

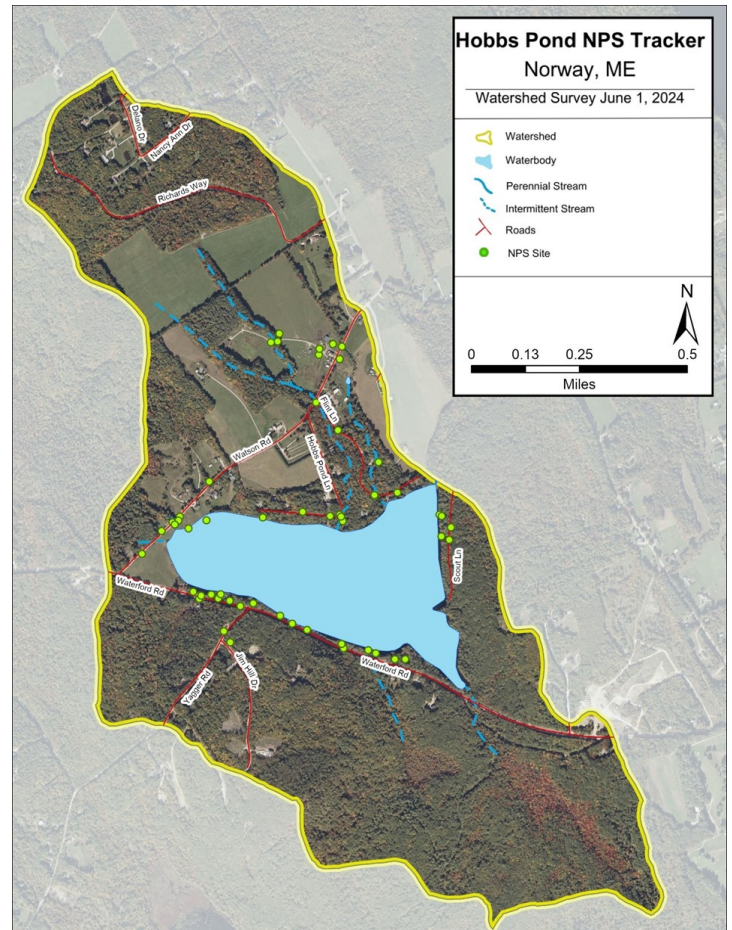


Little Pennessewassee (Hobbs Pond) Watershed Survey Summary Fact Sheet

Background

Hobbs Pond has a surface area of 100 acres, a maximum depth of 31' and a mean depth of 17'. Water quality data for the lake is available from Lake Stewards of Maine as early as 1976. The lake is listed as threatened on the NPS priority list because water quality data indicated the lake is nearing the impairment threshold. Therefore the lake is sensitive to additional phosphorus inputs that can be exacerbated by development and human activity in the watershed.

Phosphorus and other nutrients attach to eroded soil particles, which are carried into the lake by storm water runoff. Too much phosphorus in a lake ecosystem creates ideal conditions for algal growth, and can lead to blooms that can degrade water quality and create a nuisance for recreation. A watershed survey is a great tool to identify types and location of problem areas, provide recommendations to fix soil erosion, and raise public awareness on how to protect water quality.



