

LAKE CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED

All the land that eventually drains into a waterbody is called its watershed. The Lake Champlain watershed encompasses 8,234 square miles and extends into New York, Vermont, and Quebec.

The watershed area is 19 parts land for every 1 part water, meaning what people do, even miles away from the lake, strongly affects lake ecosystems.

Indigenous groups—including the Abenaki, Mohawk, and Mohican Peoples—have stewarded these lands and waters for thousands of years and continue to steward them.



Explore

Swim: Lake Champlain has over 50 beaches, and there are dozens of swimming holes along the rivers.

Fish: Join our diverse and avid fishing community and cast your rod in the lake or one of its tributaries for sport or food.

Boat: Whether by motorboat, sailboat, canoe, or kayak, Lake Champlain is spectacular from the water.

Bike or Hike: Beautiful bike routes and hiking trails abound in the watershed for every type of explorer.

Relax: With 587 miles of shoreline, visitors can find a beautiful place to relax.



Tread Lightly

Take time to educate yourself about the Lake Champlain watershed and the watershed where you live.

Pay attention to what you apply (like fertilizers and pesticides) and discard (like microplastics and medicines) on land and in water to help us reduce water pollution.

Make sure to clean and dry boats and gear before entering different water bodies to avoid potentially spreading invasive species.

In all watersheds, consider how you can slow the flow of stormwater into waterways.



Get Involved

There are many opportunities to get involved with water quality organizations around the basin to learn more and volunteer.

Visit us on the Colchester Causeway on Fridays and Saturdays this summer to learn more about Lake Champlain.



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Lake Champlain