



Stories of Watershed Impact | 2024

May 2025

There's positive momentum building here in our watershed. People are stepping up to protect the lakes they love—individuals, road associations, lake associations, and our towns. And at 30 Mile, we're growing—not just with our new space in Mt. Vernon, but in the depth and reach of our work.

At a time of great uncertainty at the national level, we're reminded that real, meaningful change happens at home. That's why we're doubling down on our commitment to protecting the lakes and ponds that define this region—and on building a stronger, more connected community to support them.

We've seen the effects of climate change in our watershed in recent years: heavier storms, damaged roads, polluted runoff, and algal blooms. Invasive species continue to spread in Maine, and are in our watershed. These challenges are real—and they're here. But so is the opportunity to respond with purpose and action.

Our Mission

*Working as a community for
clean and healthy lakes, ponds,
and streams in our watershed.*

Over the past year, we've done just that. We've expanded our support for towns working to build storm-resilient infrastructure. We've continued the fight against invasive species. And we have completed the first phase of creating our new home base in Mt. Vernon Village. This space is already becoming what we hoped it would be—a welcoming place for our community to gather, learn, and take action together to protect the waters we all care about.

Our lakes have a unique ability to bring people together. They remind us of what we have in common, and what's worth working for. By strengthening 30 Mile, we're helping to ensure that this place—and this community—can meet the challenges of the moment and thrive.

Thank you for being part of this work. We are so grateful for your support, and we're excited to see what we can accomplish together in the year ahead.

With appreciation,



Lidie
Lidie Robbins
Executive Director



Nancy
Nancy Hemphill
Board Chair, 2024



Beth
Beth Trehu
Board Chair, 2025

30 Mile Taking Action

Our programs promote long-term, sustainable change. We directly protect and monitor lake health, assess and work to reduce land use impacts, and provide educational and recreational opportunities to foster stewardship.

Fighting Invasives Our First Line of Defense

Our paid staff and 49 volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) conducted 3,801 inspections from May to October, contributing 525 hours to protect Androscoggin Lake, Echo Lake, Flying Pond, Minnehonk Lake, and Parker Pond. Not only do our CBIs prevent invasive hitchhikers from getting into our lakes; they educate all boaters about the threat of invasive species.

3,801
boat inspections
performed in 2024



Members of our 2024 CBI team: Flying Pond volunteer Bill Murphy and staff member Lina Martinez.



Education

In May, we held a training for **17 CBI volunteers on Echo Lake**. CBIs are our first line of defense against invasive species, and volunteer CBIs are essential, enabling us to significantly expand the coverage at boat launches.

Fighting Invasives Milfoil in Androscoggin Lake

For the 4th season, our staff continued managing invasive milfoil on Androscoggin Lake, surveying 260+ hours and removing all milfoil found. So far, we have successfully prevented its spread. We began using benthic barriers as a control strategy and will use them heavily in 2025. We will also work with the lake association volunteers to complete a full lake survey.



Our staff conduct weekly surveys by kayak to search for invasive variable milfoil in Androscoggin Lake.

Look for
feather-
divided
leaves and a
bottle brush
appearance.

Fighting Invasives Bladderwort in Tilton Pond

This was our first full season managing the invasive swollen bladderwort infestation in Tilton Pond. Our work included installing a fragment net at the pond's outlet to reduce risk to downstream waters, increasing surveying on downstream David Pond, monitoring plant growth on Tilton, and supporting volunteer survey and removal efforts.



Our team install and monitor a net in Tilton's outlet stream to capture floating plant fragments and help prevent its spread to downstream David Pond.

Look for
wagon wheel-
shaped floats
and yellow
flowers.

Fighting Invasives

Catching Invasives Early

Nearly 100 volunteers across nine lakes and ponds throughout the watershed completed surveys for aquatic invasive plants in 2024! Annual invasive plant surveys are critical for catching new infestations early. Our staff provide key support to each volunteer plant patrol team through identification expertise, training opportunities, survey assistance, and more.

Photos: Lidie Robbins examines aquatic plants with local volunteers at the workshop in Mt. Vernon (left). Silas Mohlar trains volunteers at the workshop on Lovejoy Pond (right).



