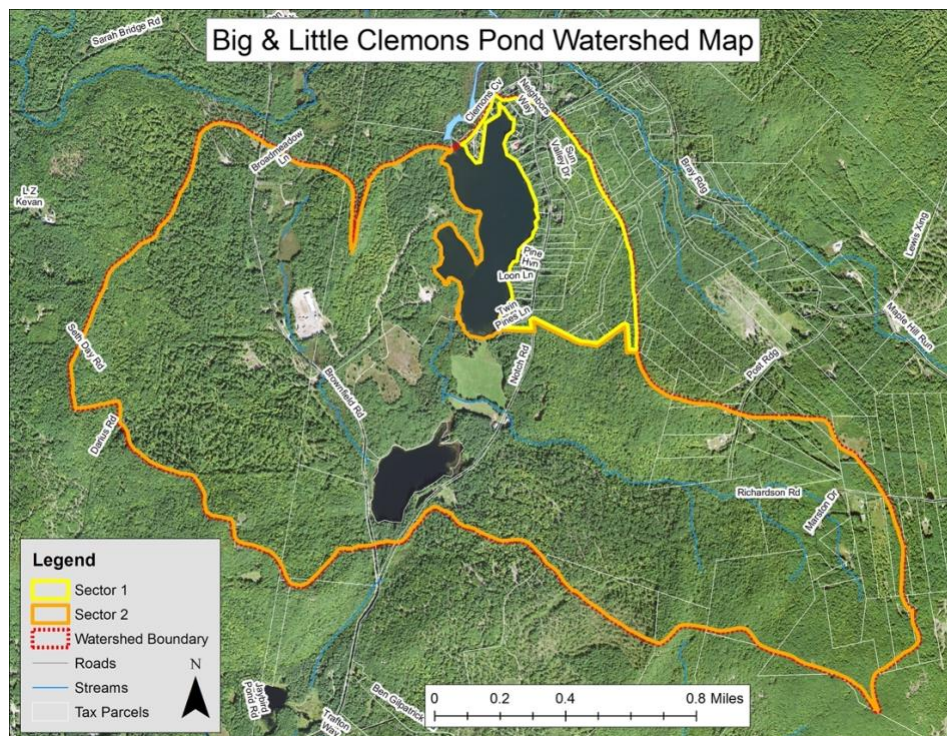


## **Common Questions**

*Clemons Pond Watershed Survey, May 7, 2022*

### **What is the Clemons Pond Watershed?**

A watershed consists of all the land whose water drains to a body of water, either by surface flows or through subsurface movement. The Clemons Pond Watershed consists of 1,554 acres and extends from Hiram into Porter and covers both Big and Little Clemons Ponds.



### **Why act now?**

Once algae blooms start, they rarely resolve themselves on their own – even expensive remediation measures (costing hundreds of thousands of dollars – or more) don't guarantee that a pond with an algae bloom can ever return to a healthy state.

### **What causes algae blooms?**

Algae blooms occur when three factors happen in combination: an over-abundance of harmful nutrients (namely phosphorus), heat (consistent, warm water temperatures), and light (bright sunny days). The National Weather Service said that this past June was the hottest on record in Portland, with seven days over 90 degrees Fahrenheit. While we can't control heat and light, we can influence how much phosphorus runs off into the pond!

### **What is phosphorus and where does it come from?**

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring substance that is present in nearly all plant and animal matter. Nearly all soils contain at least some phosphorus. Sewage, manure, and street runoff also contain very high phosphorus concentrations. Phosphorus is a common ingredient in lawn and garden fertilizers, and it is found in gas and oil residues.

**Are algae blooms related to invasive plants?**

Maine's issue with invasive plants (like milfoil) also affects lake health in important ways, but it is unrelated to algae blooms. (For more information about invasive plants, see: <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/aquatic-invaders/>)

**What will happen if you find that my land needs improvements?**

We will not share sensitive or personally identifying information about issues we see on private land beyond our small survey team and the relevant landowner. We be constructive and point you towards helpful resources. For public lands (boat launches, roads, etc.), we will share our findings and recommendations with the appropriate town officials and seek their support.

**Are you looking for zoning violations?**

No. Our volunteers are not being trained in shoreland zoning, nor are we working with the code enforcement office on this project. We are only looking at erosion and runoff risk and making suggestions for voluntary improvements. This is a local community effort among neighbors.

**Who trains your volunteers?**

We get support, training, and resources from the DEP's education and outreach team for watershed surveys: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/index.html>.

**Can I opt out or reschedule?**

If you would like us to come on a different day, or do not want to participate, please reach out via the contact information provided.

**How can I learn more about watershed surveys?**

Visit: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/materials/lakewsurveyguide.pdf>

**How can I help?**

Here are three ways to help with this effort:

1. Welcome us onto your land and **walk with our volunteers to share your own concerns and ideas for reducing runoff**
2. **Become a member of the Clemons Pond Association** if you are not already!  
<http://association.clemonspond.com/wp/>
3. **Get Lake Smart certified!** Review: <https://www.lakes.me/lakesmart> or reach out to Doug Bradley (bradleyd57@gmail.com) for more information

**Contact Information for the Watershed Survey Team:**

 207-625-9362  [CPAwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:CPAwatershed@gmail.com)