

A Renter's Guide

By the Spofford Lake Association, May 2021
www.SpoffordLakeAssociation.org



Introduction

Spofford Lake is a 739-acre lake in Spofford, NH, a village of Chesterfield, NH with a population of 3,600. The Lake is fed by springs and run-off from the surrounding hills. The average depth of the Lake is 30 feet, with maximum depths reaching over 60 feet in some areas. It is home to eagles, loons, ducks, egrets, osprey, and many other birds use Spofford Lake as a rest stop during their Spring and Fall migrations.

Spofford Lake is a great destination for fishing, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, waterskiing, tubing, and swimming. Anyone who finds their way here is sure to be entertained and enchanted.

Spofford Lake sits almost equidistant between Keene, NH and Brattleboro, VT. Both cities offer movie theaters, bowling alleys, parks, golf courses, mini golf, restaurants, and shopping. There are concerts in the parks, an Art Walk in Keene in June and The Strolling of the Heifers in Brattleboro, to name just a few local events. Check the Spofford Lake Association, spoffordlakeassociation.org for news and events. Be sure to visit Our History, with its photos of tourists at Spofford Lake in early 20th century.

Spofford Lake Attractions

BEACHES

Spofford Lake has two beaches. Wares Grove Beach is on Rt. 9A and is open to the public. There is a parking fee that is discounted for Chesterfield residents. The beach has a snack bar, restrooms, a small playground and beach chairs. North Shore Rd. Beach has changing rooms and a bathroom but is for use by Chesterfield residents only.



PIERCE ISLAND

A 5-acre state park, Pierce Island is about 1/4 mile from the Spofford Lake boat launch. Pierce Island is for day use, only. There are no toilets on the island and no trash receptacles. Please remember it is carry-in/carry-out.

SPOFFORD YACHT CLUB

The Yacht Club is located on North Shore Rd. and is a private, volunteer-operated club founded in 1898. The Yacht Club hosts sunfish races on Wednesday evenings and Saturday's races can include Lightnings, Day Sailors and Catboats. Contact www.spoffordyachtclub.com to see if guest sailors are welcome.

FOURTH of JULY BOAT PARADE

Traditionally, on July 4th many Spofford Lake boaters, with their boats colorfully decorated in red, white, and blue, gather for a parade, which usually starts around 2 pm and makes its way slowly around the perimeter of the Lake.



WATER BALLOONS

In previous years, some parade participants have brought water balloons. In our continuing effort to protect the wildlife and the ecology of our lake, the use of water balloons is no longer permitted. Even those balloons that are considered eco-friendly and claim to be biodegradable are not environmentally safe. They can take anywhere from 6 months to 6 years before they degrade, leaving fish, ducks, loons, turtles, and many other animals at risk of ingesting them causing great harm or death.



FIREWORKS

Although the use of fireworks is legal in New Hampshire, Chesterfield now requires permits. To obtain a permit, you must be at least 21 years of age and apply in person at the Town Offices. You must bring proof of property ownership, or written permission from the owner to use fireworks. A plot plan indicating where you are going to ignite the fireworks in relation to structures, wires and the distance to the Lake is also required. You must bring a photograph of the area for further identification. With the exception of New Year's and the fourth of July holidays, permits will only be given for Friday, Saturday or Sunday between 5 and 10 pm. Check out the town website at www.chesterfield.nh.gov for permitting details.

BOATING REGULATIONS

As with all of New Hampshire's public waters, it is necessary to be at least 16 years of age and have a boating license to operate a boat on Spofford Lake. Visit www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/htm/XXII/270-D/270-D-2.htm.

Some of the basic rules that are particularly important to Spofford Lake have to do with wakes. The NH boating regulations state that a boat shall maintain headway speed, only, when within 150 feet of the shoreline. This not only protects swimmers, rafts, docks, and moored boats, it helps protect the Lake from shoreland erosion which has been determined to be a major concern for Spofford Lake and its continued health.

NOISE

While there is no Town ordinance, convention suggests that evening quiet time begins at 10:00pm. Shhhhh, remember, whether chatting in a kayak at 11:00am or playing music from your deck at 7:30pm, sound carries over water. We hear you.

Local Distractions

HIKING TRAILS

Chesterfield is also home to a number of wonderful hiking trails, Pisgah State Park, Chesterfield Gorge and Madame Sherri's Forest. For more information and maps, visit the Chesterfield Conservation Commission's website, www.chesterfield-conservation-commission.com.

FARMER'S MARKETS

Beginning in early June, the Chesterfield's Farmer's Market is held every Saturday morning from 9 to noon on Rt. 63 in Chesterfield center. The market offers a wonderful gathering of area farmers, bakers, and craftspeople. Come out to enjoy all the local flavors and crafts and support our neighbors in the process. Check [Facebook.com/chesterfieldfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/chesterfieldfarmersmarket). Other nearby farmer's markets are held in Brattleboro and Keene.

THE STONE HOUSE TAVERN

In 2018, the Chesterfield Historical Society (CHS) purchased The Stone House Tavern located at the corner of Routes 9 and 63 in Spofford. The rich history associated with the Tavern clearly makes it a property worth preserving. Through grants and fundraising CHS is making great strides in funding the work necessary to restore the property, bring it up to code to allow it to be a functioning museum that welcomes visitors. Check out the CHS website for more information, www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety-nh.org/stone-house-tavern-history.



Help

HOSPITALS

The Town of Chesterfield and Spofford Lake are served by two hospitals. Cheshire Medical Center/ Dartmouth-Hitchcock is located at 580 Court Street, Keene, NH. Brattleboro Memorial Hospital can be found at 17 Belmont Avenue, Brattleboro VT.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Town of Chesterfield Police: (603) 363-4133
- Town of Chesterfield Police: (603) 363-4133
- NH Marine Patrol: (603) 293-0091
- NH Fish and Game in Keene: (603) 352-9669

We hope you enjoy your stay and come back again to this beautiful corner of New Hampshire.

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