

Waterbody: Lake Raconda

Town of: Wilmington

Lake Association: Lake Raconda Association

Project Type: Greeter Program

Contact Name and Email Address: Cory Ross, ross.wcnrcd@gmail.com

ANC Grant Award Amount: \$5975

Total Project Cost: \$16,250.63

Additional Funding Provided by: The Lake Raconda Foundation

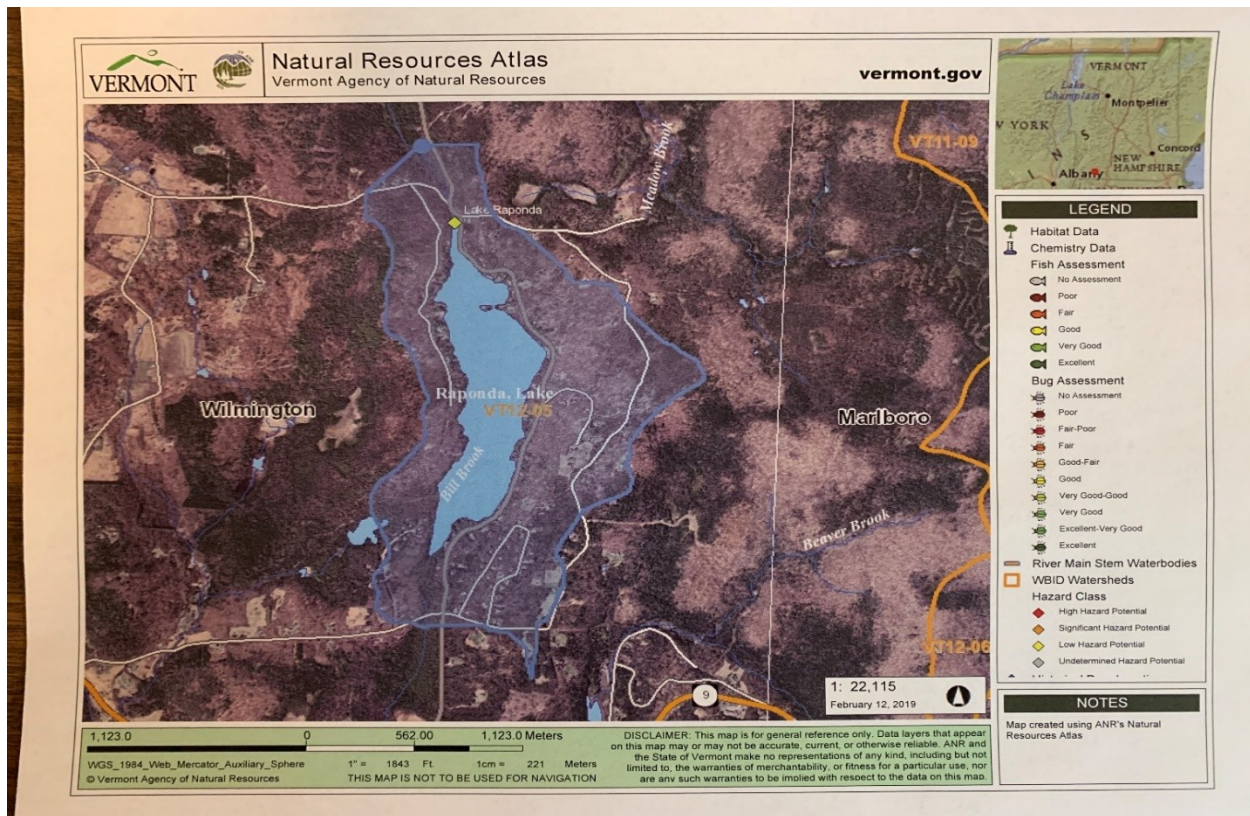
Lake Raconda Greeter Program

2022 Project Completion Report

Program Description:

Located in Wilmington, VT, Lake Raconda is a 121-acre spring fed, warm water lake that is used by Wilmington residents, property owners, their guests and visitors for a variety of recreational purposes. Lake Raconda is publicly accessible via a State boat launch area at the northern end of the lake as well as via the Town of Wilmington's swimming, beach, and picnic area on the lake's east side. Although the beach is restricted to Town of Wilmington residents, property owners and their guest, the State's boat launch is open to the general public; which include neighboring communities like Whitingham that have recorded invasive species in Lake Sadagwa; as well as boaters from all of Vermont and elsewhere.

