



Lake George Park Commission

Spring 2014 Update

Beginning May 15, 2014 all trailered vessels must be inspected prior to launching on Lake George.

The Lake George Park Commission has implemented a mandatory boat inspection and decontamination program as part of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread Prevention Program for Lake George.

The Lake George Park Commission will be implementing a new regulatory initiative with the objective of preventing the introduction of new aquatic invasive species into Lake George and the spread of aquatic invasive species into other waterbodies. New regulations have been developed to create and implement a pilot mandatory boat inspection and washing program. These regulations will be in effect as a pilot effort from May 15, 2014 through December 31, 2015.

Beginning May 15, 2014, all trailered boats being launched into Lake George must undergo an inspection at one of the six regional inspection stations around Lake George before they launch. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that boats and trailers are clean, drained and dry, and are harboring no invasive species. Our goal is to keep Lake George clean for the future, so that we can all enjoy this lake in its current high quality state for generations to come. There is **no cost** to boaters for these inspections, or the washing of the boat and trailer if determined necessary by an inspection technician.

How will it work?

- Step 1:** Make sure your boat is **CLEAN, DRAINED, AND DRY** before you arrive.
- Step 2:** Before you launch, make sure you have a Lake George Park Commission boat registration sticker. *You can register online through our website, by mail or in person at our office, or in person at one of 40 vendors around the lake.*
- Step 3:** Before you go to your favorite launch, visit one of the six Regional Inspection Stations. *Map of locations on back side, or go to www.LGBoatInspections.com as of April 1 for details.*
- Step 4:** Get your boat and trailer inspected, and if needed, your boat and trailer decontaminated (washed with high pressure, hot water). *There is no cost for the inspection or the decontamination (if needed).*
- Step 5:** That's it! Go to the launch of your choice and enjoy a day on Lake George!!

This program is made possible at no cost to boaters through funding from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, Warren County, local municipalities, the Fund for Lake George and the Lake George Association.

Save time and get out on the water faster.

Arrive at the inspection station:

Clean

Clean and remove all visible plants, animals, fish, and mud from your boat, trailer, or other equipment.

Drained

Drain water from motor, bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, storage compartments and any other locations.

Dry

Dry your boat, trailer, and all equipment including bumpers, ropes, and anchors.

Turn over to find out more about how you can help protect Lake George from the introduction of new AIS and how to plan ahead for mandatory boat inspections.



The Inspection Process

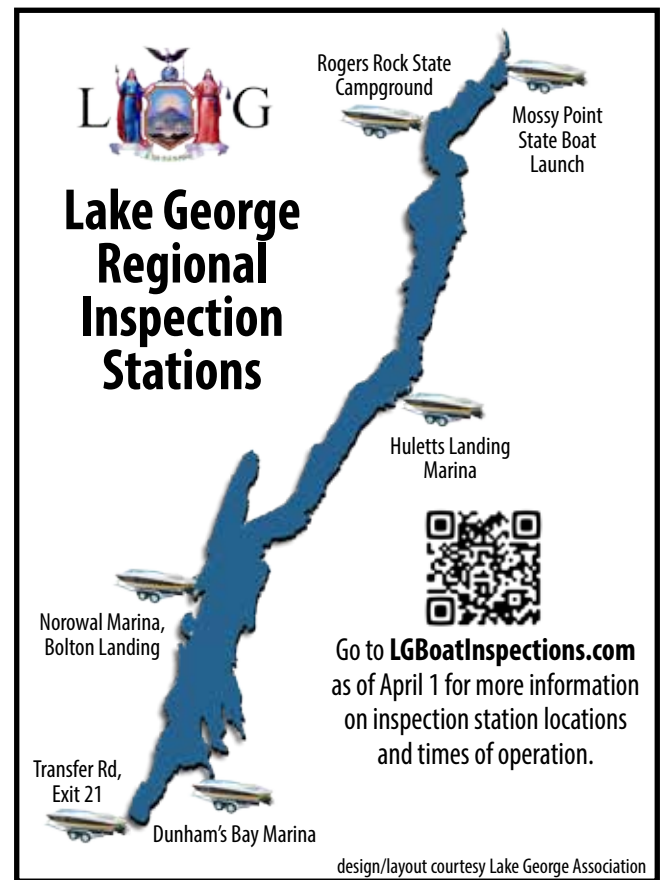
Note: Only trailered vessels are required to be inspected prior to launching in Lake George (this includes personal watercraft). Canoes, kayaks, etc. are not subject to mandatory inspections however they should still be clean, drained, and dry.

