

For immediate release – June 25, 2020

To: Locustville Pond residents with property at the water's edge!
From: Locustville Pond Improvement Association Board of Directors

I hope that you are having a great summer on the pond!

Trees and other bushy plants serve a great natural service to our pond by removing excess nutrients from groundwater, providing shade and habitat for animals and us, and stabilizing the bank of our beloved pond. For this reason their removal within 50 feet of the pond edge is prohibited by the state of RI.

According to RIDEM Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act (which the pond is considered)

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-150-15-1>

clearing within 50' of the edge of the pond is not allowed except under certain conditions (e.g., removal of dead trees, or trees that threaten a home).

The RI Office of Compliance and Inspection is used for reporting unauthorized cutting (401-222-1360). DEM will send someone to check the site if requested.

Bottom line, don't cut ANY trees within 50' of the edge of the pond without DEM approval. If you have cut trees down within this zone, you may want to call the number above and have a compliance officer come to evaluate your property.

Please note the RIDEM uses satellite-derived digital orthophotography to document historical and current land cover changes for reported incidents.

Please pass this along to your neighbors who don't use the internet. This notice will be posted on the Locustville pond website (www.locustvillepond.org)