



August 17, 2020

Dear Long Pond Watershed Landowner,

On September 22nd- 23rd, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) will be kicking off a survey of the Long Pond watershed. The survey will identify and prioritize sources of soil erosion and stormwater runoff on developed land in the watershed. Follow-up work may be needed through October 2nd to visit all of the developed land in the watershed.

Due to declining water quality over the past 30 years, Long Pond is at risk for nuisance algal blooms due to excess phosphorus and is on the State of Maine's list of impaired lakes. Current information is needed about the condition of the watershed to help develop long-term planning strategies that will protect and improve lake water quality and assist local organizations with acquiring state and federal Clean Water Act funding.

Information gathered during the survey will not be used for enforcement purposes or require that a landowner make improvements. **Participation in the survey is voluntary**, and you do not need to be present at the time of the survey. We would like to include your land in this survey. However, **if you do not wish to participate, please call the BLA office at (207) 512-5150, or email: info@BLAmaine.org by September 12th to have your property removed from the survey list.** The survey will be conducted in full compliance with Maine COVID-19 guidelines so as not to put any landowners or volunteers at risk. While watershed surveys are always conducted outdoors, additional precautions will include requiring all survey volunteers to wear face masks, requiring social distancing between volunteers and landowners interested in participating, holding an online volunteer training, and asking volunteers to drive separate vehicles from the technical leader.

Recent experiences have shown us that being outside in nature, being able to fish and swim in our lakes, and to escape to the lakes is more important than ever. The quality of our lakes affects us all with their recreational, social, and economic values. If we do not take immediate actions to prevent more phosphorus from entering the lake, then the water quality problems in Long Pond will continue to get worse. The cost of fixing a polluted lake is expensive and can affect our local tax base and property values. We hope you will join in this effort by participating in the survey. For more information, visit the BLA website: www.belgradelakesassociation.org

Sincerely,

Carol Johnson
President, Belgrade Lakes Association