

Pawtuckaway State Park Expansion Plan

NH Parks and Recreation has plans to add 35 RV campsites at Pawtuckaway State Park. The current design shows them all grouped on or near the waterfront along the North Channel. See their plan below.

Proposed Development

- A new campground loop with a total of approximately 35 Improved Sites, water and electricity on site, will provide a site type not in the park and increase in the overnight capacity of the campground.
- A new bathhouse, designed to a standard that is appropriate for the historic context of the park, will support the new campground pod.
- Renovate toilet/shower building #8 on Big Island.
- A dump station, located along the existing road adjacent to the day use parking lot, will support recreational equipment users from all the different campgrounds within the park.

ESTIMATED COST = \$4,150,000

- Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2024.

Next Steps

- Design and engineering will begin Spring 2023
- Bidding in the fall 2024, construction to begin in fall/winter 2024-2025.
- Plan review and comment at the 30% and 60% design stage



The State Park system is self-funding, so revenue generated from fees does not go into the general fund but is rather used to pay for personnel and maintenance needs of all the state parks. The plan to expand Pawtuckaway campsites is intended to increase revenue and the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA) appreciates that need. However, the plan calling for

construction of new campsites with water and electric hookups so near a very crowded and vulnerable stretch of the lake is flawed. It threatens the health of the lake as well as its wildlife because of loss of habitat and likely shoreline erosion, not to mention the loss of recreational opportunities and spread of milfoil. These photos show the stretch along the North Channel that would be affected.

For these reasons, the PLIA opposes the existing design of the expansion, *as proposed*. The State has told us that the design is “conceptual” and can be modified. Based on that understanding, we want those campsites to be relocated away from the water, where they will not threaten the delicate balance of our lake. If you would like to weigh in on this project, we urge you to send a letter or email to our state and local officials voicing your opinion. We have drafted a letter summarizing these problems and encourage you to use it, modify its message, or draft one of your own to alert government officials about your concerns. We also have drawn up a list of officials and their contact information. For more information or feedback, please contact the PLIA at Info@pawtuckawaylake.com.

