# **Protecting the Health of Our Lakes**



# The Lakes We Love

Clear, beautiful water, sandy beaches, a gathering place for family and friends, boating and fishing adventures, an investment of money and time.

#### The Value of Winnipesaukee

Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth – estimates the value of Winnipesaukee at \$17B

Property Assessments 16,457,417,397
Iown Tax Revenue 216,502,454
Business
Tourism 294,131,000
Boating 107,625,000
Fishing 1,641,944
Summer Camps 42,704,856
Water Supply
Laconia Water Supply 1,532,410
Lakeport Dam 42,209,472

#### Our lakes are under threat

#### the risks of doing nothing

#### **Economic Impacts**

- Loss of recreation revenues
- Decline in property values
- Increased cost to address impairments
- Loss of opportunity revenues
- Public Health Risks and costs

### Our lakes are under threat the risks of doing nothing

**Ecological Impacts** 

- Water clarity decline
- Algal and cyanobacteria blooms making it unsafe for people and pets
- Milfoil
- Loss of wildlife and habitat
- Loss of diversity of fisheries

Phosphorus is the overall driver of ecosystem health.





#### Lake Champlain: A case study

- Property values have declined by over 15%
- This = \$150,000 for a \$1M home
- Swimming and boating in many summers is no longer safe due to algae blooms
- Cleaning up Lake Champlain is now costing Vermont \$970M because the excessive nutrient loading was not addressed sooner

#### Winnipesaukee: A case study

Phosphorus loading has increased 300% over natural background levels.

#### **Resulting in an increase in...**

- Cyanobacteria
- Filamentous Algae
- Variable Milfoil







# It's the LOAD that's important!

Lake Waukewan/Winona Watershed Watershed Size: 8,090 acres Lake Waukewan – 928 acres

Watershed/Lake Area: 8.7

- 13% Developed
- 84% Forested

Nutrient Loading – 677 lbs/yr total

- Watershed Runoff 475 lbs/yr (70%)
- Atmospheric 91 lbs/yr (13%)
- Waterfowl 13 lbs/yr (2%)
- Septic Systems 62 lbs/yr (9%)
- Internal Loading 35 lbs/yr (5%)



## It's the LOAD that's important!

#### Lake Kanasatka Watershed

Watershed Size: 4,528 acres Lake Kanasatka – 353 acres

Watershed/Lake Area: 12.8

12% Developed 80% Forested

#### Nutrient Loading – 645 lbs/yr total

- Watershed Runoff 375 lbs/yr (58%)
- Atmospheric 35 lbs/yr (5%)
- Waterfowl 20 lbs/yr (3%)
- Septic Systems 62 lbs/yr (10%)
- Internal Loading 154 lbs/yr (24%)



#### Watershed Management Plans

Action Plans identify and prioritize measures to reduce pollutant loading to the lake

- Recommendations to date: Education and Outreach - 56 Wastewater - 31 Municipal Ordinances/Land Conservation - 86 Water Quality Monitoring – 45 251 mitigation sites
- Investment of \$588k \$254k in grants, \$334k in financial and in-kind match



# Shoreline Surveys: Lake Waukewan and Winona

2016: Watershed ManagementPlan

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- Shoreline Survey Results (10+)
  - Waukewan: 125/215 Parcels
  - Winona: 22/88 Parcels
  - Indicate shoreline conditions for those parcels may be detrimental to water quality







# **Be Winni Blue & LakeSmart**

- Free, voluntary, non-regulatory evaluation to determine how lakefriendly your property is
- Simple, cost-effective recommendations
- Evaluation sections include:
  - Driveway and Parking Areas
  - Structures and Wastewater Treatment
  - Yard and Footpaths
  - Shoreline and Water Access





Keep Winni Blue

nhlakes.org

winnipesaukee.org

ee.org

# **Be Winni Blue & LakeSmart**

Step One: Take the Self-Assessment

Step Two: Receive a PDF with General Recommendations of Lake Friendly Practices

Step Three: Request a Site Visit

Step Four: Receive a PDF with Property Specific Recommendations

https://www.winnipesaukee.org/take-action/

## **Driveway and Parking Areas**



# Structures and Septic Systems



## Yard, Recreation Areas and Footpaths





## Shoreline and Water Access



# Cyanobacteria

- Naturally Occurring
  - 3.5 Billion Years Old
  - Photosynthetic Bacteria
- Growth Factors
  - Sunlight
  - Water Temperature
  - Nutrients (Nitrogen/Phosphorus)
- Potential to produce toxinsNot all blooms are equal



# Weekly Report Card and Cyanobacteria Map

NONE

SUMMARY

The three advisories that were put in place

moved. Keep an eye on your shorelines for

Updated 7/08/2022

cyanobacteria. If you suspect cyanobacteria

and send the info to LWA and NHDES

- To track advisories and sightings n
- Lake Winnipesaukee n

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- 2021: 14 observations/0 advisories n
- 2022: 6 observations/3 advisories n





# Who Should You Contact to Report a Bloom?

- 1. Take a Photo
- 2. Record the Location/Day/Time
- 3. Send Info to LWA and NHDES

### NHDES HAB Hotline: (603) 848-8094 NHDES HAB Email: <u>HAB@des.nh.gov</u>

#### LWA Call/Text: (603) 581-6632 Email: brossiter@winnipesaukee.org



## **Check Your Supplements and Food Products**



## How you can help.

- 1. Take simple actions to reduce your phosphorus footprint
  - Sign up for a 'Be Winni Blue and LakeSmart' site visit
  - Plant native shrubs along the shorefront
  - Let your lawn rewild
- 2. Tell your neighbors and friends
- 3. Become a member of your local lake associations

## **Cyanobacteria Guidance Document**





advises lake users (and their pets) to avoid contact with the water in areas experiencing bloom

## **Contact Information**

Pat Tarpey *President* Lake Winnipesaukee Association

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Bree Rossiter Conservation Program Manager Lake Winnipesaukee Association

brossiter@winnipesaukee.org

Thank You! www.winnipesaukee.org 603-581-6632