

Bow Lake Watershed Management Plan Project Summary

Purpose

- Address declining water quality in Bow Lake.
- Respond to increased cyanobacteria blooms highlighted in the 2023 Master Plan.
- Develop a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to identify causes, prioritize solutions and secure funding for improvements.

Funding & Support

- \$25K approved by Strafford voters in 2025 to initiate water-quality improvements. *THANK YOU!*
- Secured \$25K PREP grant (May 2025).
- Secured \$56.5K 604(b) Water Quality Grant (pending Gov & Council approval).
- **Total leveraged: \$81.5K beyond the town contribution.**

Actions Completed

- Partnered with Strafford County Regional Planning Commission for planning, funding, and project management.
- Initiated shoreline septic survey and completed a study-area wide septic data inventory.
- Contracted with FB Environmental (FBE) for WMP completion.
- Reviewed Shoreland Septic Survey results (*see poster*).

Next Steps

- Assist FBE with Shoreland and Watershed Lands / Culverts / Roads Visual Surveys.
- Assist with completion and review of the full WMP.
- Continue pursuing grants to address priority water quality improvement projects outlined in the WMP and provide Education, Outreach, and Tech Assistance to watershed residents.

Community Engagement

- The committee welcomes questions and concerns regarding Bow Lake and the WMP.