

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps



Photo Credit: Susan Weldon, SP



2021 Annual Report

Goose Pond
Loon Pond
Mousam Lake
Square Pond

Sustaining and protecting water resources in the
greater Mousam Lake & Square Pond Watershed.

**Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2021 ASYCC
season successful!**

Program Funding & Support

- **Town of Acton, Maine**
- **Town of Shapleigh, Maine**
- **Mousam Lake Region Association**
- **Square Pond Improvement Association**
- **Private Donors**
- **The Davis Conservation Foundation**
- **Paycheck Protection Program**

2021 ASYCC Staff

Erosion Control Crew

- **Mark Phelps, ECC Director,
Shapleigh**
- **Gavin Bacon, Shapleigh**
- **John Beaupre, Sanford**
- **John Lessard, Shapleigh**
- **Georgia Rousseau, Atkinson, NH**
- **Joshua Rousseau, Haverhill, MA**
- **Quinn Huggins, No Andover, MA**
- **Katie Lessard, Shapleigh**
- **Jordan Stuart, Shapleigh**
- **Valentina Drown, Acton**

Courtesy Boat Inspectors

David Burns, CBI Director, Alfred

- **Annabelle Cote-Gendreau,
Shapleigh**
- **Valentina Drown, Acton**
- **Ben Foglio, Shapleigh**
- **Parker Jalbert, Alfred**
- **Mark Jacobs, Shapleigh**
- **Donnie LaLievre - Acton**
- **Carrie Phinney, Alfred**
- **Christian Reehl - Shapleigh**
- **Erma Roberge - Rochester NH**

2021 message from the ASYCC Board President

Kent Haake



The ASYCC has just completed its 21st year as a non-profit organization created to protect our lakes in the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed through the application of courtesy boat inspections, erosion control measures, technical assistance, invasive plant patrols and public outreach/education.

We are proud to staff our programs with youths and adults with direct ties to the towns we serve. And I am especially proud of the contributions and dedication provided by our non-paid volunteer Board of Directors, who have been consistently providing service to our community for many years. Finally, I want to acknowledge two long-term staff members – Dave Burns and Betty Smith. Dave has made our CBI program one of the best in the State of Maine, and is now taking those skills to run all of our programs as a Program Director. Betty is a long-time staff member, previously a Program Director, and now a Program Consultant who has done all of our 319 grant writing and compiles our Annual Report.

2021 was another good year for the ASYCC. Highlights include:

On **Sunday June 20**, one of our boat inspectors found a large piece of variable **Milfoil** on a boat that was previously at Lake Arrowhead. A DNA test confirmed that it was **Milfoil**. This is exactly what our programs are all about – training and execution.

We have a **New Grant Sponsor!** [The Davis Conservation Foundation](#) provides grants to charitable organizations primarily in northern New England in support of projects related to wildlife, wildlife habitat, environmental protection and outdoor recreation.

The Golf Event held on July 30 was a success. We did not know what to expect for turnout after having to cancel in 2020, so we reduced our price to bring golfers back. 92 golfers signed up and our sponsors and donors participation was excellent. We want to thank our gold Sponsors who each donated \$1000 – the Rosenkrans Family, SPIA, MLRA, Exit Key Realty, Marc Motors.

Erosion Control Crew - We completed 22 projects over 8 difficult weeks weather wise (heat and rain). We conducted a Conservation Practice Workshop on July 13 as part of our 319 grant work.

Courtesy Boat Inspections - We had another very high traffic year for boat inspections, highlighted by the Milfoil find on June 20.

Con't.

**A message from the
ASYCC Board
President**

Looking to 2022

We will have several **new hires**, which is our normal 2 -3 year cycle for younger employees;

There continues to be **big challenges with our budget**. State law minimum wage increases of 70% from \$7.5 to \$12.75 between 2016-2022 – are further escalated by feedback that our pay scale is low – so we will have challenging competition for new hires;

I am **stepping down as President**, but will remain on our Board of Directors. Our board will get moving on these issues for 2022 – and on updating our Board structure and policies

We thank you for your past and continued support of the important work that the ASYCC is doing.

Kent Haake

Kent Haake – ASYCC Board President



Photo credit: Lawrence Mason Jr

Introduction

The Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) is a non profit organization founded in 2001, working to protect Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Goose Pond and Loon Pond collectively known as the Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed.

Education

The ASYCC provides education, community outreach, technical assistance, courtesy boat inspections and the installation of erosion control practices in the watershed. The goal of the ASYCC is to sustain and protect the valuable water resources for its ecological importance as well as for the enjoyment of the local community, businesses and visitors.

