



LAKE GEORGE ASSOCIATION

Protecting Our Water. Educating for the Future.

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Lake George Association Statement In Support Of Lake George Park Commission's Proposal To Increase Dock and Boat Fees

The Lake George Association is the guardian of Lake George water quality, and has been for more than 130 years. Founded in 1885, our membership is composed of thousands of residents, visitors and business owners who care deeply about protecting Lake George from the perils that face modern lakes.

The LGA regularly partners with the Lake George Park Commission on projects to protect Lake George water, which have paid dividends in the past and present, and will continue to do so in the future.

The Lake George Association fully supports the Lake George Park Commission's proposal to increase its boat and dock fees for the first time since 2002.

Unlike other state agencies, the Lake George Park Commission is not funded out of the state budget. The fees levied by the Park Commission on docks and boats are placed in a trust fund that finances the commission's operations and its lake-based protection programs and initiatives.

The current fund balance is being depleted at a faster rate than the total amount of fees being deposited each year – an issue that the Park Commission has been contending with for about six years. But the increase in the cost of operations plus the increase in the number of programs – battling Asian clams and Eurasian watermilfoil, undertaking important studies on ways to protect the water, expanding the coverage of the Marine Patrol and its services, overseeing and reviewing projects, and conducting stormwater project work – has taken its toll on the Park Commission's ability to stretch its trust fund.

Without the fee increase, the Park Commission will not be able to sustain its current level of Lake protection and the Lake George Association is concerned about what that might mean in the fight against milfoil, the Marine Patrol's protection of boaters, and many of the Commission's other programs.

The fee increase is expected to make the Park Commission's operations fund fiscally solvent for another decade or more. No organization likes to increase its fees, and we understand that this increase may cause some hardship throughout our membership. But the Lake George Association believes that this reasonable increase will allow the Park Commission to operate for at least another 10 to 15 years at its current level as the LGA's regulatory partner in protecting Lake George water quality.