Education

In May, we co-hosted an invasive plant patrol workshop led by Lake Stewards of Maine, held in Mt. Vernon. In August, we led a Plant Paddle and I.D. workshop on Lovejoy Pond. Volunteers gained hands-on experience and learned the basics of plant identification, the differences between invasive and native plants, and surveying techniques.



Monitoring Water Quality

9th Season Monitoring Lake Health

We collect extensive data to track the health of our lakes and ponds. We measure water clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, and other parameters. Our data help us identify trends in declining water quality so that we are prepared to take action.

Our staff, alongside **35 volunteers** monitored **13 lakes and ponds**, from May-October.

Photos: Whitney Baker takes a clarity reading (top left). Volunteer Gary Phillip and Silas Mohlar monitor Echo Lake (top right). Silas collects water samples (bottom left). Volunteer Leslie Burhoe transports us to the Androscoggin Lake monitoring station (bottom right).

115

monitoring trips

153

samples collected

177

Secchi (water clarity) readings



Responding to Threats

Studying and Addressing Algal Blooms

Androscoggin Lake suffered its third lake-wide algal bloom in four years. To study its causes, we completed a third season of intensified monitoring of the lake and its tributaries, including algae analysis and phosphorus studies. Throughout this early and prolonged bloom, we released updates, notices, and educational information for the public.

In collaboration with Maine DEP, we continue to analyze data, identify additional data needs, and study the problem. We have begun taking steps to improve the lake's water quality, including supporting watershed remediation projects with funding and technical assistance, in order to reduce polluted runoff.



Reducing Runoff

Funding and Technical Support for Vienna's Roads

30 Mile wrote two successful grant proposals for the Town of Vienna to address key road crossings that have repeatedly suffered from severe washouts and road failures, and significantly threaten water quality in downstream lakes. **A grant of \$50K from the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund** (Maine DOT) will be used to hire an engineer to complete the scoping, design, and permitting to upgrade three stream crossings on town roads: Jesse Ladd, Kimball Pond, and Trask.

The second grant was **Vienna's first Climate Action Grant through Maine's Community Resilience Partnership**. This **\$50K grant** will fund an engineered design at a fourth high-priority culvert crossing on Tower Rd, along with the project management, grant writing, and cash match needed to apply for grants to support the construction of these costly culvert upgrades.

Reducing Runoff

Lake-Protection Projects for Androscoggin and Parker

In 2024, we began a two-year project on Androscoggin Lake, funded in part through a grant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, and administered by Maine DEP in partnership with EPA. In 2024, we were awarded a similar grant for Parker Pond for work in 2025-2026. These grants fund projects to help communities restore and protect priority waters by reducing erosion and polluted runoff. Through this work, we are able to bring significant funding and technical expertise to towns, road associations, and landowners to take on important lake-protection projects that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

\$150K

Androscoggin grant

\$64K

Parker grant



Education

Being LakeSmart in the Watershed

30 Mile is a regional LakeSmart "hub," providing technical support for this statewide program that educates lakefront homeowners to help them manage their properties in ways that protect water quality. Our watershed's five volunteer lake teams and our staff conduct free site visits for landowners. In 2024, together we completed property evaluations for 11 landowners and delivered LakeSmart education throughout the watershed to build a conservation ethic across the lake community.



Photos: Whitney Baker trains members of Flying Pond's volunteer LakeSmart team (left). Flying Pond landowners Debbie and Mark Boll receive their LakeSmart award from members of Flying Pond's team (right).

Reducing Runoff

Building Better Buffers

A core part of our work is assisting landowners by recommending lake-friendly practices to reduce harmful erosion. In 2024, we launched a new initiative to improve shoreline buffers, planting over **300 live stakes** on shorefront properties.



Whitney Baker plants live stakes along a lakefront property that was lacking a vegetative buffer.

Planting live stakes - cuttings from native woody shrubs - is an inexpensive way to build a buffer to protect a lake from runoff.

A New Home for 30 Mile

Before



In 2024, we completed Phase I construction of our new center for lake protection in Mt. Vernon Village, renovating both floors of the barn.



The renovation began in March with a new roof. Volunteers framed a new bathroom in the garage. New stairs provide access to the 2nd floor.



