



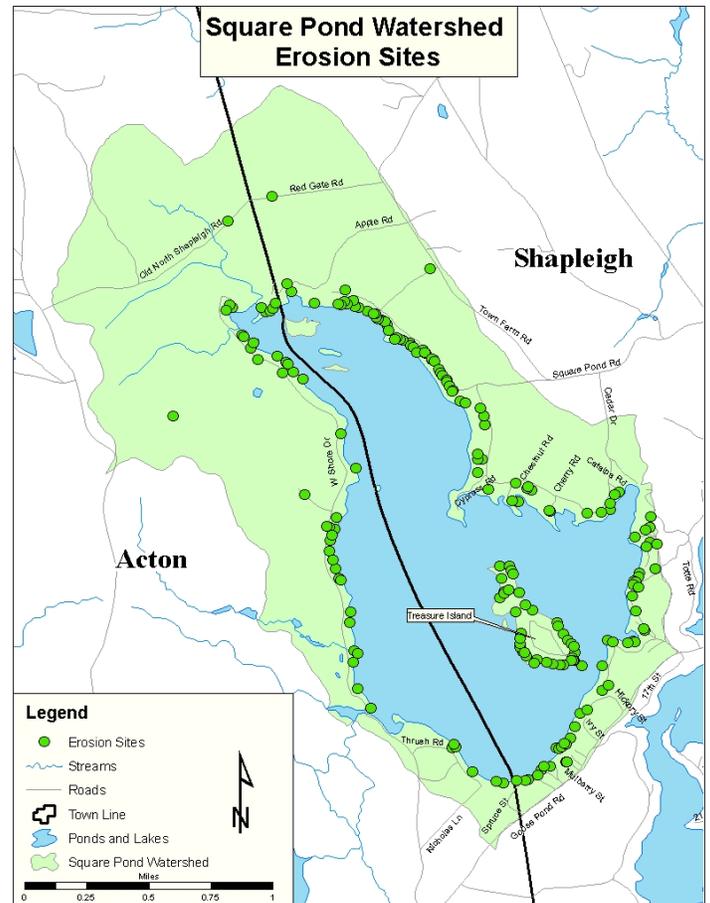
# SQUARE POND WATERSHED SURVEY SUMMARY FACT SHEET

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Square Pond watershed (all the land that drains to Square Pond) covers 4.3 square miles in the Towns of Acton and Shapleigh.

According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Square Pond's water quality is above average but low oxygen levels indicate that it is threatened by polluted runoff. Soil erosion, in particular, is the single greatest source of pollution to Square Pond.

- Soil contains the nutrient, phosphorus, which has the potential to promote algae blooms when it enters a lake in large quantities. As the algae die off, the water becomes depleted of oxygen through the breakdown process, and fish and animals are unable to survive.
- Algae blooms also turn water green and make a lake virtually unusable.
- Studies have shown that as water clarity decreases, property values also drop.



## **WATERSHED SURVEY:**

In the summer of 2006 a team of 32 local volunteers and technical staff from York County SWCD and Maine DEP conducted a survey of the watershed and identified 207 sites that are contributing polluted runoff to Square Pond.

Teams documented polluted runoff sources from roads, properties, driveways and trails using cameras and standardized field data sheets. Teams made recommendations to remediate each source using erosion control practices and rated impact and cost to fix.

Results and recommendations were compiled in the ***Square Pond Watershed Survey Report***.



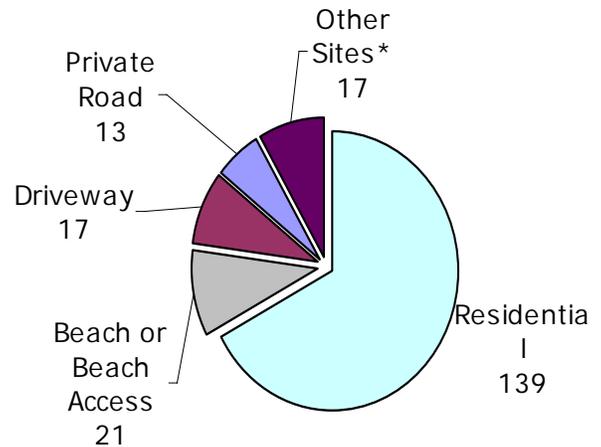
## **KEY SURVEY RESULTS:**

Volunteers and technical staff identified 207 sites in the Square Pond Watershed that are impacting or have the potential to impact water quality.

- 139 of the identified sites (67%) were found in residential areas. These sites tend to have less severe erosion and can be fixed easily with low cost. Individual landowners can play a big role in helping address these problems.
- 55 properties were identified with unstable sandy beaches or evidence of sand replenishment. Many landowners did not realize that it is illegal to add sand to beaches.

Erosion sites were identified all around the watershed and on 11 different types of land uses (see right). As such, everyone has a role to play in lake protection. The Towns of Acton and Shapleigh, shorefront property owners, road associations and even people living far from the lake can all help reduce lake pollution.

**Watershed Survey Findings  
Number of Sites by Land Use**



\* Includes Town Road (5), Boat Access (3), Trail/Path (3), Municipal/Public (2), Construction Site (2), Commercial (1) and Parking Lot (1).

### **Project Partners:**

Square Pond Improvement Association,  
York County SWCD, Maine DEP,  
Town of Acton, Town of Shapleigh

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Now that the watershed survey and report are complete, fixing the sites identified in this survey will require efforts by individuals, the Square Pond Improvement Association, road associations and municipal officials.
- The York County SWCD and Square Pond Improvement Association applied for a DEP 319 grant to help landowners, road associations and towns fix some of the larger erosion problems identified in the survey. If funded, this project would start in 2008.
- Letters will be mailed to all property owners with identified erosion problems. Hopefully, many of these people will take the initiative to start fixing the problems.
- In the summer of 2007, the York County SWCD and SPIA will host at least two hands-on workshops. Participants will learn some of the low-cost simple ways to fix erosion problems on lakefront properties. Call 324-0888 ext. 217 for more information.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

If you would like information about fixing erosion problems on your property or a copy of the Square Pond Watershed Survey Report, contact:

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