

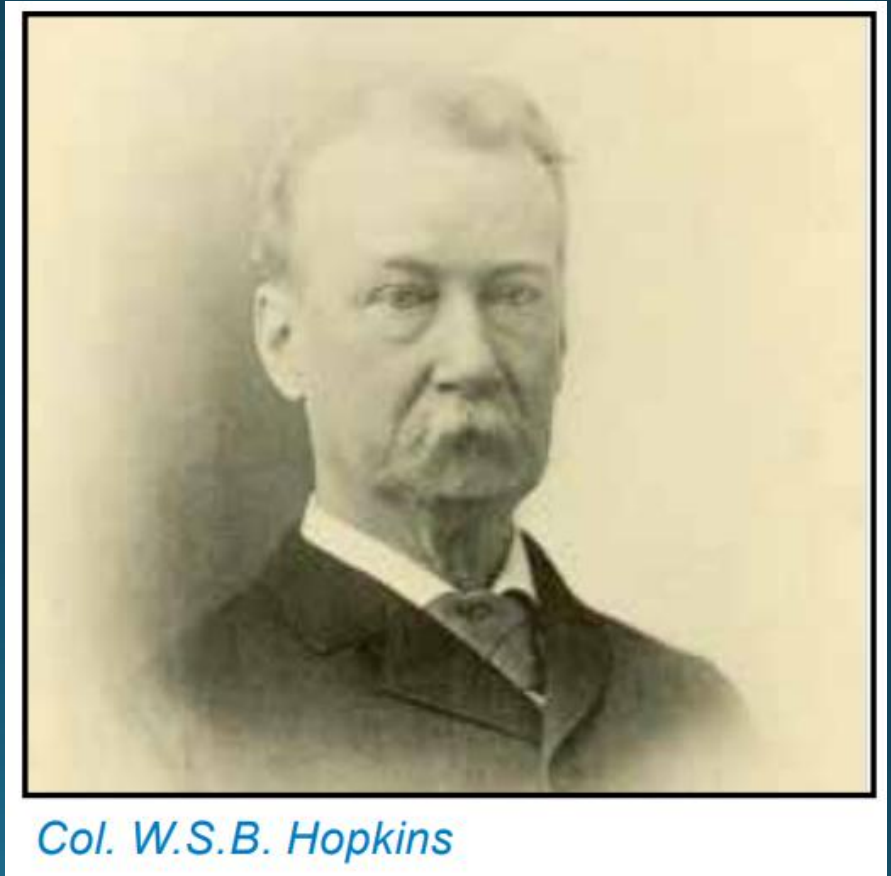
Collaborating to Meet the Challenges Ahead for the Lake Sunapee Watershed

Elizabeth Harper
Lake Sunapee Protective Association



Lake Sunapee Protective Association

- We are the oldest environmental organization in New Hampshire
- Founded in 1898



