



Spring/Summer 2025 Newsletter

Greetings from CLWA!

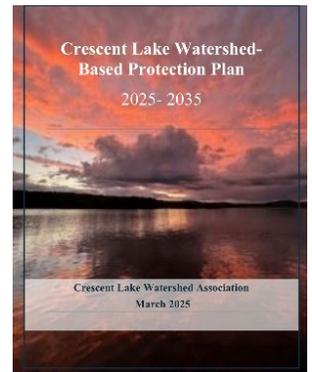
Summer is almost here and that means more time to enjoy the beauty, recreation, and peace that Crescent Lake brings to us all.

It's been a busy and exciting year for the Crescent Lake Watershed Association (CLWA), and we're thrilled to share some major updates that will have a lasting impact on the health of our lake.

Watershed Protection Plan Approved!

In September 2024, the Crescent Lake Watershed Survey was officially approved by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). With a current survey in place (less than 5 years old), CLWA partnered with Maine DEP to develop a comprehensive **10-Year Crescent Lake Watershed-Based Protection Plan**. This plan outlines a strategy and schedule for reducing Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution and protecting water quality in the watershed from **2025 through 2035**.

We're proud to announce that the plan was **officially approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in March 2025!** To review the full plan, go to the CLWA website.



Why This Is a Big Deal

EPA approval opens the door for CLWA to apply for **Clean Water Act Section 319 grants**-federal funding that supports efforts to reduce pollution like stormwater runoff and erosion. CLWA has partnered with the **Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)** to help write the grant application.

These grants help fund:

- Technical and financial assistance
- Educational outreach and community workshops
- Demonstration projects
- Long-term pollution reduction tools and training

Plan's Goals and Objectives

- Reduce phosphorus loading by addressing all 23 watershed survey NPS sites and 31 residential shoreline NPS sites
- Prevent new sources of phosphorus through improved land use practices and regular maintenance activities
- Strengthen and maintain local capacity for environmental stewardship
- Monitor water quality and lake health through ongoing water quality monitoring, Crescent Lake Invasive Plant Patrollers (CLIPPers), courtesy boat inspections (CBIs), and the use of the NPS Site Tracker

Why It Matters: The Benefits of a Watershed-based Protection Plan

- **Cleaner Water**-A healthier lake for both wildlife and people

- **Stronger Ecosystems**-Supports fish, aquatic life, and native plants
- **More Recreation**-Safer, more enjoyable swimming, boating, and fishing
- **Boosted Local Economy**-Clean lakes support tourism and protect property values
- **Stronger Community**-Shared action, pride, and local stewardship

Tracking Progress with NPS Site Tracker

We are implementing a new Excel-based tool to help manage erosion and pollution site data: the **NPS Site Tracker**. This tool helps us monitor progress, track new issues, and maintain organized, effective lake protection methods.

Let's Work Together!

In the coming months, we'll be reaching out to watershed and lake property owners, local Road Associations, and the towns of Casco and Raymond to help address erosion and pollution issues.

We'll also offer helpful resources like:

- Yardscaping Workshops
- LakeSmart Evaluations
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Vegetated Buffer Planting Assistance
- Septic System Maintenance Tips
- Technical Support from Lake Experts
- Cost-Share and Grant Matching Opportunities
- Gravel Road Maintenance Workshops
- Educational Materials and Outreach



How You Can Help

- **Stay Connected**-Sign up for CLWA email updates to stay informed
- **Be Observant**-Report erosion or pollution concerns on or near your property
- **Get Involved**-Volunteer for shoreline planting projects-every bit helps!

Save the Date: Come Learn More at Our Annual Picnic!

Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025 **Time:** 12:00PM-2:00PM

Location: Pam Aker's home-96 Edwards Road, Casco, ME (North end of the lake)

Watch our website and emails for the full agenda!



Wishing You a Safe & Beautiful Summer on Crescent Lake!

Thank you for being a part of this vibrant, caring community. Together, we can protect and preserve the lake we all love for today and for generations to come.

The CLWA Team