

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the geographic region within which water drains to a particular river, stream, pond, lake, or ocean.

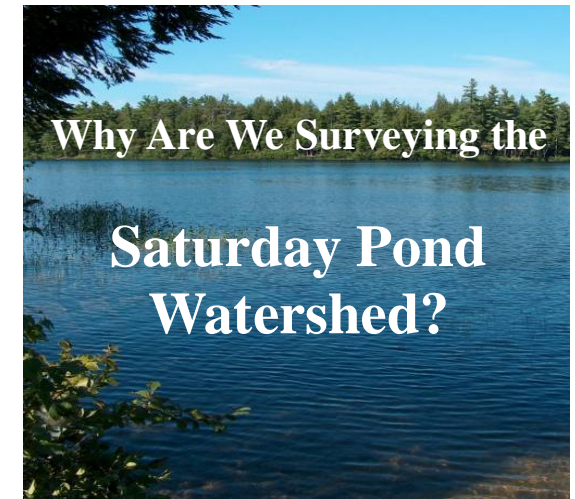
The watershed region that drains to Saturday Pond covers 1.3 square miles in Otisfield. The water in the pond outlets into Sucker Brook, which flows into Thompson Lake, then into the Androscoggin River, then Merrymeeting Bay, and ultimately into the Atlantic Ocean.



What else can you do to help?

Everyone can be a steward of our lakes and streams – not just the folks who own property right on the shore! Even if your house is miles away from the water's edge, how you manage your land and household activities can affect water quality. Here are a few simple actions you can take to protect the pond:

- **Prevent soil erosion** – re-seed areas of bare soil. Plant trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to reduce the size of your lawn and absorb excess nutrients.
- Reduce or **eliminate the use of phosphorus in fertilizers**. Use phosphorus-free fertilizer if you must fertilize, and consider alternatives such as spot treatments or lime.
- **Maintain your driveway and camp road** by regrading and crowning regularly to keep the water off the road. Sediment washed from the road surface or ditches usually ends up in the lake.



A watershed survey is designed to locate sources of soil erosion and polluted runoff that have the potential to damage lake water quality.

In recent years, 30 to 50 lakes in Maine have experienced algal blooms, and many more lakes are threatened. The pollutants – particularly phosphorus – carried in stormwater come from developed areas such as roofs, driveways, roads, bare soil, and chemically-treated lawns and gardens. Eroded soil, when deposited in the lake, also smothers breeding areas for fish and other aquatic life.

Volunteers from the Saturday Pond Watershed will be conducting a survey in April. The survey will **not** be used for any enforcement purposes.

The survey is a community effort to improve the long-term water quality of our pond.

Benefits of a Watershed Survey

- Raises public awareness about the need to protect our lake from stormwater runoff and soil erosion problems.
- Helps the watershed community understand the watershed concept.
- Identifies sources of pollution in a cost-effective way by using volunteers.
- Documents types of problems existing in the watershed.
- Provides landowners with information about how to reduce or eliminate soil erosion problems and phosphorus runoff from their property.
- Provides an important component of a comprehensive strategy for long-term lake water quality protection.



A note about our project...

Members of the Saturday Pond Watershed Association wanted to do more to help protect the water quality of the pond and decided a watershed survey would be a good start. With the support of the Town of Otisfield and assistance from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), a Watershed Survey Steering Committee was formed and survey planning began.

The majority of the survey will be conducted on Saturday, April 26th. The survey will begin with a training workshop for volunteer surveyors. Immediately following the workshop, and periodically for about another month, you'll see teams of trained surveyors "out and about" in Otisfield. Resource personnel from MDEP will assist the volunteers during the survey and will do any follow-up work that is necessary.

Prior to the survey, each landowner in the watershed will receive a letter giving them the opportunity to "opt-out" of the survey if they do not want their land surveyed. All the survey information will be compiled in a report and be made available to the public. *Specific addresses and property owner names will not be listed in the public report.*

We may use this information to apply for a grant to assist with treating some of the problem sites. That would help our community and our lake. We hope you'll allow the volunteers and resource personnel to visit your property, and will take advantage of the information these folks have to share. Even better, consider joining us!

- Ellen Attaliades, President,
SPWA

When is the best time to conduct a survey?

The best time to conduct a watershed survey is in the spring, soon after the snow has melted and the ground is exposed (usually in April). At this time, erosion will be more visible.

Saturday Pond Watershed Survey

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9:00 AM — Training workshop at
East Otisfield Free Baptist
Church

11:00 AM — Survey begins

For more information about the survey or to volunteer, contact:

Saturday Pond Watershed Association

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Or visit: www.saturdaypond.org