Col. W.S.B. Hopkins

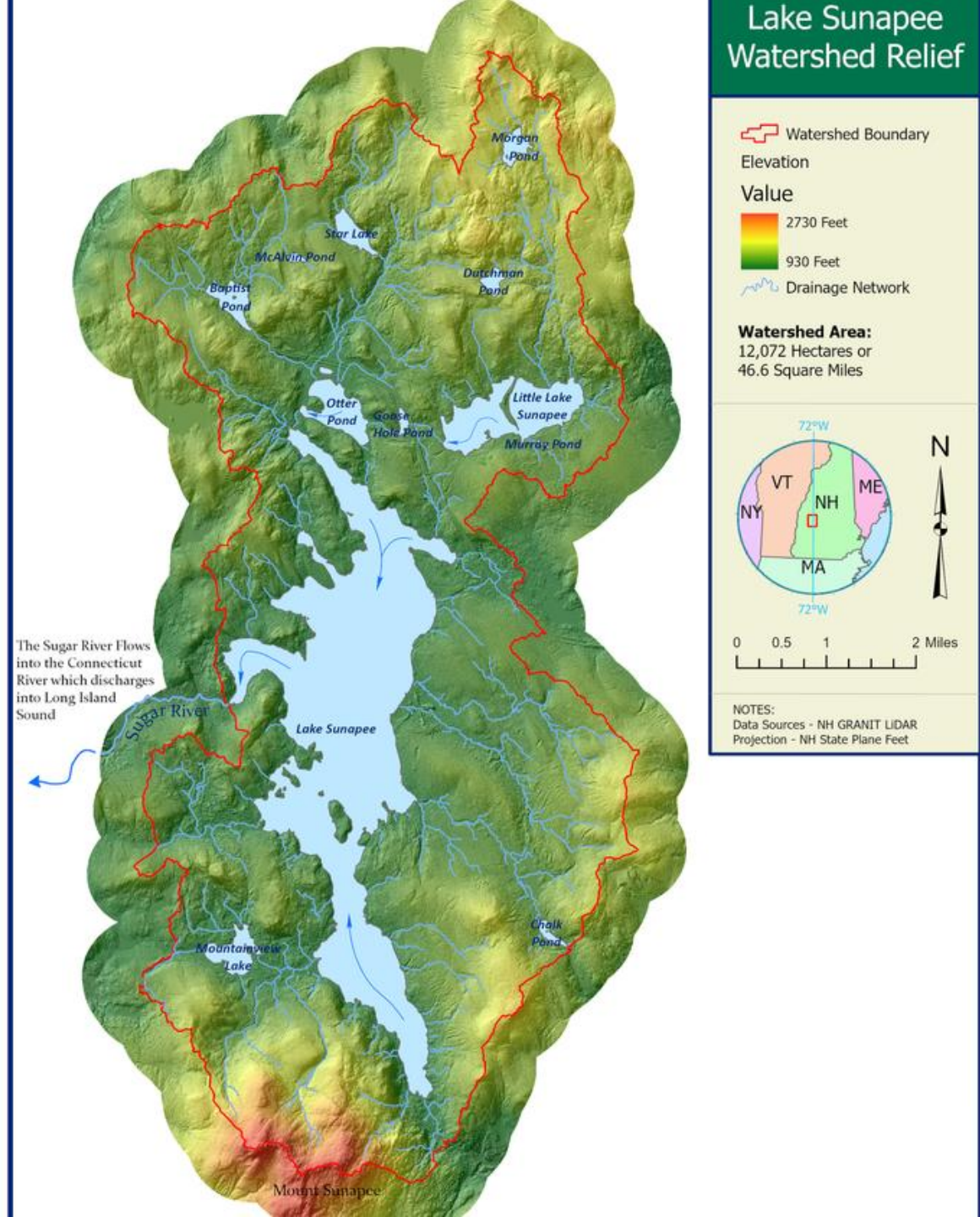


Our Mission

LSPA, founded in 1898, is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the environmental integrity of the Lake Sunapee region, especially its lakes and watersheds, through education, research, and collaborative action.

Lake Sunapee Watershed

- 47 square miles
- Six towns: Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, New London, Sutton and Goshen
- Includes 13 lakes and pond
- The Sugar River is the outlet and flows into the Connecticut River and then into Long Island Sound



Education, Research and Collaborative Action





LAKE
SUNAPEE
PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION
LSPA

Lake Sunapee Protective Association

2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan: Overview for Board Oversight

Core Program Areas

Watershed Stewardship:
*Improve water quality
and ecosystem function*

- Reduce non-point source pollution (2020 - 2030 WMP)
- Promote land-use practices that protect water quality
- Strengthen resilience to climate, land-use change, and contaminants
- Provide visible leadership via projects, advocacy, education and stewardship

Water Quality Monitoring:
*Maintain credible
monitoring to inform
decisions*

- Sustain and expand long-term monitoring at lakes, coves, tributaries and deep sites
- Improve data use for timely response and adaptive management
- Translate results into accessible education and stewardship tools

**Education & Community
Engagement:** *Build
environmental literacy
and a culture of
stewardship*

- Engage children, adults, and visitors in environmental education
- Provide practical stewardship tools to stakeholders
- Develop the next generation of watershed scientists/community scientists

**Invasive Species
Prevention &
Management:**
*Protect ecosystems from
invasive species*

- Minimize risk through early detection, prevention, and awareness
- Strengthen rapid-response capacity
- Adapt strategies through emerging science and trends

Science & Research:
*Understanding to guide
proactive management*

- Expand integrated research (physical, chemical, ecological, social, economic) through partnerships and fellowships
- Use modeling, forecasting, and risk assessment
- Sharing findings through education and proactive outreach



We face increasing challenges:

- **Climate Change Impacts: increasing extremes**
 - More frequent intense storm events
 - Higher surface water temperatures
- **Development Pressures**
 - Value of lakefront properties
 - Push to solve the housing crisis
- **Regulatory Rollbacks**
 - Loss of local control for Zoning and Planning Boards
 - Weakening of Environmental Policies
- **Reductions in Federal Funding**
 - Loss of grant funding for WMP implementation
 - Loss of capacity in key partnerships: DES, NH Fish and Game, DNCR, school districts, scientific research

How do we meet the moment?

We must:

- Prioritize our efforts
- Find new funding sources and allocate resources efficiently
- Leverage our partnerships - Collaborate
- Call all hands on deck – Educate, inspire, empower, act



Focus on Action that has Impact



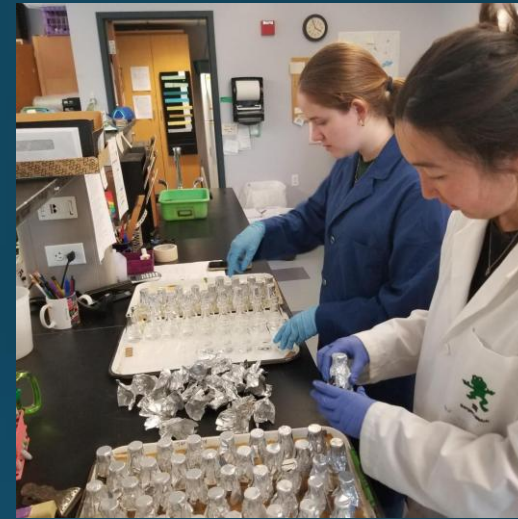
2020 – 2030 Watershed Management Plan



2020 – 2030 Watershed Management Plan

Action Items

- Education and Outreach
- Research
- Monitoring and Assessment
- Land Conservation





2020 – 2030 Watershed Management Plan

Stormwater Control Projects

- 42 in the original plan
- More than half have been completed
- 21 Total in the 'New' Plan
- Prioritized
- ***All involve collaboration***

2026 Projects in New London

- Otter Pond Beach Shoreline Buffer
- Little Lake Sunapee Wallula Community Homeowner Association Shoreline Buffer Restoration
- High Pine Lane Homeowner Association Beach Path Erosion Control

Otter Pond Beach