Partnerships

The ASYCC is grateful to the Towns of Acton and Shapleigh, the Mousam Lake Region Association and the Square Pond Improvement Association for their ongoing financial support. In addition, fundraising occurs through the annual ASYCC Golf Tournament, grant opportunities through the State and private donations.

Locally Vested Employees

Using this local support, the ASYCC is able to hire local residents who have a vested interest in protecting the local waterways. Between the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program and the Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program, the ASYCC hires approximately 15-20 local residents.

Locally Lead Volunteer Board Members

Board Members

Joe Borst, **Treasurer**

Kathy McGurty, **Secretary**

Jane Thomas, **Donation Lead**

Scott Lansberry, **CBI & ECC Supervisor**

Kent Haake, **Grants/CBI & ECC Assist**

Debbie Lansberry, **Director**

John Chamberlain, **ASYCC Spokesperson**

Tom McGurty **Director**

ASYCC Management Team

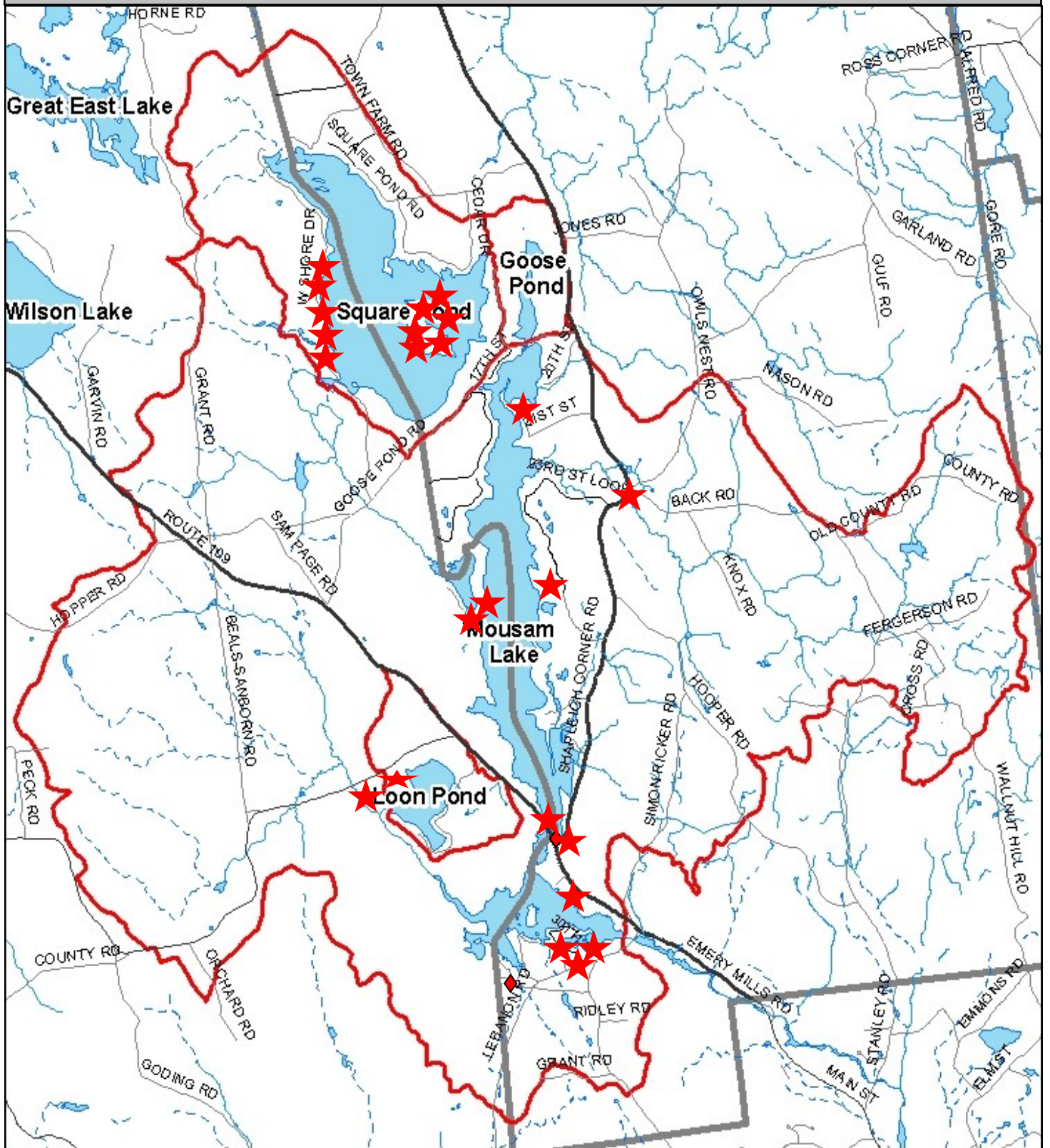
Dave Burns, **CBI Leader**

Mark Phelps, **ECC Leader**

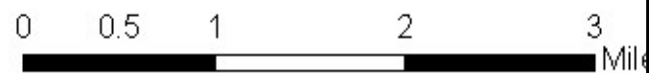
ASYCC Advisors

Mindee Goodrum—Project Manager, York Co Soil & Water
Conservation District

Mousam Lake & Square Pond Watersheds



★ Indicates approximate location of ECC projects



Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

The goal of the CBI Program is to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants and organisms from entering local water bodies.



The CBI Program works to protect Mousam Lake and Square Pond from invasive aquatic plants and organisms by inspecting boats going into and coming out of our local waterways.

Invasive aquatic plants and organisms threaten the ecology of the freshwater lakes and rivers, the regional economy, and wildlife populations in the area.

The ASYCC emphasizes education, outreach and community involvement as one of the most important purposes of the program, helping boaters and landowners understand how vital it is to protect the Mousam Lake & Square Pond Watershed.

Inspectors conduct boat and trailer inspections looking for plants and plant fragments like the one found on June 20th this season on Mousam Lake and provide information to boaters about invasive aquatic plants and organisms.

Inspectors are stationed on the Mousam Lake and Square Pond public boat ramps.

Inspectors look for aquatic plants and organisms like variable leaf-milfoil, Eurasian water-milfoil and marine organisms such as water chestnuts and zebra mussels are just a few invasive species the inspectors look for.

Boat inspections and public education are the best ways to protect Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Loon Pond and Goose Pond from invasive aquatic plants and organisms.

Inspectors check all:

- Boats
- Trailers
- Jet skis
- Fishing tackle
- Lines and ropes
- Water toys



Courtesy Boat Inspection Program Con't

