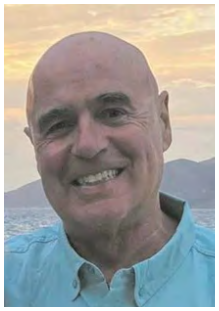
LAKE
WINNIPESAUKEE
ALLIANCE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Chair



Dear LWA Supporter,

2024 was a year of remarkable progress and pressing challenges for the Lake Winnipesaukee Alliance:

- We received the largest public and private grants in our history.
- We added two critical staff members strengthening our lake protection efforts.
- We will complete the last three basin management plans by year-end.
- Our name change to Alliance was met with enthusiasm and growing support from individuals and businesses.

At the same time, cyanobacteria blooms impacted larger areas of the lake for longer periods of time - an alarming sign of what's at stake.

As we look ahead to 2025 we're uniquely positioned to meet the lake's growing challenges. We invite you to read our latest annual report, and reflect on the personal actions you can take to help protect Lake Winnipesaukee's waters:

- Install landscaping that slows runoff into the lake
- Use of phosphate-free fertilizers
- Maintain your septic tank regularly
- Operate wake boats 300 ft. from shore
- Volunteer as a water quality monitor.

Every action matters - and so does your financial support. Thanks to a surprise challenge grant last December, our community rallied and surpassed the target ahead of schedule.

That outpouring of support demonstrated just how deeply people care about this lake - and how committed they are to protecting it.

In addition to these gifts, LWA received the largest private donations in our history—powerful votes of confidence in our team and our work. These contributions are helping us build the scientific and organizational capacity needed to face the future.

Still, only a fraction of Lakes Region residents are aware of LWA or support our efforts. That's why we're launching a new awareness campaign—through signage, posters, and banners—to expand our reach and rally more people to our cause. Please help us by spreading the word to your family, friends, and neighbors. There is strength in numbers—and growing support will help safeguard the lake for generations to come.

The years ahead will bring growth, challenge, and change for LWA. But with your continued support—and your love for Lake Winnipesaukee—I'm confident we'll emerge stronger, together.

Special thanks to Peter Glick, who served with distinction as Board Chair for the past five years and continues as Vice Chair, and to Pat Tarpey, our dedicated President, who will retire later this year. Their leadership has been instrumental in bringing LWA to this point.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, thank you for being a part of this work and this community.

With gratitude,

Mark

Mark Ishkanian
Chair, LWA Board

Message from the President

For nearly fifty years, the LWA has been working to protect the health of the lake.

The volunteers who founded the organization in 1976 would be amazed and proud of what has been accomplished to date. Although we have made significant progress in safeguarding the lake, it is critical that we expand our efforts to meet the need and ever-growing challenges facing the lake today.

Recent increases in cyanobacteria blooms underscore the urgent need to escalate efforts to reduce nutrient loading and mitigate threats to the lake's ecosystem. Our 2023-27 Strategic Plan is designed to address these challenges and ensure the long-term sustainability of the lake. Our priorities focus on updating watershed-based plans, reducing nutrient and sediment inputs, expanding water quality monitoring, and engaging communities in the lake's protection.

In the last four years we've doubled the number of water quality monitoring sites on the lake along with the number of volunteers participating in this citizen science program. We have improved our tracking and reporting of cyanobacteria blooms, facilitated NHDES in identifying cyanobacteria type and toxins present, and made numerous presentations to the public about the potential health issues associated with cyanobacteria, and what they can do to help reduce the occurrence of these blooms.

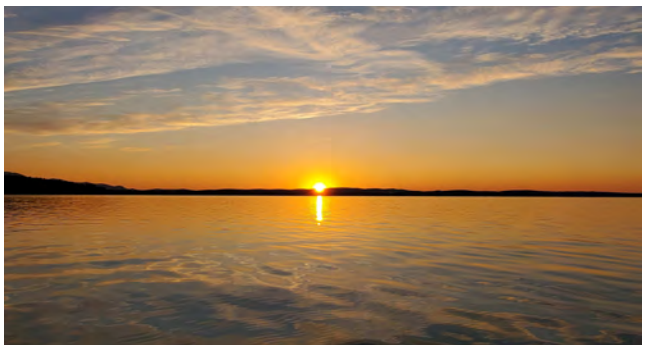
Our goal to complete watershed and lake analyses for each area of the lake was advanced significantly in 2024 with the securing of a $500,000 grant from the USEPA. By the end of 2025, all 10 subwatersheds of Lake Winnipesaukee will have watershed-based plans that serve as a roadmap for residents and municipalities to guide actions for reducing pollution to the lake.

