

How LEA looks out for Long Lake

Today Long Lake faces serious threats, from milfoil to pollution. Only the support of members makes it possible for LEA to protect Long Lake, including:



Controlling milfoil on Brandy Pond and the Upper Songo River to prevent the infestation of Long Lake.



Providing water testing for Long Lake, Brandy Pond and 35 other lakes.



Coordinating

Courtesy Boat Inspections at Long Lake, Songo Lock and many other boat launches throughout the Lakes Region.



Teaching adults and children how to protect the Long Lake watershed.



Offering towns and landowners free, on-site help to control erosion, Maine's No. 1 source of surface water pollution.

Long Lake

In 2003, an LEA survey of the Songo River in Naples, which was choked with variable leaf milfoil, showed the infestation was moving up river.



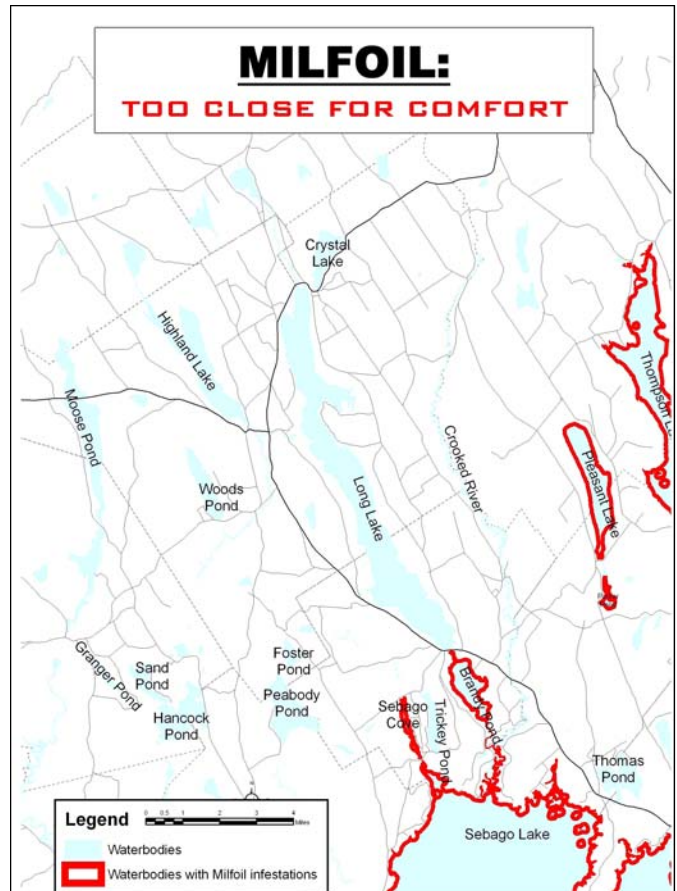
The Songo connects Sebago Lake to Brandy Pond and Long Lake and is one of the most highly traveled waterways in Maine, with roughly 10,000 boats passing through the Songo Lock each year.

It was clear that milfoil must be contained on the Songo or it would infest Brandy Pond, then Long Lake. LEA developed a comprehensive plan and began work on the Upper Songo in 2005. Since then, infestations have been discovered on Brandy Pond, including one just 100 feet from the causeway separating Brandy from Long Lake.

Yet thanks to LEA's milfoil crew, the success of our suction harvester and the use of bottom barriers (enormous tarps that deprive milfoil of sunlight) we're making real progress. But last fall, as happened in 2008, a new infestation was found after our equipment had been packed away for the winter.

Quick response from DEP divers and LEA staff allowed us to tarp most of the area to reduce the off-season threat. This area will be the first order of business for 2010 season and surveillance will be stepped up, especially on Brandy Pond and Long Lake.

Lakes Environmental Association
 230 Main Street, Bridgton, Maine 04009
 207-647-8580 – lakes@leamaine.org
 www.mainelakes.org



Water Quality: B -

Although phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations are moderate in Long Lake, consistent and pronounced dissolved oxygen depletion in the deeper waters is negatively affecting the lake's cold-water fishery. During seasons with a late fall turnover, these low oxygen conditions are prolonged, making the problem even more severe. For this reason, Long Lake remains in the **HIGH** degree of concern category.

Years of development within the wa-

'08 Average Vs. Long-Term Average
 Secchi : Better
 Chlorophyll: Worse
 Phosphorus: Better

tershed has put nutrients into the water which has allowed more algae to grow. The decomposition of this extra algae by bacteria uses up almost all of the oxygen in the bottom waters during the warmest months of the year.

This is not only bad for fish species like landlocked salmon and brook trout, it also means that more nutrients

can be released into the water column through a process called phosphorus recycling. We need to get at the root of the problem which is soil erosion, to prevent this process from occurring.

Through the multi-year Long Lake Watershed Project, LEA identified and corrected these problems. Numerous sites along camp roads have been addressed by providing matching funds to road associations. Dozens of residential properties were also fixed with the help of the Youth Conservation Corp.

2008 water quality at a glance

Lake	Surface Area (acres)	Watershed Area (acres)	Max. Depth (ft)	Av. Secchi (m)	Av. Color (SPU)	Av. Chl-A (ppb)	Av. Phos. (ppb)	Av. PH	Degree of Concern
LONG LAKE	4,935	33,871	59	6.6	12	3.0	6.4	6.7	High