

Community Education/Outreach

While repairs to the shoreline area of the watershed to prevent soil erosion from entering the ponds is a central component of this work, an equally important part of our work is education so that everyone knows what we are doing and why it is important to the future well-being of our ponds. There are three parts to the education/outreach plan:

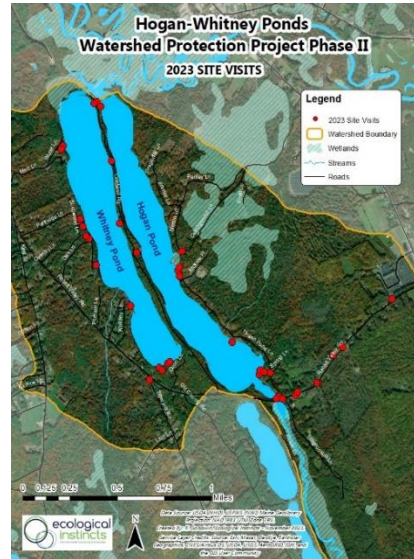
1. Organizing educational workshops to share technical information with interested parties. On July 3 we organized a training conducted by the Director of the statewide LakeSmart program. LakeSmart preserves water quality and property values while protecting wildlife habitat and recreational values of Maine lakes. A group of seven volunteers spent three hours learning about criteria used for evaluating residential properties for the Lake Smart award and used a property on Whitney Pond as an example. On August 26, a gravel road maintenance workshop was held to provide information on how to maintain and repair gravel roads to prevent erosion and delivery of excess nutrients to lakes.

2. Ongoing communication with watershed residents and the larger community. We use our Facebook page, press releases, mailings/ emails to our Association members (like this brochure), press releases to the *Sun Journal* and *Advertiser Democrat* about our work, and the development of a soon-to-be unveiled Hogan & Whitney Ponds Association web page (www.hoganwhitneypond.org) to grow understanding of our efforts.

3. Educating future generations to understand the importance of lake stewardship. We have developed a curriculum to deliver to local children about the detrimental effects of soil erosion in watersheds. We plan to pilot this curriculum with one class this spring.

Project Summary

In 2023, HWPAs worked with multiple partners to make our plan a reality. We surpassed our two-year goal of 30 technical assistance site visits in this first year. The map below highlights these locations with red dots.



Continued work is needed to help neighbors implement the plans. Free erosion control mulch is available to interested homeowners. This spring and summer we will reach out to more volunteers to remediate new problem sites. To learn more please contact our project coordinators:

Jen Jespersen or Katie Goodwin, Ecological Instincts, Ph: 207-293-8073, jen@ecoinstincts.com or katie@ecoinstincts.com

Bruce Wilson, Hogan & Whitney Ponds Assn Watershed Project Volunteer, Ph: 856-816-1544, bruce.wilson8@verizon.net

Michele Windsor, OCSWCD (grantee) Ph: 207-744-3111, oxfordcountyswcd@outlook.com

**This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Section 319 Grants are administered by the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) in partnership with the EPA in order to prevent or reduce water pollution in Maine.*

Hogan-Whitney Pond Watershed Project: Phase II



The Hogan & Whitney Ponds Association's (HWPAs) environmental stewardship has taken another big step in 2023 by working with Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) to acquire a second round of funding from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to reduce excess phosphorus contamination in the two ponds by minimizing soil runoff contamination. In 2017 we conducted a survey of all shoreline properties in the watershed. We initially identified 95 sites and have added more as we work on remediation efforts. The two-year funding for this Phase II work is \$133,410 of which \$77,910 is a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant from EPA* and \$55,500 from local match. Our efforts in 2023 and 2024 will include four broad categories of work:

- ▶ **Technical Assistance** provided to interested property owners to provide site-specific plans for erosion control projects.
- ▶ **Large Abatement Projects** supporting major erosion problems on municipal roads, campgrounds, and more complex residential sites.
- ▶ **Residential Matching Grants** provide financial support to help lakeshore landowners voluntarily remediate less expensive erosion sites.
- ▶ **Community Education/Outreach** to help inform neighbors about actions everyone can take to mitigate soil erosion.