In the summer and fall, new windows and doors were installed. Walls, floors and the roof were strengthened to code. Volunteers painted the exterior.



After the wiring, plumbing, insulation and sheetrock were completed, volunteers painted the walls, then installed flooring and trim.



In January, we moved out of our Farmington office and into our new space! Plans for Phase II will begin in spring 2025.



After



Thank you to our 2024 volunteers!

Volunteers are a vital part of 30 Mile's team, generously contributing thousands of hours to make this work possible. They fill key roles across all areas of our work, including boat inspections, water quality monitoring, LakeSmart evaluations, invasive plant surveys, watershed surveys, office support, our Board of Directors, and more.

180+

Volunteers

2850+

Volunteer hours

"For me, as a retired geologist, the water quality monitoring is both educational and fun. I now have a much better understanding of the natural cycles of my lake and the potential impacts of both natural and human-induced changes. I no longer just look at the lake as a pretty body of water that I want to protect, but rather I feel like I can see how it breathes and hear its heartbeat."

- Ken Tillman, Parker Pond

Education

Sign up for 30 Mile's monthly e-newsletter: *Watershed Roundup*.

Through our monthly e-newsletter, (1650 subscribers), and our Facebook and Instagram pages, we inform and educate the public about lake protection and promote opportunities for community involvement.

12,583

Views in 2024

61%

2024 Open Rate

30mileriver.org/news



A Community Effort

It takes a whole community to protect our watershed.

Coalition Members

Lake Associations

Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation
Basin-David-Tilton Ponds Association
Echo Lake Association
Flying Pond Improvement Association
Greater Minnehonk Lake Association
Kimball Pond Association
Lovejoy Pond Improvement Association
Parker Pond Association
Pocasset Lake Association

Municipalities

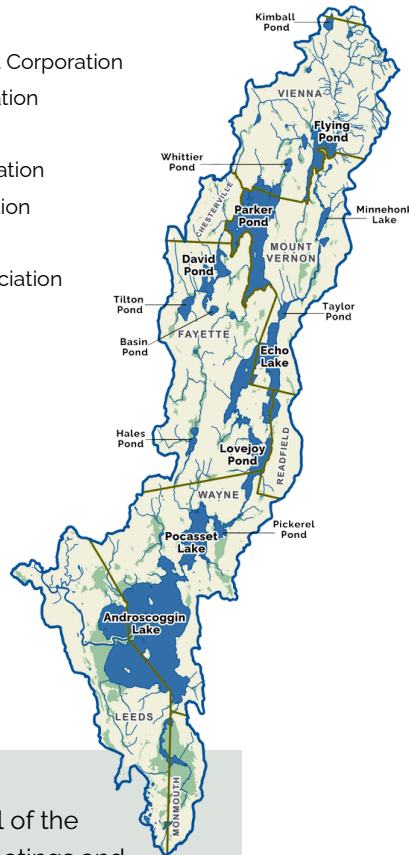
Chesterville	Mount Vernon
Fayette	Readfield
Leeds	Vienna
	Wayne

Conservation Organizations

7 Lakes Alliance
Kennebec Land Trust

Education

30 Mile staff participate in all of the lake associations' annual meetings and present on topics including invasive plants, water quality, and more.



2024 Board of Directors

Nancy Hemphill, <i>Chair</i>	Andy Tolman, <i>Treasurer</i>
Kirstie Ludwig, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Diana McLaughlin, <i>Secretary</i>
Tom Arminio	Cindy Ripley
Bob Capers	Jane Rogers
Buddy Cummings	Jeremy Smith
Doug Frantzen	Bill Swan
Sue Heard	Beth Trehu
William MacDonald	Susan Tinguely
Annie Moran	

2024 Year-Round Staff

Lidie Robbins, Executive Director
Whitney Baker, Program Director
Silas Mohlar, Program Leader & Field Technician
Sonya Clark, Administrative Assistant
Kirsten Heck, Development Coordinator

2024 Summer Staff

Courtesy Boat Inspectors: Frank Chin (coordinator), Kendra Bor, Katie Cilley, Tom Davis, Lina Martinez, Malia Ranger, Tamara Rusakovich & Elisha Stenger.
Invasive Plant Survey Team: Katie Cilley, Lina Martinez, Elisha Stenger

Top photo: Board and staff kick off the summer season.



