



ABOUT US

The Friends of Danforth Ponds was formed in 2021 as a sustainable effort to promote strategies for a healthier Danforth Ponds by collaborating with homeowners, town officials, and conservation groups.

Through long-term planning and action, homeowner education, and the adoption of comprehensive Best Management Practices, the Friends of Danforth Ponds' primary focus is the preservation of water quality.

Our continuing endeavors will ensure a thriving Danforth Ponds where recreation is enjoyed, plants and wildlife flourish, and economic well-being is guaranteed for future generations of homeowners and their families.

Funding for this project was provided in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in partnership with the EPA.



CONTACT US

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Find us on Facebook @FriendsofDanforthPonds

Learn more about
Green Mountain Conservation Group
at www.gmcg.org



A 2024 GUIDE FOR THE PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS



**For property owners on the
Danforth Ponds and the
lower Bays of Ossipee Lake**

DID YOU KNOW?

Important Facts for Waterfront Homeowners.

- A malfunctioning septic system has been found to release excessive nutrients, bacteria, viruses, and chemicals into our waterways and may drastically reduce property values and negatively impact the sale of a house.
- According to data compiled by the Freedom Conservation Commission in 2019, only 11 waterfront properties around Danforth Ponds had septic systems installed in the last 30 years. While older systems may be operational, a recent evaluation done at a nearby NH lake found that more than 60% of their septic systems over 25 years had issues that needed repair.
- A cesspool is considered a failed septic system.
- Septic systems contribute approximately 11% to the phosphorous load in NH lakes, according to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Cyanobacteria Plan, released in November 2023. To address this issue, HB 1113 proposes new requirements for a shoreland septic system prior to a property being sold. As drafted, the proposed legislation will require a detailed septic evaluation for all systems that do not have an approved plan on file with NH DES or were approved more than 20 years ago. A system found to be in failure must be replaced before the close of the sale.
- Funding is available through an EPA grant to assist Danforth Pond waterfront property owners with their septic needs. For more information contact the Friends of the Danforth Ponds.

THE DO'S AND DON'T'S OF SEPTIC SYSTEM CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

You can control costs by establishing a regular schedule and following a few simple tips. Routine septic system maintenance saves money and prevents unnecessary costly repairs.

DO:

1. Inspect and pump your system frequently.

- A septic system should be inspected every 3 years by a licensed septic inspector. A proper inspection can detect blockages, leaks, and structural issues.
- Pump your septic tank every 2 to 5 years.
- Keep records of system maintenance.

2. Use water efficiently.

- Consider purchasing a high-efficiency toilet. Toilets account for 25 to 30% of household water usage.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full.
- Spread your laundry out over several days. Spacing out your laundry allows your system the proper time to treat waste and avoid flooding.

3. Know where your drainfield and septic tank are located.

- Your drainfield plays an important function by filtering contaminants from the liquid that emerges from your septic tank.
- Consider installing a riser over your septic tank for easy access.
- Keep your absorption field planted with grass. Unusual growth and bright color can indicate a system failure
- Add Root Kill annually to your septic tank to avoid the growth of tree roots.

4. Properly dispose of waste.

- Remember everything that goes down your drain ends up in your septic system.
- Use only septic friendly toilet paper that easily breaks down.
- Use dish soap, household products, and laundry detergent with little or no phosphates.
- Use chlorine bleach sparingly. Consider using chlorine-free bleach instead.

DON'T:

1. Use a garbage disposal.
2. Use your septic system as a trash can.

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Flushing or pouring toxins down your drain kills organisms and harms your septic system.

Never send any of the following products down your drain:

- Cooking oil, grease, paint, or antifreeze
- Flushable wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms
- Baby wipes
- Cigarette butts
- Coffee grinds or cat litter
- Pharmaceuticals
- Rid X
- Drain cleaners – use boiling water or a drain snake

3. Park or drive on your drainfield.

The soil must remain loose so water can flow freely.

4. Plant trees too close to your drainfield.

Planting too close to your drainfield allows roots to grow into your absorption field causing unintended damage to its function.

5. Leave your septic tank empty over the winter.

An empty tank can cause issues that lead to costly repairs.

6. Pump your septic system before an inspection.

An empty tank can mask issues with your system that would otherwise be visible during an inspection.



LOCAL SEPTIC PUMPING, INSPECTION & REPAIR COMPANIES:

DJ's Septic & Pumping Wolfeboro, NH	603-569-5286	Pumping
Turner Septic Pumping Conway, NH	603-733-8667	Pumping
Lakes Region Septic Brookfield, NH	603-522-6246	Pumping & Repair
Lamprey Septic Services Moultonborough, NH	603-476-5557	Pumping & Inspection
JB & Son Sewer & Drain Mirror Lake, NH	603-569-0500	Inspection
Turner Septic Inspections Conway, NH	603-307-4973	Inspection