Raconda is at risk for infestation by invasive species that include—but are not limited to—Eurasian watermilfoil, Variable watermilfoil, Water chestnut, Curly-leaf pondweed, Hydrilla, Zebra mussels, Asian clams, and Spiny water flea. The Lake Raconda Association (LRA: <http://raconda.org>) is a group of Wilmington residents and property owners with homes on or near the lake. The LRA partnered with the Town of Wilmington and the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District to implement a greeter program for the 2022 season. This is the sixth year that the program has operated, and the third year that the conservation district has served in an administrative capacity. The goal of the program continues to be protecting Lake Raconda from aquatic invasive species by: 1) Educating the public and the boats that could potentially introduce invasive species; and 2) Monitoring, gathering data, and inspecting boats entering Lake Raconda.



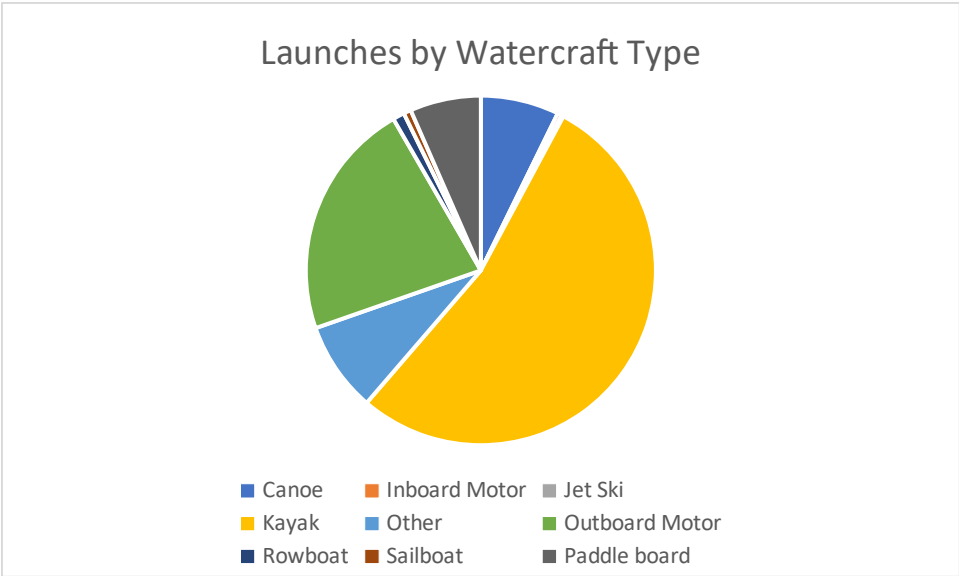
The 2022 Lake Raponda Greeter Season was staffed with paid greeters from May 27 until September 12th. Paid greeters were present all days except Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the season. The program utilized two paid greeters for the 2022 season, which allowed for greater scheduling flexibility. Members of the LRA also contributed at least 81.25 hours of volunteer greeting throughout the 2022 season.

Paid and volunteer greeters processed 1,022 watercraft launches over the course of 673.25 hours in the 2022 season. This represented an increase of ~45% in launches and an increase of ~8.9% in staffed hours.

