

PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS:

1 _____

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STORMY DAY SURVEY
CLEAN LAKE LOT CHECK-UP



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Produced by:
Cumberland County SWCD
Portland Water District

STORMY DAY SURVEY

CLEAN LAKE LOT CHECK-UP

Phosphorus pollution from eroding soil is a major threat to water quality in Maine lakes and ponds. But often erosion seems invisible – we’re not used to looking at our camps with a critical eye. Exposed tree roots, well worn footpaths, driveways that always seem to need fresh gravel – these are signs of chronic erosion problems.

How do you figure out if phosphorus pollution and erosion are problems on your land? The Portland Water District and the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District would like to enlist you as a detective to investigate chronic erosion around our lakes. We’ve pulled together a “do-it-yourself” checklist to use to conduct a Stormy Day Survey around your lake home.

Water is the major culprit in the invisible erosion racket – it is usually the vehicle for soil to reach streams, ponds and lakes. As a detective you’ll need to do some surveillance during a heavy rainfall to observe water’s activities. But don’t rush out first thing – wait until the ground is soaked and water has saturated the soil and the leaf cover. Then you should see some action.

Raindrop Impact: Like tiny bombs, raindrops fall onto the soil surface, often displacing soil particles great distances. This is the first step in erosion.

Take note: Are your raindrops deflected by vegetation? Are they absorbed into a leaf litter? Or are they pounding on bare soil surfaces? A careful survey of surface cover is critical for your survey.

Rill Erosion: Water is very predictable – it always runs downhill. Look for areas where water is collecting into miniature gullies (called rills) and check for the following:

- Is the water clean or is it cloudy (with suspended soil particles)?
- Is the water gouging a channel into the ground?
- Is it digging out the base of ditches?
- Are road surfaces showing signs of wash-out?

Trace water channels back up-hill. Find out where it’s coming from.

Scrutinize the drainage patterns on your land. Keep in mind the following items that are also important for controlling erosion and phosphorus pollution:

- Rainwater from impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways, etc...) should be filtered through vegetation – it’s full of phosphorus when compared to lake water.
- Keep impervious areas small, as far as possible from lakes, and surrounded by vegetation.
- Preserve or repair the forest’s natural duff layer – it protects the soil and filters pollutants.
- Depressions and wet spots are great for slowing down water, reducing erosion and promoting infiltration.
- Vegetated buffers work best when they have a duff layer, are composed of various sizes of plants, and are as wide as possible
- Defining beach areas, parking areas and walkways helps protect vegetation from damage.

SUGGESTIONS & SOLUTIONS

If you live in the Sebago Lake Watershed and would like an on-site visit to discuss your survey results, contact the Portland Water District Standish Office at 774-5961. For additional erosion control information contact the Cumberland County SWCD at 856-2777.



PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT
1 WHITE ROCK ROAD
STANDISH, ME 04084
1-207-774-5961

STORMY DAY SURVEY

CLEAN LAKE LOT CHECK-UP

Use the checklist below to uncover erosion problems on your land. Check off the areas that apply to your property. Circle whether the areas are:

- Stable (no sign of soil movement – surface covered by vegetation/stone/ect.)
- Eroding (bare soil exposed, small or large scoured channels observed).

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ROADS

ROAD SURFACE

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paved | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel | Stable | Eroding |

ROAD SYSTEM DITCHES

- | | | |
|--|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch base | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch sides | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drain thorough vegetated buffer | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drain directly to waterbody – no buffer | | |

ROAD CULVERTS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inlets | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outlets | Stable | Eroding |

DRIVEWAY

DRIVEWAY SURFACE

- | | | |
|---|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paved | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel/Soil | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain from driveway surface filtered through vegetated buffer | | |

DRIVEWAY CULVERTS

- | | | |
|--|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inlets | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outlets | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combination of vegetation (excellent) | | |

DRIVEWAY DITCHES

- | | | |
|--|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch Base | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch Sides | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drain through vegetated buffer | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drain directly to waterbody – no buffer | | |

LOCATION OF DRIVEWAY

- Close to lake
- Far from lake

PARKING AREA

PARKING SURFACE

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paved | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel/Soil | Stable | Eroding |

SIZE

- Large
- Small

LOCATION

- Close to lake (not good)
- Far from lake (good)

LIMITS OF PARKING AREA

- Well defined
- Poorly defined
- Rain from parking surface drained through vegetated buffer strip

LAWN AND RECREATION AREAS

BUFFER ABILITY OF AREA

- Bare sand (poor)
- Grass (poor to fair)
- Duff layer (fair to good)
- Shrubs (fair to good)
- Trees (fair to good)

GRADING (direction to which rainwater flows)

- Toward lake
- Irregular drainage – depressions present

LOCATION

- Close to lake
- Far from lake

FOOTPATHS

SURFACE COVER

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare Soil | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected | | |
- Surface cover is: _____

PATH LIMITS

- Well defined
- Poorly defined

PATH CONFIGURATION

- Straight (not good)
- Serpentine (good)

WET SPOT / WETLANDS

- Drained / Altered
- Natural

SLOPE SURFACES

- Stable
- Eroding

BEACH AREA

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare sand | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected | Stable | Eroding |
- Surface cover is: _____

BEACH AREA LIMITS

- Stable
- Eroding

SIZE

- Large
- Small

FISH HABITAT IN BEACH AREA

- Raked (poor habitat)
- Natural (good habitat)

VEGETATION ALONG SHORE

- Grass (poor to fair)
- Shrubs (fair to good)
- Trees (fair to good)
- Combination (excellent)

BOAT RAMP AREA

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare Soil | Stable | Eroding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected | Stable | Eroding |

LIMITS OF BOAT RAMP AREA

- Well defined
- Poorly defined

ROOF RUNOFF

- Channelized
- Diffused (spread out)
- Rain from roof runoff filtered through vegetated buffer strip

STREAMS (crossing property)

STREAM BANKS

- Stable
- Eroding

STREAM CHANNEL

- Stable
- Eroding

OTHER SOURCES OF PHOSPHORUS POLLUTION YOU SHOULD CONSIDER

- Lawn fertilizers
- Improperly maintained septic systems
- Pet droppings
- Grass clippings
- Detergents / soaps
- Motor & boat oils / greases
- Dust