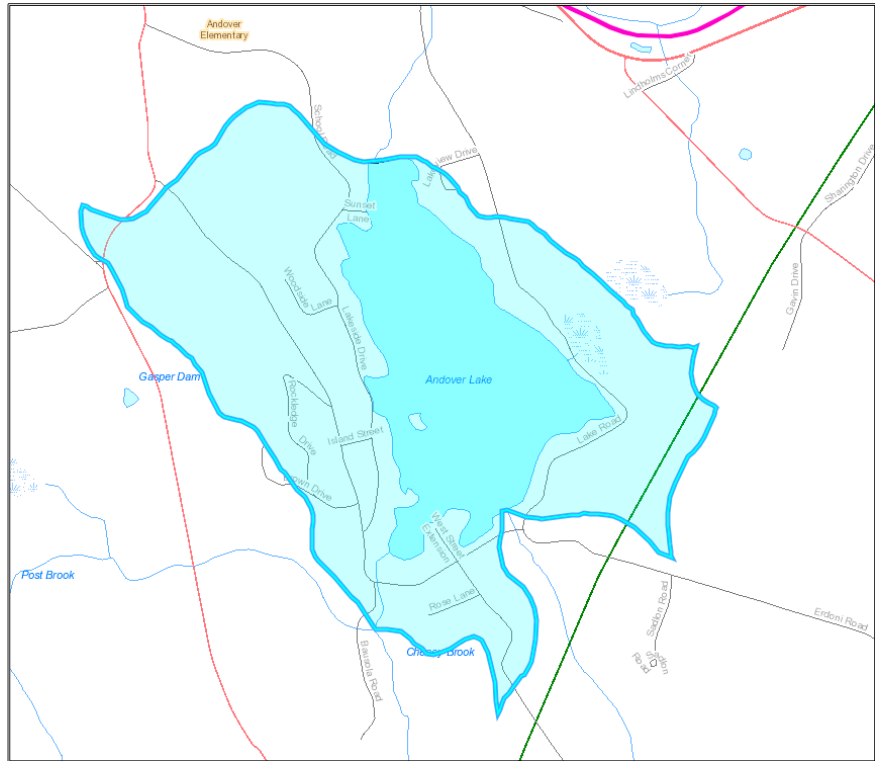


Protect Andover Lake

Andover Lake is a beautiful natural resource that provides a habitat for wildlife and wonderful recreational opportunities. We need to preserve and protect the lake so that future generations can enjoy it. Those of us who are fortunate to live within the watershed of Andover Lake (see figure) can play an important role in maintaining the health of the lake by taking steps to limit the entry of nutrients. Nutrients are harmful to the ecology of the lake because they induce weed growth and toxic algal blooms that reduce or eliminate



Andover lake watershed. <https://cteco.uconn.edu/viewers/index.htm>.

oxygen in the water, leading to fish kills and harming other aquatic species. The key nutrient fueling the growth of aquatic plants and algae is phosphorus, which can enter the lake from fertilizer runoff and failing septic systems. Note that "natural" fertilizers also contain phosphorus. There are several ways we can limit the amount of phosphorus entering into Andover Lake:

- Limit the amount of fertilizer you apply to your lawn and garden. Instead of fertilizing your lawn, you can cut the grass at 3" and leave the clippings.
- Create a buffer of plants that act as a natural barrier for the influx of nutrients into the lake. Consider planting a [rain garden](#). Use this web-based [app](#) to plan your rain garden. Alternatively, you can maintain a native aquatic plant [buffer](#).
- Maintain and enhance native lakeside vegetation, including trees, shrubs and groundcover.
- Choose phosphate-free detergents, soaps, and household cleaners.
- Pick up your dog's droppings from all paths, right-of-ways, the dam area and roadways.
- Maintain your septic system and have it pumped out regularly.

Andover Lake is one of the few lakes in Connecticut that is free from harmful invasive species and we want to keep it that way. Boats can spread aquatic invasive species from one waterbody to another unless disinfected. In particular, we need to prevent introduction of the rapidly spreading [Connecticut River Hydrilla](#) into Andover Lake. Wash your boat with a dilute (1:20) bleach solution and allow it to dry for five days. Take extra [precautions](#) if you have been in a location with zebra mussels.