None of this work would be possible without you - our dedicated volunteers and supporters. Every data point, site visit, shoreline improvement brings us closer to a sustainable future for Winnipesaukee. Thank you for standing with us.

Warm regards,

Pat

Patricia Tarpey, President



Sunrise over Lake Winnipesaukee – a daily reminder of what we work to protect.

Protecting the Future of Winnipesaukee

MISSION

The mission of the LWA is protect the water quality and natural resources of Lake Winnipesaukee and its watershed today and for the future.

VISION

Lake Winnipesaukee is a magnificent resource enjoyed by thousands of people each year. Its stunning setting and clean water provide swimming, boating, and fishing enjoyment to all who live, work, or play here, and is a critical foundation of our local economy.

Protecting the lake requires well-managed watersheds that include native forests and abundant wildlife, with an active and informed community of residents and visitors acting as stewards for the lake. Our work stems from a deep appreciation and love for the lake and its environment, and desire to keep it beautiful and clean for countless generations.

We envision a lake that each year is cleaner, supports abundant wildlife and fisheries, is treated with respect by all who enjoy it, and is sustainable for generations to come.

VALUES STATEMENT

LWA uses science-based analyses to guide advocacy and action for the long-term protection of the lake and its watershed resources.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Monitor and assess the health of the lake, building an active and sustained water quality monitoring program.

WATERSHED AND LAKE MANAGEMENT

Complete analyses of the lake's watersheds, identifying all significant sources of pollution. These analyses will form the basis of a 10-20-year plan to achieve specified reductions in nutrient and sediment loading to the lake.

WATERSHED AND LAKE RESTORATION

Lead and support the implementation of the mitigation actions and strategies outlined in the watershed-based plans.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

Develop educational and outreach initiatives for key stakeholders to create a network of concerned community members and volunteers dedicated to protecting the lake.

ADVOCACY

Work with stakeholders, municipalities, state and federal governments to adopt policies and regulations that protect watershed resources.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TEAM

Build a team of professionals and a set of processes to ensure implementation of the watershed-based plans and an ongoing program to protect the lake.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Build a development program to fund our efforts with consistent private donations from landowners, business leaders and other members of the community.

Safeguarding the lake, One sample at a time.

Water Quality Monitoring

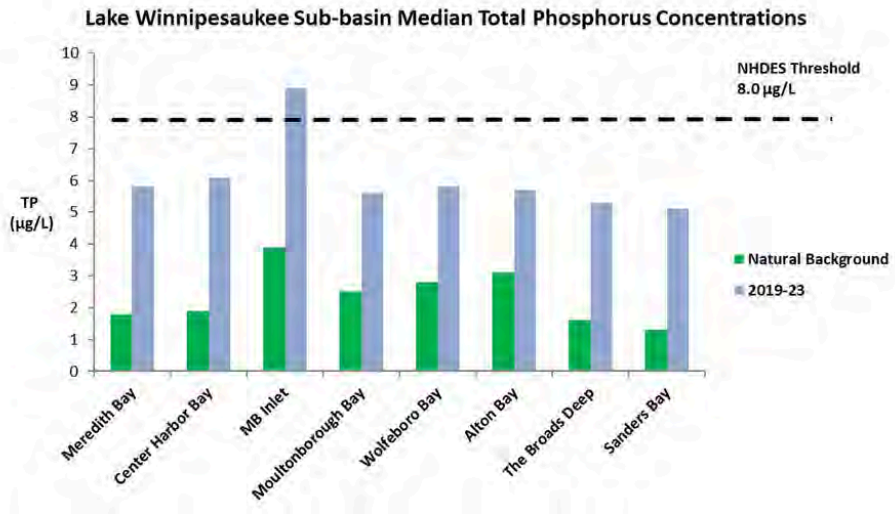
Every sample we collect tells a story—about the health of our lake, the strength of our stewardship, and the path forward.