Before you arrive please visit www.LGBoatInspections.com and find the inspection station most conveniently located to your launch site and when it will be open. The hours of operation for the inspection stations vary by location. There is no need to call ahead for an appointment - inspections are done on a first-come first-served basis and they only take a few minutes if you arrive prepared.

When you arrive the inspector will ask you a few questions about your boat and launching history. Then they will physically look and feel for evidence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) inside all compartments of your vessel. They will also inspect the outside of your vessel's hull, including the trailer, as well as the engine outdrive & intakes.

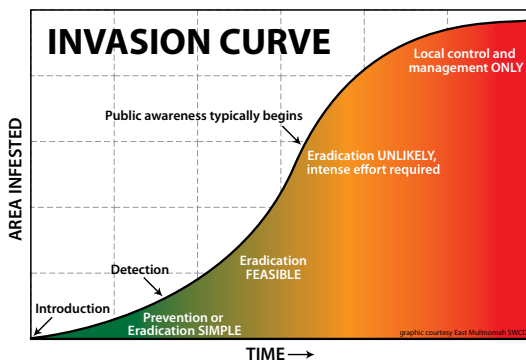
Once the inspection process is complete, the inspector will inform you if they will need to perform a decontamination, which includes washing and flushing all areas needing decontamination with 140°F hot water to kill any possible remaining AIS. Depending on the complexity of your vessel, decontaminations can last anywhere from 10 to 30 min.

Before you leave the inspection station, if you are going to a different launch site, you will receive an inspection sticker and a wire inspection seal. The seal is typically installed through the bow ring of your boat through a secure location on your trailer. For more details on the inspection process, please visit www.LGBoatInspections.com. If you have questions you can call the office at 518-668-9347 or email info@lgpc.state.ny.us



Why do we need mandatory boat inspections?

Lake George is known as the “Queen of American Lakes”, and is one of the foremost natural treasures in the United States. It is one of the clearest large lakes in the world, and is a popular tourist destination for visitors from around the world. In 1961, the NYS Legislature established the Lake George Park Commission as a state agency to help protect Lake George for the future, while maintaining the resource as a high-use recreational lake for its millions of annual visitors.



One of the greatest threats to Lake George comes from aquatic invasive species. AIS are non-native plants and animals that threaten native plants, wildlife and their habitat. They also affect humans by degrading boating and fishing areas and reducing lake shore property values and tourism. Once AIS are established, eradication is almost impossible. To date, more than \$7 million has been spent working to control and eradicate invasives already in Lake George, and this costly work is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

One of the primary ways that invasive species are spread from lake to lake is recreational boating. When boaters leave a waterbody and trailer their boat to another waterbody, there is a chance that plants or other invasive species may be on the boat or the trailer. Some of the most concerning aquatic invasive species are non-detectable to the eye in their juvenile form, and can reside in the bilge area

Once AIS are established, eradication is almost impossible.

or even in the coolant water in the engine. When the infected boat is launched into a new waterbody, that species gets introduced into that waterbody and the problems begin.

Over the period of more than two years, the LGPC has studied all known alternatives for preventing the introduction of new AIS into Lake George, working in concert with local communities, nonprofit lake protection organizations, sportsmen's groups and others. These efforts culminated with the adoption of the Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan and Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) by the LGPC on December 3, 2013. The FGEIS outlines the various alternatives reviewed, the preferred alternative recommended for implementation, and the costs and impacts of the preferred alternative. This document, along with many others from throughout the process, are available on the LGPC website at www.lgpc.state.ny.us.