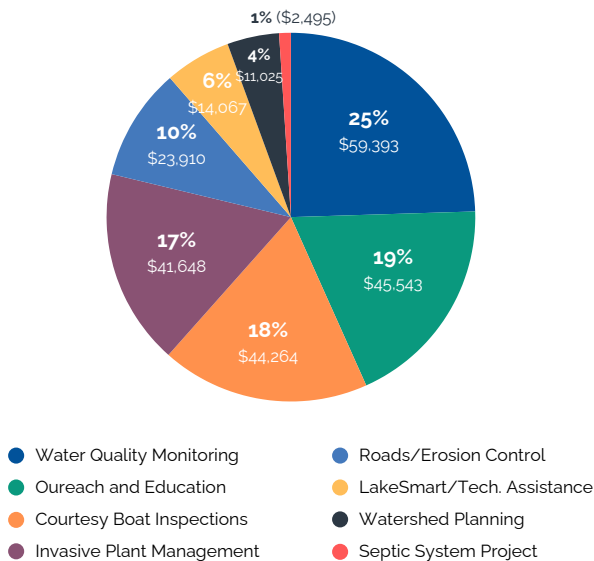
We dedicate this report to Andy Tolman (1948-2024), a vital member of 30 Mile's Board for seven years. Andy cared greatly about our mission, even though he didn't own lakefront property himself. As a retired hydrogeologist, an extremely active community member, and someone with a great deal of experience working with small organizations, he was invaluable on our team. He was always one of the first to volunteer for whatever needed to be done, and served as Chair and Treasurer. In 30 Mile's history, Andy stood out as one of our best - a kind, gentle, and patient man who brought a lot of wisdom, dedication and generosity to his work. We loved and respected him and miss him greatly.

2024 Financial Report

Income	
Capital Campaign	\$28,855
Save Androscoggin Campaign	\$18,718
Individuals	\$166,391
Coalition Members	\$71,750
Government Grants	\$42,941
Foundation Grants	\$29,000
Corporations	\$36,437
Fee for Service	\$4,536
Paddle Trek	\$2,490
In-Kind	\$6,535
Other	\$1,192
TOTAL	\$408,845
Expenses	
Programs	\$245,344
Development	\$54,514
Administration	\$39,776
TOTAL	\$339,634

Notes: (1) Income of \$47,573 from the Capital Campaign and Save Androscoggin Campaign was restricted to be used in 2025 for the building renovation and projects on Androscoggin Lake, not 2024 operational expenses. (2) 13% of income raised was spent on development. This is within range for best-practices for nonprofits (10-15%), and below range for an organization in a growth phase (15-25%), like 30 Mile.

Program Expenses



Balance sheet available at 30mileriver.org/impact

Our Donors

Thank you to ALL of the generous lake lovers who supported 30 Mile in 2024! Your gifts of all sizes demonstrate your commitment to the lakes, ponds, and streams in our watershed. We are grateful for you and the many ways you show up as a community to help care for these precious waters.

\$202,828 **412** Donors

Raised from individuals and businesses in 2024 for our Annual Fund

Across **15** lakes and ponds

View our 2024 donors: 30mileriver.org/impact

How can you make a difference?

- ✓ **SHOW YOUR SUPPORT** for 30 Mile at your local town and lake association meetings.
- ✓ **VOLUNTEER** your time and talents.
- ✓ **INVEST** in a future with healthy lakes by making a donation to 30 Mile today.
- ✓ **STAY INFORMED.** Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

15th Annual Paddle Trek

Sixty paddlers enjoyed perfect weather and conditions for our 15th Annual Paddle Trek on July 27th. In a rare occurrence, several streams were passable by boat, reducing the number of portages and creating a unique experience for this year's event. Many thanks to Lakepoint Real Estate for their sponsorship, the Mount Vernon and Fayette fire departments for traffic control, and over 30 volunteers for making the day run so smoothly.



Thank you, Trisha Cheney for capturing our fun filled day!



30 Mile River
Watershed Association

P.O. Box 132
Mt. Vernon, ME 04352

2024 Impact Report