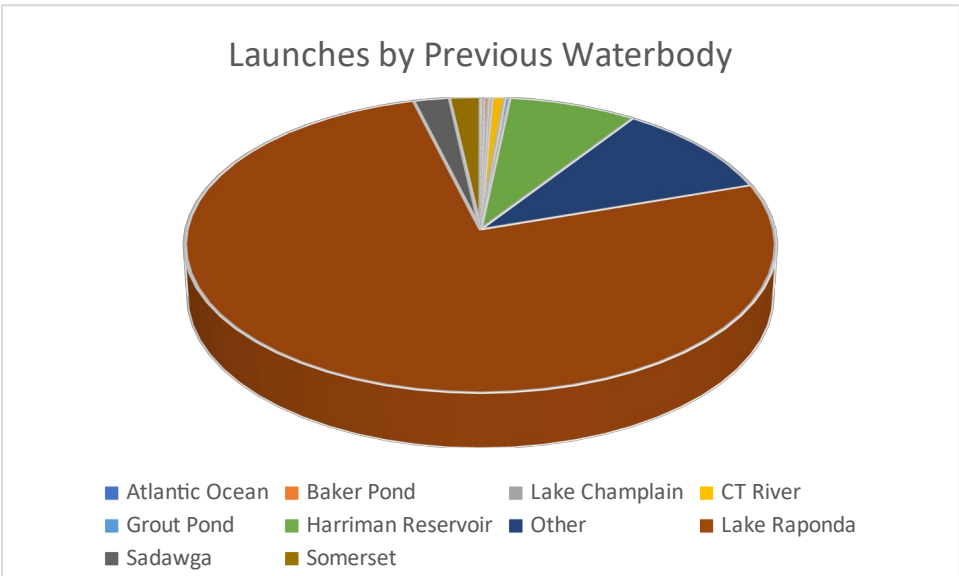
Program Challenges

The primary challenge the Lake Raponda program encountered for the 2022 season was a significant labor shortage, not unlike many sectors of the economy this summer. As a result, we found it necessary to increase the greeter pay rate to \$20/hour. We also had a more limited number of volunteers in 2022.

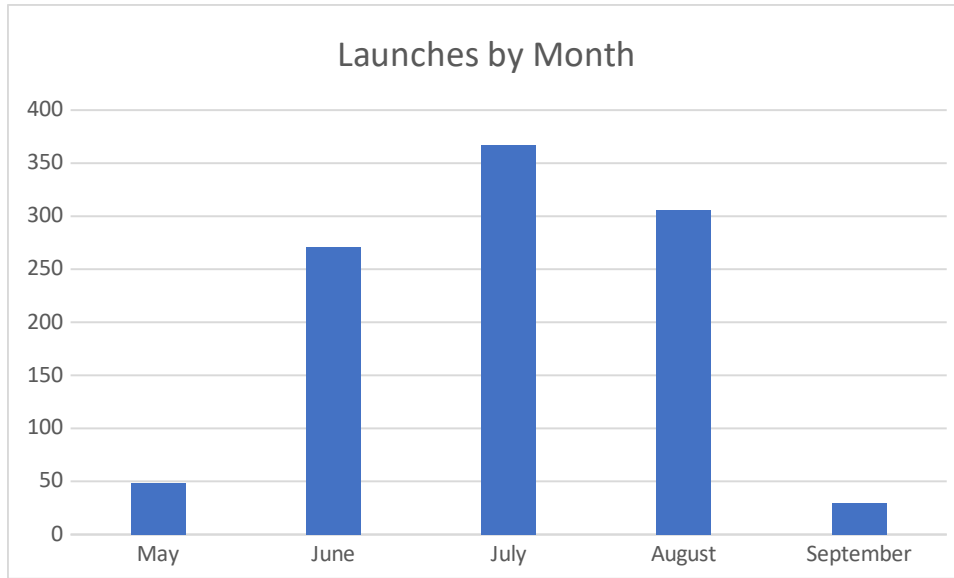
Lake Raponda 2022 Launch by Watercraft Type



Lake Raponda Waterbody of Last Launch



Boaters by Month



Month Number of Inspections

May	48
June	271
July	367
August	306
September	30

Funding	2022	2021	2020	2019
Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-aid Grant	\$5975	\$5,230	\$5,508.50	\$5,876.00
Lake Raponda Foundation	\$6,245.70	\$3,815	\$1912.48	\$1,763.05
1% Local Option Tax Fund	\$3,023.76	\$1,900	\$500	\$1,763.05
Total Funds	\$15,244.46	\$10,945	\$7,920.98	\$9,402.10

Major Successes

1. Thanks to the financial support of the Lake Raponda Foundation and volunteer support of the Lake Raponda Association, we were able to provide coverage throughout the season on most days, despite needing to increase the paid greeter rate to \$20/hour. This is a testament to the

local community and their commitment to protecting the watershed. Increased financial support from the Town of Wilmington was crucial to the continued success of the program as well.

2. Boaters were generally very positive and supportive of the greeter program at Lake Raponda. We did not have many challenges with compliance. This speaks to the important work that the greeter program has done over the past few years to build a relationship with the boating community.