An important indicator of water quality is the extent to which algae growth and/or cyanobacteria is causing the lake to turn green, and the rate at which this change is occurring.

Phosphorus is a key parameter measured because it stimulates plant growth, and can contribute significantly to cyanobacteria blooms. Because the water within the lake's numerous bays and coves doesn't readily mix with the rest of the lake, the water in these areas may be more susceptible to water quality problems.

The graph below shows the 5 year median (2019-2023) phosphorus levels for each bay compared to the natural background in-lake level. Natural background refers to the in-lake phosphorus levels before development of the land began. Overall, there's been a 100-300% increase in phosphorus levels in the lake.

2024 Cyanobacteria blooms around the lake.

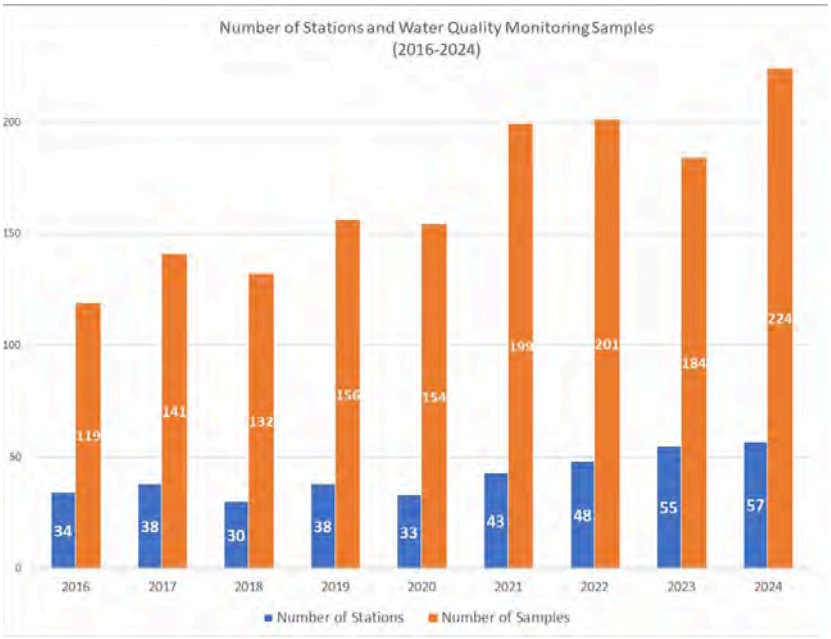


LWA uses the data to drive implementation of stormwater control measures by municipalities and individual landowners to reduce nutrient loading to the lake.

In 2024 we increased cyanobacteria monitoring on the lake, tracking and mapping blooms, analyzing water samples for cyanobacteria and toxins. We also helped form a Moultonborough Cyanobacteria Committee, and contributed technical guidance to the Wolfeboro Waters Committee.

“When I compare the pristine conditions of the Lake in 1955 to today's observations, you realize something has happened: no crayfish under and around the rocks and green slime on the rocks in August, for example. Working with LWA and seeing all the data both in the long term and from site to site where the water samples are pulled, provides a better understanding of the condition of the Lake. It provides a measuring stick for guiding corrective actions by the State, municipalities and individuals."

-Jim MacBride, Welch Island and WQ monitor.



Impact Snapshot

57 Sampling Locations

68% increase in sampling stations since 2016

224 Water Samples

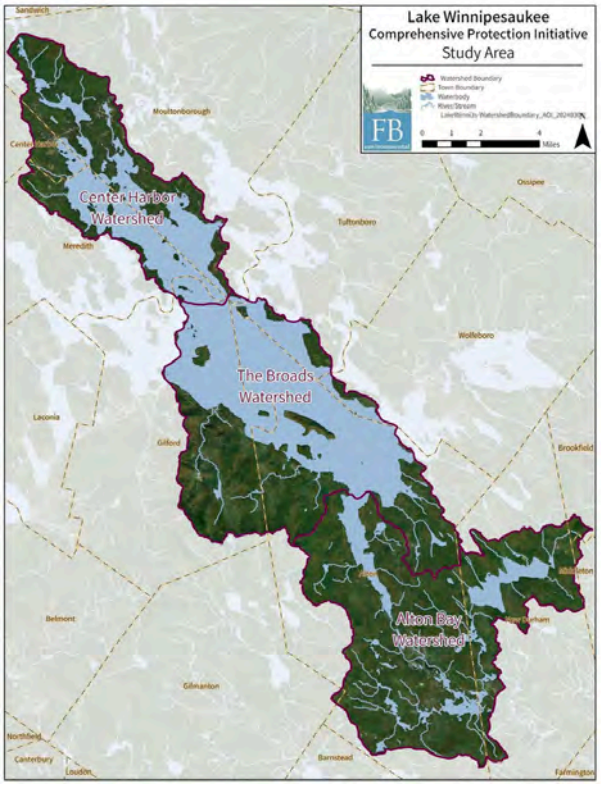
88% increase in the number of samples collected since 2016

