

Ellsworth
Water Supply
Commission

P.O. Box 705
Ellsworth, ME 04605

April 30, 2007

Hello Ellsworth Area Residents and Visitors;

Spring is finally here, in spite of the occasional white flake or two! In celebration of the change in seasons, the commission would like to extend a cordial welcome to anglers, recreational boaters, and others wishing to boat upon beautiful Branch Lake, the source of Ellsworth's drinking water. In order to keep foreign invasive plant species out of Branch Lake, the city has adopted protective procedures for boaters to follow before they "float their boat" in the lake.

A) For Branch Lake residents, when boats stay on Branch Lake exclusively, we are happy to announce streamlined application procedures for boat inspection waivers and the associated boat stickers. Please drop by City Hall between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm to obtain your inspection waivers.

B) For those boaters who wish to use Branch Lake in addition to other water bodies, we are offering our first of the season Self-Inspection Certification Course at 5 pm on Friday, May 11, 2007 at City Hall. Being a certified Self-Inspector will allow a boater to inspect their own boat, issue their own inspection permit to use the lake, and provide this service for other boats in their party. Additional Self-Inspection courses will be held at later dates to be announced.

C) Finally, for visitors, or for those boaters who wish to use the lake occasionally, and do not desire to be a Self-Inspector, the City plans to staff the city launch at the Mill Pond area with boat inspectors. Starting May 5th on weekends and holidays, the inspector will inspect your boat, trailer, and fishing gear for aquatic plants. If your equipment is free of aquatic plants, the inspector will issue you the required boat permit for your time on Branch Lake. The schedule for city provided inspections will be expanded in June to include Fridays as well, and in July & August will cover Thursdays through Mondays. Call City Hall at 669-6604 after May 1st to obtain the latest hours of operation. You may also check the City of Ellsworth website after May 1st for updated schedules & hours of operation.

For your greater convenience, the City will be installing floating docks at the city ramp on Branch Lake to aid in boat launching and retrieval. In addition, portable toilets will be located at both the Branch Lake city boat launch and at the Green Lake City boat launch.

We hope you have an enjoyable time recreating on Ellsworth's many fine water bodies this summer. If you have any further questions regarding the permits required to boat upon Branch Lake, please feel free to call us at 667-2155 or 669-6604.

Thank You, and safe boating,

John E. Wedin

Branch Lake Steward,

Ellsworth Water Supply Commission

