



**Lake Waramaug  
Task Force, Inc.**

[www.lwtf.org](http://www.lwtf.org)

## **An Important Statement By the Lake Waramaug Task Force on Development and Water Quality Protection Policy and Program for Lake Waramaug**

Development near Lake Waramaug and in its watershed has been in a mini boom over the past two years. New homes and new landscaping plans are dotting the shoreline and surrounding hills. New neighbors are invigorating our community and enjoying the Lake. Growth is good. But unless development plans incorporate up to date best practices for water quality protection such growth threatens to diminish the work the Lake Waramaug Task Force, and the community in general, has done over the past 40 years to keep the Lake healthy.

Every drop of rain in Lake Waramaug's watershed feeds the Lake. Studies show storm water runoff from developed land, especially on and near the lake shoreline and its feeder streams, carries a high percent of the total phosphorous reaching a lake. Increased phosphorous fuels algae and weed growth. Sediment clouds water, affecting plants, fish and other aquatic life. It also forms deltas at stream and culvert inlets providing ideal habitat for invasive plants, impedes lake access and navigation.

The Task Force, since its beginnings, has worked to promote use of the best scientifically based methods of water quality protection and incorporate these into land use regulations and land development plans. Now, with the accelerating number of construction projects on and near the lake shore, we want to reaffirm our commitment to:

1. Place a priority on water quality protection education in all our communications and workshops.
2. Assist planning and zoning boards and wetland commissions to develop and enforce regulations and model methods to protect water quality in the lake area zoning districts.
3. Encourage landowners to voluntarily embrace implementation of water quality protection measures, especially following LID guidelines\* for storm-water management.
4. Offer free, best practice technical water protection advice to owners in the early planning stages of a new development.
5. Provide expert testimony at zoning and wetland commission hearings.
6. Continue to monitor development and prepare technical reports illustrating the best scientifically based approaches to protect water quality in situations where our experts detect a potential significant risk.

Our strategies and efforts are not entirely unique. Other lake watershed organizations, most notably the Lake George Watershed Association in N.Y., have improved water quality under proactive education and technical assistance outreach programs. Like this Association, the LWTF aims to strengthen our good working relationships with local land use staffs, health departments, consulting engineers and landscape architects who support our water quality goals and reach out to landowners in the development planning stage with advice and assistance in conceptual designs for water quality protection on their property.

\*Phosphorous and sediment loading to the Lake can be greatly limited with containment and new, innovative and relatively inexpensive scientifically-based storm-water treatment measures called "LID" (Low Impact Development). If all new development applications with a potential impact on Lake water quality are designed and maintained with these new methods, it will protect the Lake's water clarity and inhibit invasive plant growth.