42 Trained volunteers contributed over 750 hours

Seeing the Watershed Through a New Lens

Watershed Analysis

Understanding where water flows—and what it carries—helps us act with precision and purpose.



- **4 sub-watersheds analyzed** using GIS, nutrient modeling, field surveys and water quality data - Wolfeboro Bay, Alton Bay, Center Harbor Bay, and the Broads.
- **3197 Shoreline parcels evaluated** for disturbance and vulnerability - two different measures of shoreline health.
- **Identified 164 areas** for restoration. These sites contribute an estimated 176 lbs. total phosphorus, 433 lbs of sediment, and 451 lbs. total nitrogen.
- **Land-use assessment for Wolfeboro Bay** revealed that **61%** of nutrient input stems from developed land.
- Findings used to guide local planning and future mitigation projects.

We can't protect what we don't understand. This analysis gives us a roadmap.

Examples of sites identified in need of mitigation in the watershed surveys.

From Backyards to Town Halls: Empowering Action

Technical Assistance to Landowners & Municipalities

We bring science to the shoreline, helping people take meaningful action — one parcel at a time.

- **21 landowners** received tailored recommendations on how to improve their properties to be LakeSmart.
- Presented at the NH Drinking Water Source Protection Conference on land use management and assessment to protect a drinking water source -Paugus Bay
- **24 presentations** made to homeowners associations, communities, home builders association and the public on water quality issues.

"Thank you so much LWA! We're excited about the information you provided and how we can apply it at our home and waterfront. Looking forward to becoming LakeSmart certified on Winni! " — Mary and Paul Lyon, Osseo Association

Turning Science into Solutions

Nutrient Loading Mitigation Projects

Preventing nutrients from reaching the lake is one of the most powerful ways we protect its future.

Sources of pollution in the watershed impacting the lake's water quality include stormwater runoff from developed areas, shoreline erosion, gravel roads, improperly functioning septic systems, and more. Below are some of the projects that are currently in progress.

$270,000 in grant funding secured, and another $157,000 in matching local contributions.

Sandy Cove Road, Moultonborough

One of the top priority sites identified in the Lake Kanasatka watershed plan. Steep private road that leads down to common beach.

Estimated pollutant load reduction to Lake Kanasatka of 1,477 lbs./yr sediment and 3.6 lbs/yr phosphorus.

Melvin Wharf Road, Tuftonboro

Significant beach erosion from drainage off Melvin Wharf Rd. Stormwater runoff flows over the beach and erodes the sand into the lake.

Estimated pollutant load reduction to Melvin Bay of 154 lbs./yr sediment and 0.5 lbs/yr phosphorus.

Resort on the Bay, Laconia

Stormwater currently flows unchecked across a sloped parking area and sand beach, delivering sediment and nutrients directly into the bay.

Estimated pollutant load reductions to Langley Cove have not yet been calculated.

Engaging Hearts, Inspiring Stewards

Community Involvement and Education

Lake protection begins with love—for the water, for the wildlife, and for the memories it holds.

- 1,050 people reached through events, community programs, and presentations
- Social media grew by 73% in reach
- Social media followers have grown by 65%
- Volunteers logged over 1,200 hours across all programs

Make Waves for Winni fundraiser

Chanticleer Shores homeowners learn about lake friendly living.

Volunteers help clean up the lake.

Summer kayak paddle to Ragged Island to learn about water quality issues.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Photo Credit: Jeremy Noyes

Looking Ahead

We have the science, the partners, and the passion.

