

## What is a watershed?



A watershed consists of all the land which contributes water to a specific body of water. To outline watershed boundaries, connect the point of highest elevation around a lake on a topographic map. Precipitation falling within this “bowl” flows by gravity in streams and groundwater to the lake. Any substance within the watershed which can be transported by water eventually reaches the lake and affects the water quality.



## Maintaining our watersheds

**Adams Pond** and **Knickerbocker Lake**, located in the town of Boothbay, are the only significant public drinking water sources for the towns of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, and Southport Island. These water bodies and their watersheds also are used year round for recreation by residents and visitors and provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife species.

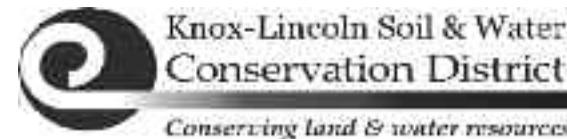
The greatest threat to Adams Pond and Knickerbocker Lake is **nonpoint source pollution** associated with development. Unlike pollution from industry or sewage treatment plants, nonpoint source pollution comes from many diffuse sources, such as fertilizers or septic tank effluent, and is carried by runoff from rainfall or snowmelt into water bodies. Eroded sediment from gravel roads is the #1 pollutant of Maine’s lakes and streams.

Adams Pond and Knickerbocker Lake currently meet state water quality standards, but both are listed on the DEP priority list of threatened lakes and in Chapter 502 of the Maine Stormwater Management Law as lakes most at risk from new development.

Working together as a community, we can protect our drinking water, wildlife habitat, and recreational resources now and for generations to come.



Boothbay Region Water District  
184 Adams Pond Road  
Boothbay, ME 04537  
(207) 633-4723  
[www.bbrwd.org](http://www.bbrwd.org)



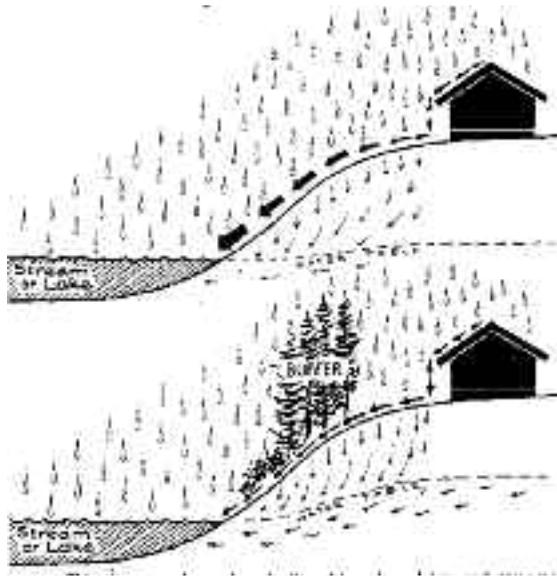
Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water  
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893 West Street, Suite 103  
Rockport, ME 04856  
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# Adams Pond & Knickerbocker Lake Watersheds



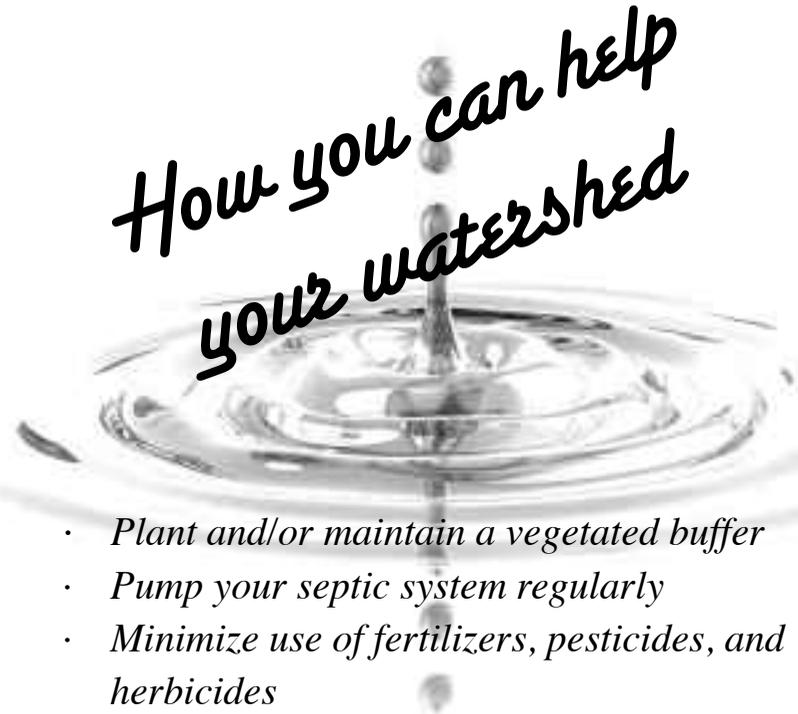
## ***Protect your lake with a vegetated buffer***