Once an invasive species enters a waterway it is very costly to treat or remove. The impacts are far reaching and include a decrease in nearby property values, degraded water quality, decrease in marine life biodiversity and restricted recreational opportunities. There are several lakes in the region that are currently overwhelmed with the removal and maintenance of invasive aquatic species.



◆ **Square Pond** coverage began on May 1st for the “early pre-season” which ran for three weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for six weeks, the “regular season” ran for 11 weeks and the final “post season” for nine weeks ending November 1 with a grand total of 861.5 inspector hours.

◆ **Mousam Lake** coverage began on May 1st for the “early pre-season” which ran for three weeks, a “pre-season” coverage for three weeks, the “early regular season” coverage ran for 3 weeks, the “regular season” ran for 11 weeks and the final “post season” for eight weeks ending November 1 with a grand total of 1773 inspector hours.

Total Number of Inspections and Plant Fragments Collected throughout the 2021 season includes:

- ⇒ Total number of invasive plants identified from specimens: 1
- ⇒ The Snail Snatchers on Square Pond harvested over 2200 lbs of snails this season.

	Total number of inspections	Number of plant fragments submitted	Number of confirmed invasive plants
Mousam Lake	7106	144	1
Square Pond	1105	30	0
Total	8211	174	1

Erosion Control Crew (ECC) Program

ECC

Erosion Control Crew is responsible for implementing on the ground conservation practices.



Youth Conservation Corps

A program design to provide local youth an opportunity for meaningful summer employment while learning about environmental and natural resource protection through the installation of on the ground conservation practices.

The “YCC/ECC” (*Youth Conservation Corps/Erosion Control Crew*) modeled after the State of Maine program has been successfully adopted to protect and improve water quality in several other communities across the state. With development and construction on lakeside properties, the ECC helps to educate property owners and municipalities about the affects of weather, wave action and development have on their properties.

The ECC completed its 20th season in August 2021. This report highlights a variety of conservation projects that the crew completed throughout the 8 week season. The ECC is comprised of local high school students and a crew leader who install erosion controls with guidance from the ECC Director.

The ECC services are open to any property owner in the Mousam Lake, Square Pond, Goose Pond or Loon Pond Watersheds. A project typically begins with a homeowner requesting a technical assistance visit to assess any erosion issues.

Next steps include:

- ◆ The ECC Director, having gathered pertinent information from the homeowner regarding usage of the property will **recommend** standard erosion control Best Management Practices (BMP’s) to address erosion.
- ◆ A **summary or technical report** will be provided to the landowner.
- ◆ Part of the report will also include a **letter of agreement** that outlines the responsibilities of the homeowner and the ECC/ASYCC that highlights instructions and guidance for maintenance necessary to retain the BMP’s effective design.