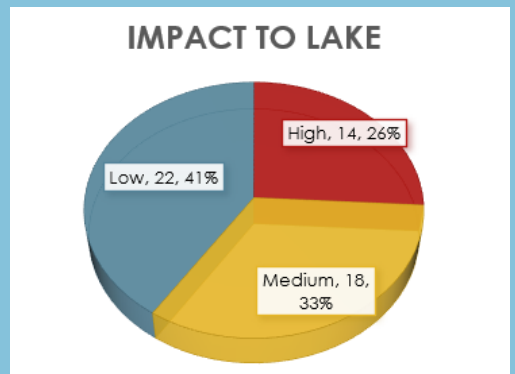
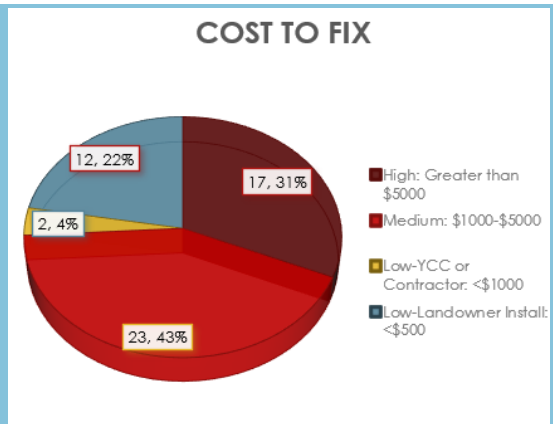
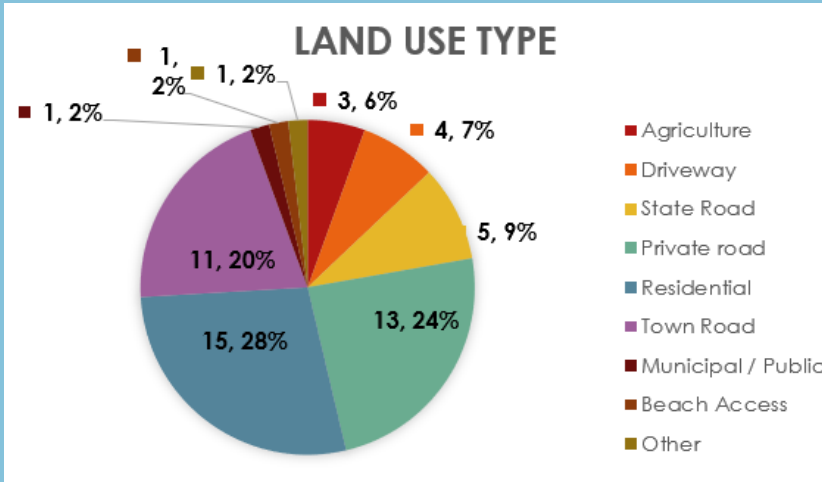
Watershed Survey

The Norway Lakes Association partnered with DEP to conduct a watershed survey on June 1st, 2024, with assistance from local volunteers. This survey included all areas in the watershed that have been impacted by human activity, because human activity tends to be the main cause of soil erosion and polluted runoff. The survey was focused on developed areas, specifically, roads, driveways, properties, and trails.

Teams divided into three sectors of the lake, and when a site was found to be contributing polluted runoff into the lake, it was documented. Documentation included: Location, landowner information, land use type (driveway, town road, etc), problem, size of the area, solution (suggested Best Management Practice), slope, technical expertise to fix the site and photos.

The watershed survey was voluntary and was not for enforcement purposes. The goal was to gather data to make informed decisions in how to continue to protect the lake's water quality.

Key Survey Results



A total of 54 sites were identified during the watershed survey that are contributing polluted runoff to Hobbs Pond. The sites were ranked on impact to the water quality based on the type of erosion, the size of the area, and if there was any buffer or filtration of the runoff. Of the 54 sites 14 were high impact, 18 were medium impact and 22 were low impact. The majority of the sites (28%) were on residential properties, followed by private road sites (24%). Erosion sites were identified all around the watershed, occurring on a total of 9 different types of land uses. The majority of high impact sites were private roads, while the majority of low impact sites were residential sites, especially along the shoreline. While not reflected in these graphs, only a few sites will possibly need engineering support and design, while the remaining sites can be fixed via recommendations from a technical person or by the property owner equipped with reference materials.

Next Steps

- A full report of the watershed survey findings will be available in fall of 2024.
- Landowners will be notified if their site was identified as contributing polluted runoff into the lake. The notification will have a link to find information on recommendations and cost estimates to fix the issues.
- Continue to promote water quality monitoring programs and ongoing work with Lake Stewards of Maine to understand trends in water quality data.

Resources

- **Conservation Practices for Homeowner** factsheets can be found here: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/materials.html>
- To learn more about **soil erosion** (nonpoint source pollution) visit the Maine DEP website <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/nps/index.html>
- Maine DEP Watershed Management staff and Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District can provide technical assistance.

Special Thanks to our dedicated watershed survey volunteers: Paul Shook, Jim O'Brien, Margaret Innes, Lisa Sawai, Sal Girifalco, Chuck Frost, Lisa Applegate, Jeanne Silverman, Steve Zeeman, Pam Jacobson, Jon Jacobsen, and Jack Howard .