



What is a watershed?

An area of land that collects and channels all precipitation and water flows into a larger body of water such as a lake, ocean, or river.

The Lake Wesserunnett Association (LWA) works to identify, assess, and combat issues regarding watershed health. Five main conservation targets- water quality, aquatic biodiversity, natural resource values, common loons, and wetland systems- are the focus of the LWA. To find out more about LWA initiatives and events, visit www.wesserunnett.org.

Water Quality

Since 1982 the water quality of Lake Wesserunnett has been monitored and recorded. Samples are taken by hand and tested for various chemicals and contaminants.

Threats:

- Phosphorus and sediment loading
- Runoff from roads, private property, and other nonpoint source pollution

Goals:

- Maintain or improve water quality conditions of Lake Wesserunnett
- Consistently meet water sampling criteria for Lake Stewards of Maine monitoring program

Strategies:

- Work with landowners to increase size and complexity of vegetated shoreline buffers
- Continue yearly monitoring samples to track water conditions over time
- Implement the LakeSmart Program in partnership with Maine Lakes



Common Loon Protection

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

- Rely on wetland areas for nesting Habitat and lake fish for food
- Lay and hatch eggs from May-June
- Keystone and indicator species

Threats:

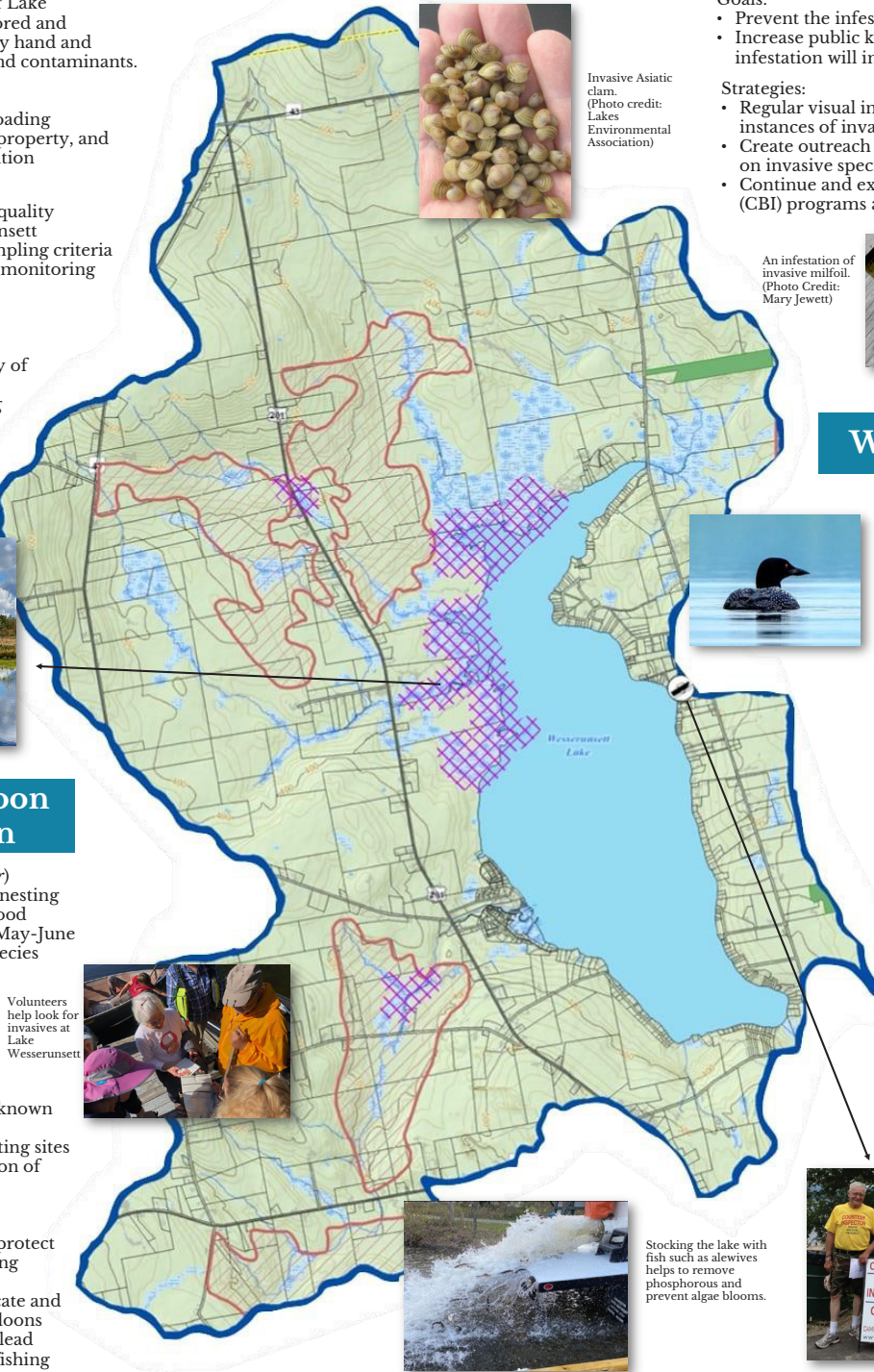
- Habitat destruction
- Boat collisions
- Lead poisoning

