductivity meters and professionally analyzed samples.
- Our Watershed Management Plan was approved by DEEP
- Continued our invasive aquatic weed mitigation treatment.
- Continued weekly in season newsletter submission to educate residents about lake preservation.

MOODUS RESERVOIR PRESERVATION GROUP

- Volunteers operated the Ecoharvester and removed approximately 120 loads of weeds from the upper and lower Moodus Reservoir, approximately 360 cubic feet.
- MRPG continued to partner with Berryhill Farm to dispose of the weeds. The farm uses the weeds as a fertilizer as part of their organic farming practices.
- The operations committee trained 15 volunteers to operate the Ecoharvester.
- We hosted our annual picnic in August 2022 and raised \$2,700. We also used this event to mingle with existing members, gain new memberships and educate guests.
- Continued to encourage outside participation via news articles, newsletters, e-mail blasts, website and Facebook postings.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Major Service Level Goals

BASHAN LAKE

- Continue to assist in the development of lake maintenance and protection programs and strategies appropriate for Bashan Lake.
- Water sampling of streams and beaches.
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) will map and check the lake for milfoil, fanwort and hydrilla and any new invasive weeds.
- Treatment of invasive weeds as necessary. Fanwort will be treated in 2023.
- Continue working with the Town of East Haddam and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), to initiate a 3-foot drawdown starting November 1, 2023.
- Review the State of Connecticut Boater's Guidelines for any changes and ensure Bashan Lake residents are fully informed on all regulations.
- Apply for grant money for education on preventing new invasive weeds from getting into Bashan Lake.

LAKE HAYWARD

- Continue our twice monthly in season water quality testing with sampling professionally analyzed.
- Start new projects focused on curbing runoff from our residences and nearby farms.
- Continue to perform regular sampling of tributaries leading to the lake to help determine the cause of algae outbreaks.
- Continue working on geese deterrence to prevent E Coli outbreaks.
- Continue aquatic invasive weed mitigation program.
- Continue submissions to weekly in season newsletter for educational purposes.
- Host an educational event
- Aid our Dam Committee in the work needed to implement repairs needed as recommended by our last inspection.

MOODUS RESERVOIR PRESERVATION GROUP

- Continue fundraising activities to obtain funds necessary for ongoing operating and maintenance costs associated with the Ecoharvester.
- Pursue Grant funds from various organizations.
- Operate the Ecoharvester during the summer and fall seasons and tackle the weed problems in all accessible areas. We are hopeful to accomplish this goal by enlisting more volunteers.
- Monitor the progress of weed control on the Moodus Reservoir and consult with Greg Bugbee of the CT DEEP as needed.

Additional Budget Information

BASHAN LAKE

LAKE HAYWARD

MOODUS RESERVOIR PRESERVATION GROUP

MRPG's budget is similar to the prior year as the largest expenses are Ecoharvester fuel and maintenance. Fuel prices have remained high and consistent with the prior year budget request.

The Lakes Association would like the Board of Finance to establish a policy that transfers any remaining funds for each Lake at the end of each fiscal year into their reserve funds.

Expenditures by Expense Type

Name	Account ID	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Budgeted	FY24 Requests as of 2-9-23b (General Fund)	FY2023 Budgeted vs. FY24 Requests as of 2-9-23b (General Fund) (\$ Change)	FY2023 Budgeted vs. FY24 Requests as of 2-9-23b (General Fund) (% Change)
Expense Objects								
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10545130-53400			\$14,743		\$0	\$0	N/A
BASHAN LAKE	10545130-77301	\$6,645	\$3,000		\$11,111	\$26,514	\$15,403	138.6%
<i>Lake Restoration</i>	10545130-77301	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,499	\$15,499	N/A
<i>Public Education</i>	10545130-77301	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$300	N/A
<i>Aquatic Plant Monitoring</i>	10545130-77301	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,899	\$7,899	N/A
<i>Water Drawdown</i>	10545130-77301	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,816	\$2,816	N/A
LAKE HAYWARD	10545130-77302	\$7,500	\$7,500		\$11,111	\$31,900	\$20,789	187.1%
<i>Invasive Weed Control Treatment</i>	10545130-77302	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,000	\$14,000	N/A
<i>Water Quality Testing and Monitoring</i>	10545130-77302	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,500	\$10,500	N/A
<i>Public Education</i>	10545130-77302	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500	N/A
<i>Misc. Adjustment</i>	10545130-77302	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,500	\$5,500	N/A
<i>Watershed Stream Sampling</i>	10545130-77302	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,400	N/A
MOODUS RESERVOIR	10545130-77303	\$449	\$3,787		\$11,111	\$23,000	\$11,889	107%
<i>Lake Restoration</i>	10545130-77303	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,500	\$22,500	N/A
<i>Public Education</i>	10545130-77303	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500	N/A
Total Expense Objects:		\$14,594	\$14,287	\$14,743	\$33,332	\$81,414	\$48,082	144.3%

