



Shadow Lake Watershed Action Plan Phase 1

Prepared by: Sarah Damsell, Orleans County Conservation District Manager



Orleans County NRCD worked the Shadow Lake Association to secure VTDEC grant funds to hold an agreement with a consultant to complete a Phase 1 Watershed Action Plan for Shadow Lake.

What is a Watershed Action Plan: A [Lake Watershed Action Plan](#) is an assessment to identify the greatest threats to the lake ecosystem, including impacts on water quality and wildlife habitat from stormwater runoff and from altered, cleared, or converted shorelands. The assessment combines a lake's condition of shoreland, tributaries, drainage ditches, wetlands, hydrologically connected roads, and working landscapes in an individual planning guide that prioritizes restoration and protection actions for that specific region.

Shadow lake is 217 acres, the surrounding lake area is integral to the Town of Glover's quality of life. Based on over 30 years of lay monitoring data the lake is experiencing an increase in both spring and summer total phosphorus concentrations. The VT DEC lists the lake as altered "Potential water quality impacts due to seasonal water level fluctuations" as well as algae and sediment impacts. Land erosion and nutrient loading are stressors. The VTDEC Basin 17 plan lists Shadow Lake as a priority sub watershed.

A **Lake Watershed Action Plan is needed** to identify the greatest threats to water quality, wildlife habitat, and overall lake ecosystem health which will be shared with the community and local partners. **This effort requires local interest and support, and the process must be participatory.**

Project Schedule:

- July 2022 Kick-off Meeting with Stakeholders including town officials and staff and selected contractor.
- August 2022–2023 Field Assessments
- September 2023 Stakeholder meeting including town officials and staff, to review and provide feedback on priority recommendations.
- November 2023 Final Stakeholder including town officials and staff
- November 2023 Completed Lake and Watershed Action Plan

Field Assessments:

- a. Lake Shore and Lakewise
- b. Public roads, private roads, and driveways
- c. Other stakeholder approved priority areas

Intended outcomes:

- A LWAP Phase 1 ArcGIS public [Online Storymap](#) will help provide the data library and an estimate of relative sediment and phosphorus load from each of the primary "sectors" of a lake's watershed into the Lake.
- The LWAP Phase 1 final report will also include information about the [effects of climate change](#) is related to the health of the Shadow Lake.
- The selected contractor will orchestrate engagement of LWAP stakeholders and project team to produce a final Report including [summaries of up to 30 prioritized problems areas and potential solutions.](#)
- The LWAP final report will include any necessary [recommendations to the town](#) for natural resource protections and considerations.
- Using the completed Phase 1 LWAP, stakeholders will [source other funds to complete project](#) development, design and implementation.

Please contact Sarah Damsell with any questions at sarah.damsell@vt.nacdnet.net or 802-334-6090 x7008