Together, we will continue to protect this extraordinary place.

In 2025, we will expand our monitoring efforts, implement more on-the-ground projects, deepen municipal partnerships, and continue to educate and engage the public about lake-friendly living practices.

Thank you for being a part of our mission.

"We drew our drinking water from the Lake when I was a kid and we still use it for everything but drinking water here on Mark Island, so we are very dependent on good water quality. But more important than our personal needs, the quality of the Lake's water is critical for the area's biodiversity, all of our recreational enjoyment, and the regional economy. We need to work together to protect what nature provides for free." **– Mark Opel**

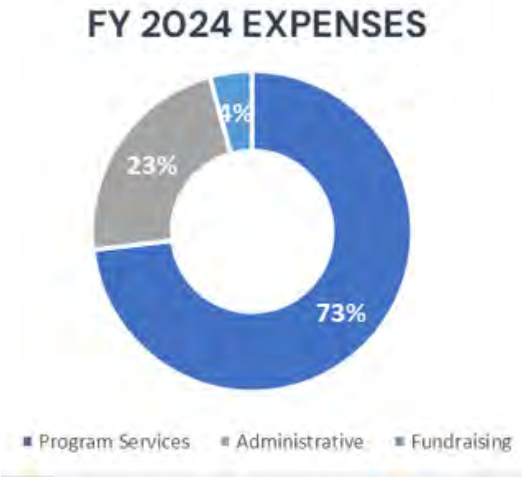
FY2024 Financials – Unaudited

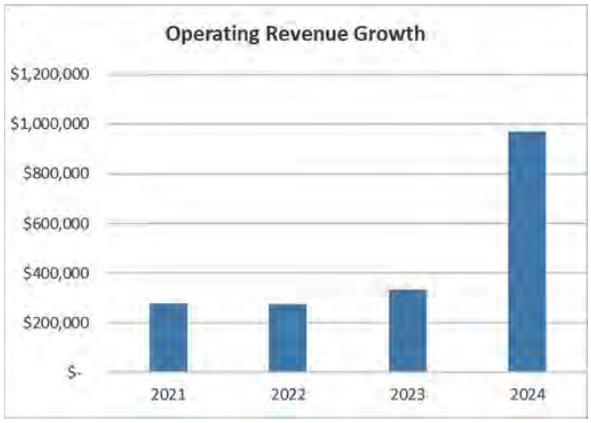
Lake Winnipesaukee Alliance's operating funds come from three main sources - contributions from individuals and businesses, municipalities, and grants. 2024 saw a significant increase in contributions from individual donors and private foundations, mainly due to the rise in cyanobacteria blooms and recognition of the importance of the work the LWA does. As a result, the LWA is in a strong financial position that will allow us to increase our impact and meet the pressing needs the lake faces. As always, we remain incredibly grateful for your generous support, which is critical to making this work possible.

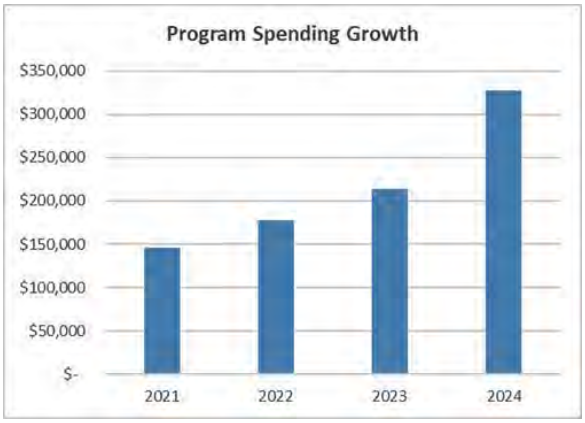
REVENUE	FY 2024	FY 2023
Contributions	$356,518	$223,720
Grants	$612,556	$ 110,240
Investment Inome	$ 310	$ 246
Total Income	**$969,384**	**$334,206**

EXPENSES		
Program	$322,307	$213,644
General & Administrative	$ 99,433	$ 46,317
Fundraising	$ 18,719	$ 13,570
Total Expenses	**$440,459**	**$273,531**

NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	$304,615	$243,940
End of Year	$833,540	$304,615
Change in Net Assets	**$ 528,925**	**$ 60,675**







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