

# WILSON LAKE WATERSHED SURVEY SUMMARY FACT SHEET

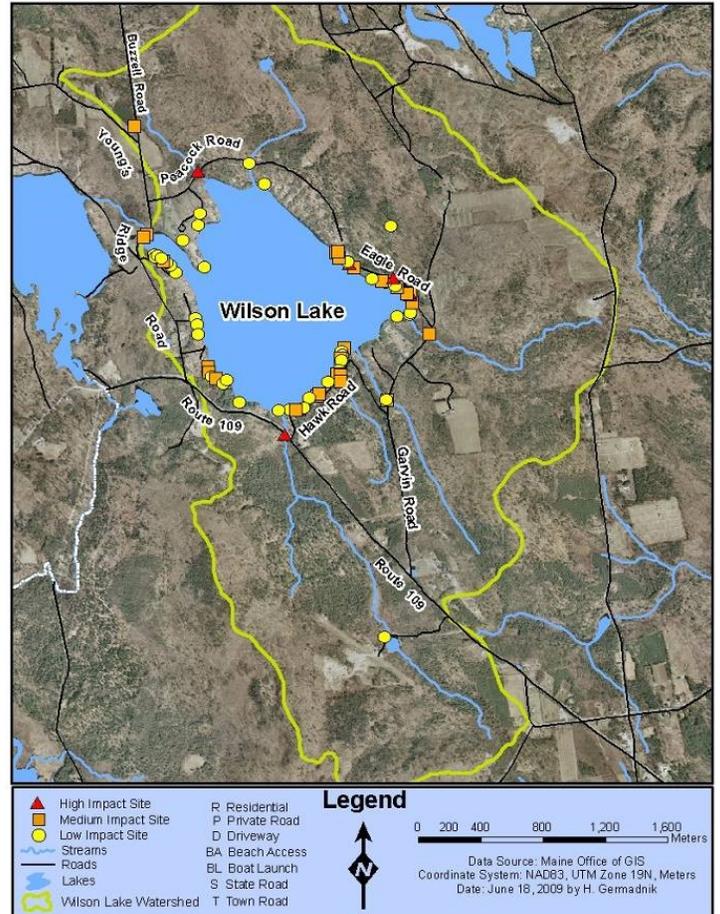


## **BACKGROUND:**

The Wilson Lake watershed (all the land that drains to Wilson Lake) covers 3.86 square miles in the Town of Acton, Maine.

According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Wilson Lake's water quality is about average but low oxygen levels indicate that it is threatened by polluted runoff. Soil erosion, in particular, is the single greatest source of pollution to Wilson Lake.

- Soil contains the nutrient, phosphorus, which has the potential to promote algae blooms when it enters a lake.
- Algae blooms also turn water green and make a lake virtually unusable.
- Studies have shown that as water clarity decreases, property values also drop.
- When algae die, dissolved oxygen in the lake is reduced by the decomposition process. When dissolved oxygen is continuously below about 5ppm, fish and other aquatic animals are unable to survive.



## **WATERSHED SURVEY:**

In the Spring of 2009 a team of 32 local volunteers and technical staff from the Wilson Lake Association, York County SWCD, Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, Maine DEP and New Hampshire DES conducted a survey of the watershed and identified 72 sites with soil erosion that are contributing polluted runoff to Wilson Lake.

Teams documented erosion problems on roads, properties, driveways and trails on standardized field data sheets. Teams rated impact, made recommendations to remediate each source using erosion control practices and estimated the cost of the remediation.

Results and recommendations were compiled in the ***Wilson Lake Watershed Survey Report***.



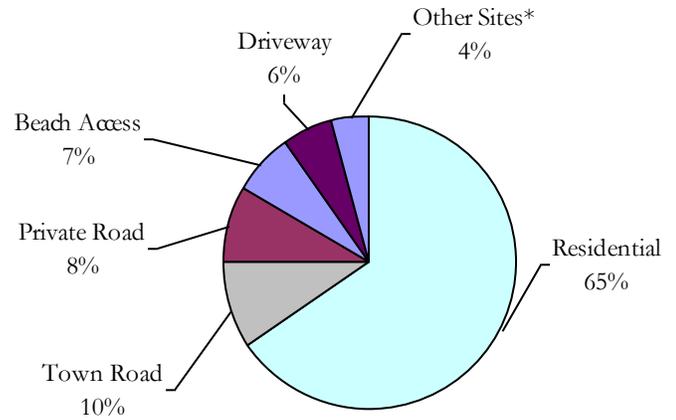
Sediment delta in Wilson Lake due to severe erosion on Eagle Road.

## **KEY SURVEY RESULTS:**

Volunteers and technical staff identified 72 sites in the Wilson Lake Watershed that are impacting or have the potential to impact water quality.

- Erosion sites were identified all around the watershed and on eight different types of land uses. As such, everyone has a role to play in lake protection. The Town of Acton, property owners, business owners, road associations, lakefront landowners and even people living far from the lake can all take measures to reduce lake pollution.
- 47 of the identified sites (65%) were found in residential areas. These sites tend to have less severe erosion and can be fixed easily at low cost. Individual landowners can play a big role in helping address these problems.
- A significant percentage (25%) of the remaining erosion sites were associated with roads (town, private and state roads and driveways). These sites tend to be larger erosion problems with greater lake impacts.

## **Percentage of Sites by Land Use**



\*Other includes 1 state road, 1 boat launch and 1 ATV trail.

### **Project Partners:**

Wilson Lake Association  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance  
York County Soil and Water Conservation District  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Now that the watershed survey and report are complete, fixing the sites identified in this survey will require efforts by individuals, the Wilson Lake Association, road associations and municipal officials.
- York County SWCD, AWWA and Wilson Lake Association can use survey findings to apply for a DEP 319 grant to help landowners, road associations and towns fix some of the larger erosion problems identified in the survey. Property owners can also contact AWWA if they would like help from the Youth Conservation Corps.
- Results will be mailed to all property owners with an identified erosion site. The results include recommended remediation, estimated costs, sources of help and further information, so the property owner can begin taking action.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

If you would like information about fixing erosion problems on your property contact:

### ***Wilson Lake Association***

Jeanne Achille, Survey Coordinator  
E-mail: [jach28@gmail.com](mailto:jach28@gmail.com)  
Tel: (207) 477-0310

### ***York County SWCD***

Joe Anderson, Project Manager  
E-mail: [janderson@yorkswcd.org](mailto:janderson@yorkswcd.org)  
Tel: (207) 324-0888

### ***Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance***

Linda Schier, Executive Director  
E-mail: [info@AWwatersheds.org](mailto:info@AWwatersheds.org)  
Tel: (603) 473-2500

### ***Maine DEP***

Wendy Garland  
E-mail: [wendy.garland@maine.gov](mailto:wendy.garland@maine.gov)  
Tel: (207) 822-6320

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