The crew provides the **labor** and the **homeowner is responsible for purchasing** and having materials on site prior to the crew work day. Starting with the 2022 Season, ASYCC’s/ECC program will include a labor cost in an all inclusive fee to be invoiced to the landowner upon completion and acceptance of the project. The ECC Director and homeowner will work together to schedule the work.

The use of EPA’s Best Management Practices is the foundation of our work.

Total Completed Erosion Control Projects

Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Mousam	9	12	9	8	6	6	13	9	7	13	14	7	9	10
Square	11	10	11	9	12	23	10	7	20	8	11	15	6	6
Goose	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1
Loon	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	2	2	0	3
Totals	22	23	22	19	20	30	24	19	30	26	27	24	16	20

Total Number of Technical Assistance Visits

Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Amount	41	43	43	60	48	67	64	32	35	44	43	34	33	32

2021 ECC Accomplishments

In a short and challenging eight week season, a team of eight high school students, led by a crew leader and a technical director successfully completed 22 erosion control projects in the greater Mousam Lake-Square Pond Watershed. By the end of the summer they had:

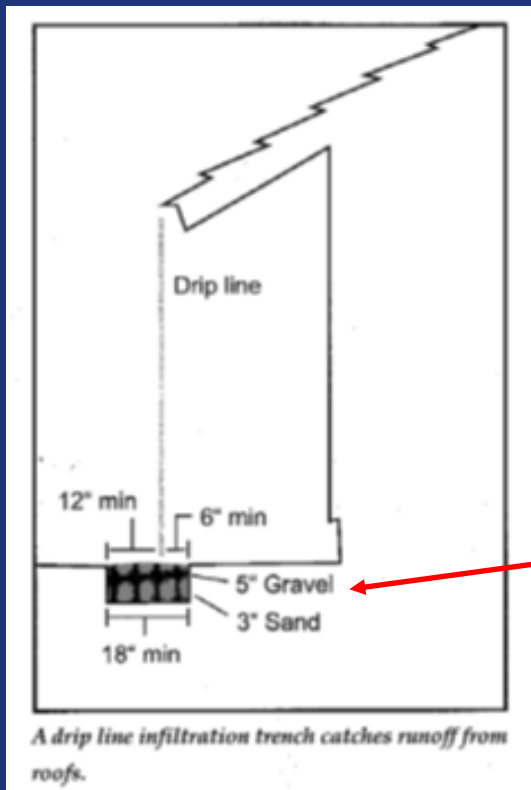
- * Spread approximately 163 cubic yards of mulch.
- * Hand placed approximately 45 cubic yards of crushed stone.
- * Installed approximately 120 infiltration steps.
- * Cleaned, raked, prepared both public beaches for the season.
- * Cleaned and maintained 6 plunge pools.
- * Planted over 60 shrubs, groundcovers and perennials.
- * Cut back an area of invasive knotweed.

Commonly Used Conservation Practices

Conservation practices are used to infiltrate, slow or divert runoff and in doing so help protect water quality. Most are fairly straightforward and simple. Below are some of the most common practices. For additional details on how and where to install these, visit our website: www.asycc.com/education.html.

Infiltration Steps

Purpose: Infiltration steps use crushed stone to slow down and infiltrate runoff. They are effective on moderate slopes, but consider building wooden stairways on 1:1 slopes (45°) or areas where rocks or surface roots make it difficult to set infiltration steps in the ground.



Roof Drip Line Trench/Infiltration Trench

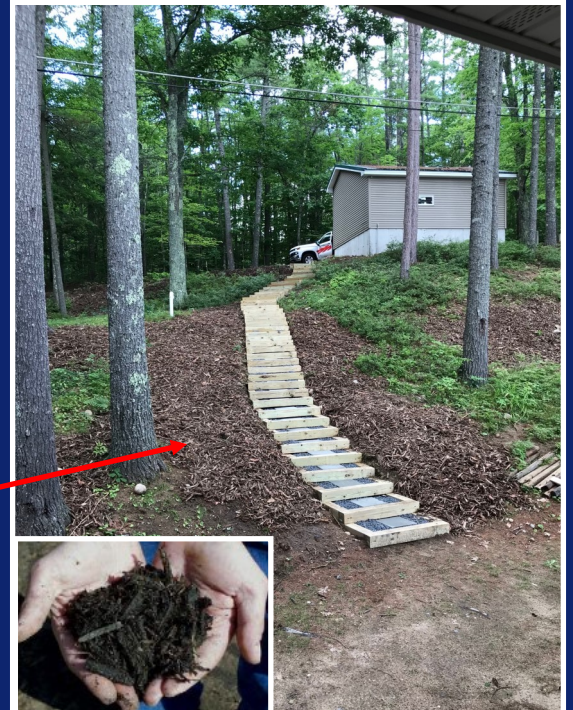
Also Called:
Roof Dripline Trench or Infiltration Trench

Purpose: Dripline trenches collect and infiltrate stormwater, and control erosive runoff from the rooftop. The trenches collect roof runoff and store it until it soaks into the soil. These systems also minimize wear on your house by reducing back splash.