Vegetated buffers are living filters comprised of a mixture of native and non-invasive trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials that act as a protective barrier between a water body and human development. In developed areas with a high percentage of impervious surfaces, less water from rain penetrates the ground and more runs off directly into water bodies. This runoff does not get filtered like the water that penetrates the ground. Vegetated buffers trap sediment and filter runoff before it enters a water body protecting water quality for humans and wildlife alike.



### ***Benefits of buffers***

- Filter pollution
- Stabilize eroding banks
- Absorb water and increase penetration
- Contribute to natural aquatic food chain
- Provide wildlife habitat and travel corridors
- Provide shade and cover for fish
- Provide privacy for landowners
- Enhance property value
- Deter geese



- *Plant and/or maintain a vegetated buffer*
- *Pump your septic system regularly*
- *Minimize use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides*
- *Use phosphate-free fertilizers, if fertilizing is necessary*
- *Cover exposed soil with seed, hay, or mulch*
- *Mow and rake less*
- *Pick up pet waste*
- *Dispose of chemicals properly*
- *Avoid garbage disposals-compost, instead*
- *Maintain gravel roads and driveways to prevent erosion*
- *Preserve natural topography*
- *Keep structures away from the shoreline*
- *Install serpentine walkways to allow water to be diverted in several directions*

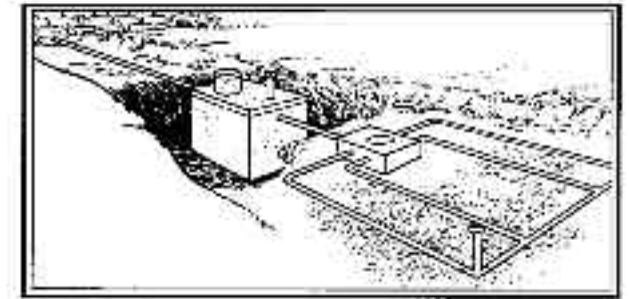
## ***What's under your feet could be affecting your water quality!***

### ***Maintain septic systems***

- Pump every 3-5 years
- Do not allow trees and shrubs to grow on your leachfield

### ***Signs of a failing septic system:***

- Sewage Odor
- Water over tank or leachfield
- Slow drains or toilets
- Green grass in cold season or soggy ground in warm season over leachfield or tank



### ***Do the job right—and make sure it's legal!***

Maine LD 2249 requires that “all excavation work in excess of one cubic yard done in shoreland areas, must be supervised by an individual certified in erosion control practices by the Department of Environmental Protection.”

To find a certified contractor in your area:  
[www.maine.gov/dep/land/training/cccec.html](http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/training/cccec.html)

### ***What is the shoreland area?***

The shoreland zone is generally defined as all areas located within 250 feet of rivers, lakes, ponds, some non-forested wetlands, coastal waters, and within 75 feet of designated streams. However, each municipality adopts their own mapped shoreland zone area.

Contact your local town office to learn more:  
Boothbay: (207) 633-2051      Boothbay Harbor: (207) 633-3671