Goals:

- Monitor and protect the 3 known nesting sites on the Lake
- Expand the number of nesting sites to support denser population of mating loons

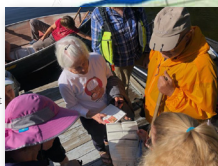
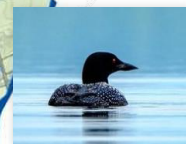
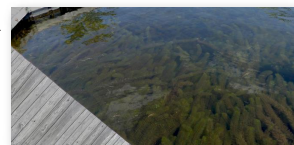
Strategies:

- Work with landowners to protect sites and appropriate nesting habitats
- Outreach activities to educate and raise awareness of risks to loons
- Collection and disposal of lead tackle and monofilament fishing lines



Invasive Asiatic clam. (Photo credit: Lakes Environmental Association)

An infestation of invasive milfoil. (Photo Credit: Mary Jewett)



Volunteers help look for invasives at Lake Wesserunnett



Stocking the lake with fish such as alewives helps to remove phosphorus and prevent algae blooms.



CBI's are stationed at boat launches to help spot invasives and give conservation info to visitors. (Photo credit: Maine DEP)

Biodiversity & Natural Resources

Lake Wesserunnett has an abundance of plant and animal species that contribute to the area's rich biodiversity. Each of these species, along with other abiotic components of the lake, act as a natural resource for humans as well as each other

Threats:

- Invasive species entering the lake ecosystem
- Lack of public knowledge on how to spot, remove, and prevent invasive species

Goals:

- Prevent the infestation of invasive species
- Increase public knowledge on how invasive species infestation will impact the watershed

Strategies:

- Regular visual inspections to monitor new instances of invasive species in the watershed
- Create outreach strategies for visitor education on invasive species in the watershed
- Continue and expand Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) programs at boat launches

Wetland Systems

Wetland covers 1/3 of the lake's shoreline, providing ecosystem services such as water filtration, nutrient retention, and wildlife habitat.

Threats:

- Residential or commercial development that removes wetlands
- Lack of proper zoning enforcement associated with wetlands

Goals:

- Better understand the distribution, and condition of wetland systems
- Achieve permanent conservation of major wetland complexes

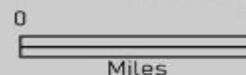
Strategies:

- Map wetland resources within the watershed, including significant vernal pools and deer wintering areas
- Acquire land or conservation easements from willing landowners
- Work with municipal leaders to assure adequate shoreland zoning protections

Wesserunnett Lake Watershed

- Watershed
- Conserved Lands
- Parcels
- Boat Launch
- Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat
- Vernal Pools
- Deer Wintering Areas

Rise & Shine Consulting



Mapping: Center for Community GIS
Data Sources: Beginning with Habitat, MEGIS
Date: January 2022