



Caspian Lake Watershed Action Plan

Orleans County Conservation District has a grant from the **Lake Champlain Basin Program** to lead, with the engagement of community members and other partners, the development of a **Lake Watershed Action Plan** for **Caspian Lake**.

What is a Lake Watershed Action Plan: An LWAP is an assessment and planning tool that identifies the greatest threats to water quality, wildlife habitat, and the overall health of the lake ecosystem. The process evaluates the shoreland, tributaries, drainage ditches, wetlands, hydrologically connected roads, and working landscapes to create a priority list of issues and projects. The result is a planning guide that prioritizes restoration and protection actions for the watershed. The plan is shared with the community and local partners for their input.

Why Caspian? While the lake is still exceptionally clean, based on 30 years of lay water quality monitoring data collected by the Greensboro Association, the lake is experiencing a significant increase in both spring and summer total phosphorus concentrations. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) lists the lake as stressed. While the lake is still relatively healthy by Vermont standards, the mean phosphorus trend is increasing and the clarity and cleanliness of the water we enjoy in the lake's oligotrophic state will change if not addressed.

Project Schedule:

March 2022 Kick-off Meeting with Stakeholders
Fall 2022–2023 Field Assessments
August 2023 Stakeholder input meeting
September 2023 Fluidstate develop 30% designs
November 2023 Final plan presented to stakeholders

Core Assessment Areas

Streams

18 SGA Lite Reaches & 33 Sites Total Priority Sites

LakeWise

87 Sites Total Priority Sites

<u>Roads</u>

11 Total Sites 57 MRGP Segments (18,200' – 3.45 miles)

<u>Developed, Wetlands & Agricultural</u> 10 Sites Total Priority Sites

For more information, please contact: Sarah Damsell District Manager, Orleans County NRCD 802-624-7008, sarah.damsell@vt.nacdnet.net



Over 152 sites assessed and 35 project for future upload to the VT Watershed database for project development.

Lakeshore \square 17 Prioritized
Streams □ 10 Sites Prioritized
Wetlands ☐ 3 Sites Prioritized
Roads □ 5 Sites Prioritized

Final Projects:

- 1) Wet005/ST-3 (Barr)
- 2) LS-25 (Gray)
- 3) LS-32 (Winship)
- 4) ST-7 (Clarke)
- 5) LS-29 (Elizabeth Armstrong)

As a part of the LWAP, the contractors will develop 30% conceptual designs for the top 5 projects, with landowner support.



Caspian LWAP Selected Priority Sites for 30% Engineering Designs











