

From: Watchic Lake Association <p3mcnulty@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 7:39 PM
To: Paul McNulty
Subject: DEP Grant Project Complete. Fall Water Quality Update

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**Volunteers protecting and
improving Watchic Lake**

Watchic Lake Association

Hi Paul, here is wishing you and your family a happy holiday season and a successful 2023!

After two years our **DEP Section 319 grant projects have been completed.** With the help of many on the lake, Maine DEP, the Town of Standish, and the WLA, over \$150,000 was spent during 2021 and 2022 to reduce runoff into the lake. Read more below.

WLA volunteers continue to **monitor water quality.** Read on for more our fall update.

Thank you to all our members! As of December 19, 162 people from 110 properties are WLA members (about 45% of properties are members). If you have not already, please take a moment to join or renew your WLA membership. **Click or touch here to learn more about [membership](#) and [donations](#).**

Feel free to share this email with others and encourage all users of Watchic Lake to subscribe to our email updates. More here at [How to Subscribe](#).



DEP Section 319 Grant Projects Forecast to Significantly Reduce Harmful Runoff into Watchic Lake.

The Watchic Lake Association, working together with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection have completed the final projects to reduce storm water runoff into Watchic Lake. This was announced in a [WLA press release](#).

Through the projects funded by this grant, an estimated **2.33 tons of sediment and 1.99 pounds of phosphorus will be prevented from washing into Watchic Lake each year.** And 112.5 feet of streambank or shoreline will be protected. These reductions will help maintain good water quality leading to better quality of life for all on the lake.

During the past few months seven projects were completed, encompassing private roads, town roads, and residential properties around the lake.

- Improvements were made to **Watchic Road 15, Watchic Road 3, Hartford Lane, Hi-Vu Drive, and Dolloff Road**. Improvements were designed to address specific issues at each site and ranged from installing culverts and catch basins, creating vegetated swales along roadsides, to installing infiltration steps in heavy pedestrian use areas; all designed to catch and filter runoff.
- The owners of **four residential properties** collaborated with the WLA, the DEP, and local contractors to make various improvements to their properties, ranging from meandering permeable paths, infiltration steps, proper use of mulch, and planting various native plants. Not only did these improvements reduce runoff into the lake, but they also improved property aesthetics and values.

In addition to construction-oriented projects, the WLA educated hundreds of property owners on how to keep the lake healthy. Education activities included presentations at WLA annual meetings, information provided on the WLA website and newsletters, and a hands-on shoreland landscaping workshop.

We want to thank all involved; road associations, property owners, the Town of Standish, Cumberland County Soil and Water Division and Maine DEP for making this project a success and protecting Watchic Lake. Note that funding for the projects, in part, will be provided by the U.S. EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with EPA. The EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services mentioned in the work plan.



Flat-surface, permeable path, with erosion control mulch

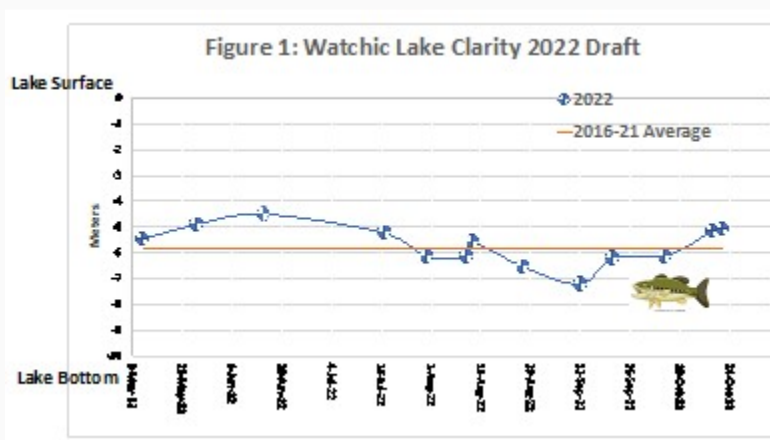
2022 Water Quality Fall Update

By Cathy Watson

Staring out at the lake just before Christmas reminds me that similar to other lakes in Maine, Watchic Lake continues to experience longer ice-free periods (average >270 days over last 3 years). These

warmer temperatures in the Spring and Winter are an environment that could disturb the delicate ecological balance of the lake. This is one reason the Watchic Lake Water Quality Committee continues to monitor our lake each season. A full set of automatic loggers were deployed from the buoy (at the deep spot in the lake) on May 12. The loggers take temperature and dissolved oxygen levels every 15 minutes. The loggers were converted to the winter configuration (temperature only) on October 21. In addition, we took Secchi disk readings (for water clarity; Figure 1 below) and manual readings of temperature and dissolved oxygen at about 2-week intervals, and water samples for chemical analysis every month. The initial data suggests everything is similar to last years' data, but stay tuned for the full report in February 2022.

Touch or click here for full review of [Watchic Lake Water Quality](#).



Please feel free to forward this email to others you know on the lake, and encourage them to [sign up for our emails](#). Emails and our website are the best way to keep informed of activities on the lake! Email addresses are not shared and will only be used for WLA business.

Contact Paul McNulty at p3mcnulty@gmail.com if you want to learn more about any these or other lake related topics.

Thank you!

Paul McNulty

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