

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
Local Law #2 of 2026 May 11, 2026

Local Law to Protect the Shoreline and Wetlands of Otsego Lake with no wake zones within the Town of Springfield.

ARTICLE 1 TITLE, ENACTMENT, AND PURPOSE

Section 1.1 Title

This Local Law shall be known and may be cited as “Otsego Lake Protection Law within the Town of Springfield, Otsego County, State of New York”, adopted as Local Law No.2 of 2026.

Section 1.2 Enactment

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Springfield, Otsego County, State of New York as follows: This Otsego Lake Protection Law is adopted and enacted pursuant to the power and authority granted by the New York State Constitution. Article IX, Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, Articles 2 and 3, Statute of Local Governments, Article 2, the Town Law of the State of New York, Article 16, State of New York Navigation Law Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 46-a as amended by chapter 569, Environmental Conservation Law Articles 15,16,17, LL#2 2017 as amended in 2025 Section 7, and Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Springfield.

Section 1.3 Purpose and Intent

The Town Board of the Town of Springfield desires to protect the shorelines and wetlands of Otsego Lake within the Town from unnecessary erosion and movement of silt and nutrients caused by excessive wakes and waves caused by boats within the sensitive and shallow areas of Otsego Lake. More specifically, the Town Board finds that the Town has an interest in maintaining water clarity and purity; Preventing erosion of the shoreline especially of the west shoreline which is narrow against the ledge; Reducing nutrients and silt spreading from tributaries outlets into in Otsego lake; Disturbance of the NYSDEC wetlands within the lake; Protection of the shallow areas of Hyde Bay.

Section 2 Definitions:

1. Boats are any floating motor propelled watercraft
2. Erosion: Reduction of lake shore caused by water movement
3. No Wake Zone: Area where motorized boats must be operated at 5 mph or less not creating a wake on Otsego Lake, No wake zone will start from 75 feet from shoreline described as area for docks, boathouse, and mooring area in Local Law #2 Zoning of 2017 as amended in 2025 section 7 and extends a distance of 300 feet perpendicular from the shoreline towards the center of the lake. Including 300' from the shallow areas of Hyde Bay and 300 feet from Wetlands described in section 2.8 below.

4. Shoreline: Line at a low watermark of a body of water including the line at low water along the shore of any tributary outlet, inlet or is, and in or adjacent to a body of water, Otsego lake shoreline within the Town of Springfield

5. Silt movement: Particles of organic matter and nutrients moved by water currents and waves created by boats.

6. Tributaries: Whites Creek, Cripple Creek, Hayden Creek, and Shadow Brook which empties into Otsego Lake

7. Water skiing from and to a dock or beach must be done in a manner to go directly out of No Wake Zone

8. Wetlands: NYSDEC wetland area within the shallow waters of northern Otsego Lake as shown on NYSDEC ENVIRONMENTAL MAPPER

Section 3. Prohibition:

No person shall operate any motorized watercraft within the No Wake Zones as set above in 2.3

Water skiers from and to dock must follow Section 2.7 in a safe manner.

Section 4. Penalties:

A violation of this local law shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$ 100.00 for a first offense, \$250.00 for a second offense within two (2) years, and \$500.00 for a third offense within two (2) years.

The Town Board authorizes the Town of Springfield Zoning Enforcement Officer to issue an appearance ticket under this local law. Such authorization shall not prevent any law enforcement officer of the State of New York from enforcing compliance with this local law.

Section 5. General Provisions:

5.1 SEVERABILITY:

If any specific part of provision or standard of this Local Law, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part, provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not effect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Town Board hereby declares that it would have enacted this Local Law, or the remainder thereof.

5.2. INTERPRETATION;

CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS

The provisions of this Local Law shall be held to be the minimum requirements

adopted for the promotion of public health, safety, or the general welfare. Whenever the requirements of this Local Law are inconsistent with the requirement of any other lawfully adopted rules, regulations, ordinances or Local Laws, the more restrictive provisions, or those imposing higher standards, shall govern.

5.3 EFFECTIVE DATE:

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Office of Secretary of State of the State of New York, accordance with the applicable provisions of law, and specify Article 3, § 27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law