



LSPA

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Lake Sunapee Watershed Management Plan (WMP):

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need to update the existing watershed plan?

The current plan from 2008 does not satisfy all nine of the elements required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a watershed plan. In addition to meeting these requirements with a new plan, it will also help to prioritize projects necessary to meet water quality goals. This WMP will identify strategies to reduce Phosphorus loading into Lake Sunapee and to avoid a decline in the water quality. LSPA was awarded a grant under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act administered by NHDES. Once the updated plan is accepted, LSPA will be eligible to apply and qualify for future grants to implement the plan.

What factors have changed in Lake Sunapee?

Phosphorous levels have increased which can have a strong negative effect on water quality and can lead to more algal and plant growth in the lake. The decomposition of increased plant growth leads to declining dissolved oxygen concentrations which is detrimental for aquatic life and can upset the dynamics of the aquatic food web. Chloride levels, primarily due to road salt use, have increased significantly which also affects aquatic life. Gloeotrichia, a type of cyanobacteria, has become more prevalent over the last decade, most likely as a result of an increase in phosphorus in the lake. Lastly, climate change has contributed to more intense storms events leading to stormwater issues (i.e. flooding, erosion, sedimentation).

What will happen to Lake Sunapee's water quality if we do nothing?

Increasing phosphorus levels lead to prolific plant growth (including invasive species) and more algal and cyanobacteria blooms which can be harmful to people & wildlife. As water quality decreases, due to pollutants and sedimentation, the lake becomes less desirable for recreation. In turn, the local economy and tourism industry will be

impacted, and the overall aesthetic value of the lake will decrease. With proper planning and management now, we can help avoid or prevent these critical issues.

Who are the primary people responsible for developing the WMP?

LSPA's Watershed Steward, Geoff Lizotte, is the project manager. LSPA contracted DK Water Resource Consulting LLC (DKWRC) and Stone Environmental, Inc. (Stone) to perform the watershed assessment, pollutant load and in-lake modeling analyses. These consultants will also identify best management practices (BMPs) and an estimation of pollution reductions necessary for improving the water quality of Lake Sunapee. In addition, community members and local government are contributing to the plan.

What tools will be used to develop the WMP?

LSPA's Water Quality Lab will provide data that will help assess current water conditions in the lake. Satellite imagery will provide a picture of current land use in the watershed. Computer modeling and mapping will identify existing pollutant loading into the lake. A build-out analysis will predict future developmental environmental impacts. The information will help prioritize which sub-watersheds are most at risk and how to address future impacts.

How long will it take to develop a new WMP?

It is a 2-year process with the final plan being completed by Spring of 2020.

What can I do to be a better watershed steward?

There are several ways to become a better watershed steward including:

- Learning how to manage stormwater on your property ([click here](#) to download the "Soak Up the Rain" manual from NHDES)
- Properly maintaining your septic system
- Practicing lake-friendly landscaping
- Educating yourself and your neighbors about the watershed and ways to protect it (see LSPA's website-<http://www.lakesunapee.org/library/> for printable brochures on a range of topics about water quality, watershed protection, landscaping, and invasive species)

LSPA will be hosting a public meeting in the Fall of 2019 to update community members on the watershed management plan. In the meantime, to learn more about the plan, please visit www.lakesunapee.org or sign-up for LSPA's e-newsletter, *Flash of the Beacon*, for updates.