Erosion Control Mulch

Also Called: ECM, Slope Stabilizer, Erosion Control Mulch, Superhumus™, Wood Waste, Stump Grindings

Purpose: Erosion Control Mix is a kind of mulch made of partially composted bark, sand, gravel, stone and wood fragments. It is much heavier than other types of mulch and its mixture of elongated fibers, gravel and soil lock together to protect the underlying soil from erosion. Like other mulches, it also retains moisture, controls weeds and improves the soil as it decomposes. It can be used on paths, slopes and between plantings.



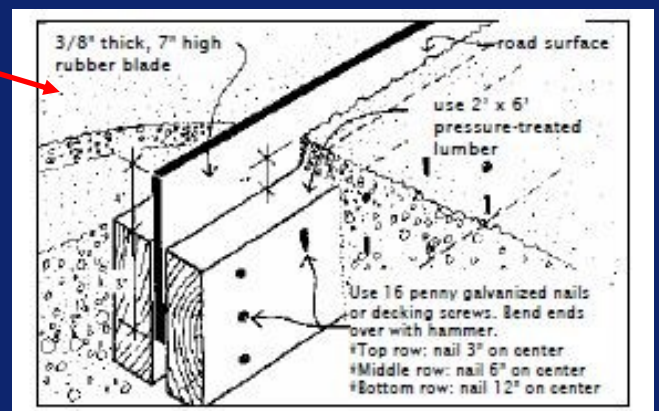
Vegetative Buffers

Purpose: Vegetated buffers are trees, shrubs and groundcover plants that catch sediment and other pollution before it reaches lakes or streams. Trees and shrubs intercept raindrops and reduce their impact on the soil. Low growing plants and the “duff” layer on the ground filter runoff. Root systems hold soil in place and absorb water and nutrients. In addition, buffers can enhance privacy, filter noise and wind, and attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Rubber Razor Blades

Also Called: Rubber Razor Blades, Rubber Blades, Rubber Waterbars

Purpose: Rubber Razors divert water off gravel driveways and camp roads into stable vegetated areas. These structures are well suited for seasonal roads that are not plowed. They can be plowed over if the location is clearly marked and the plow operator lifts the plow blade slightly.



ASYCC Yearly Statistical Analysis 2001-2020

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2001 2004	To date
Erosion Control Projects	22	23	18	19	20	30	24	19	30	26	27	24	16	20	18	26	18	69	427
By Town	9	7	12	8	6	22	8	11	14	14	11	7	2	6	8	16	11	30	193
	12	16	6	11	14	8	16	8	16	12	16	17	14	14	10	10	7	39	234
By Lake	9	12	10	8	6	6	13	9	7	13	14	7	9	10	7	10	10	45	196
	11	10	6	9	12	23	10	7	15	8	11	15	6	6	7	3	1	8	157
	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	4	3	17
	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	4	2	2	0	3	2	11	4	7	47
Technical Visits	41	43	43	60	48	37	64	32	35	44	43	34	33	32	48	65	17	156	791
Courtesy Boat Inspections	8211	9323	6666	7870	6650	6638	6009	5354	5336	5303	4169	3095	2549	1421	1051	580	617	1091	64,668
# of inspections per lake	7106	7702	5758	6858	5526	5815	5274	4668	4615	4939	3638	2663	2316	1329	1042	553	616	1079	56,689
	1105	1621	908	1012	1124	823	735	668	718	564	531	432	233	182	9	27	1	12	7979
Plant Samples Collected	144	224	385	730	1572	288	297	154	291	233	34	0	14	7	33	5	8	7	4058
	30	92	95	176	287	84	76	79	75	30	24	3	3	1	0	1	0	1	935
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2



Photo credit: Krista Beaver Goodman, SP



Natural Resource Protection

The goal is to minimize human impact on the land, use local materials, incorporate the natural landscape into the erosion remedy, promote vegetation and prevent pollutants from entering the water body.

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

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[Www.asycc.com](http://www.asycc.com)