



Ensuring Our Future

Takeaway:
7 Lakes
yields
**healthier
lakes, great
return** for
\$8K
investment

7 Lakes Alliance





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Denny Phillips

- War hero
- Longtime Planning Board chairman
- A founder of Watson Pond Association (predecessor of BRCA and 7 Lakes Alliance)





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Upshot

- **\$8K to 7 Lakes = 0.8% of Rome's municipal budget.**
Town's \$36K total contribution to lake issues = 3.6% of municipal budget. 85% of Rome's tax base is on the water.
- **21 YCC projects on Great, Long, North ponds → 41 erosion-control best management practices.** Doesn't include 5 projects & six BMPs on East Pond ... which flows into North Pond → Great Pond → Long Pond.
- **0 new infestations or known introductions** of invasive plants in the lakes.



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Upshot

- **>\$300K in grant funding for erosion control on Great, Long, North ponds** in 2022-23. Grants will be leveraged to double infrastructure investment (roads, driveways, culverts, bridges). **GREAT return on \$8K contribution.** Will apply for more grants in 2023-24 for all 3 lakes.
- More than **1K water samples** collected, tested, analyzed. Good management necessitates understanding.
- **Seeking increased contributions from all other towns** in the watershed except Rome, which doubled its contribution in 2022. Thank you!



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3 questions

- What did Rome get for increased investment?
- Are other towns bordering the lakes contributing more?
- Should Rome's allocation increase, decrease or remain the same in 2023?



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ROI: Invasive aquatics

- 18 Adopt-A-Shoreline & Plant ID workshops
- 3 locations (Belgrade, Smithfield, Oakland)
- 50 new Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers
- 16 miles adopted
- 3 invasive plant paddles
- 5 CBI trainings

Each = increase over 2021 activity.





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ROI: Invasive aquatics

6,228 boat inspections

- 837 North Pond
- 738 East Pond
- 2,400 Great Pond
- 1,600 Long Pond
- 648 Salmon Lake

0 invasives introduced





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ROI: Invasive aquatics

19 acres of invasive milfoil cleared from Great Meadow Stream

13 acres of invasive curly-leaf pondweed cleared from East Pond's Serpentine & North Pond's Old Mill Stream

0 new infestations found in all waterbodies surveyed





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15 crew
members – all
high school and
college students

ROI: YCC





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100 BMPs on 50 properties to reduce runoff & erosion. BMPs = riprap, rain gardens, infiltration steps, vegetative buffers, dripline trenches, rubber razors, erosion-control mulch.

ROI: YCC





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Rome

- 12 YCC projects in 2022
- 17 BMPs (best management practices) installed
 - Sand removal, mulch paths, riprap, plunge pool, plantings
- Lakes
 - Great Pond: 14 projects, 28 BMPs
 - North Pond: 5 projects, 9 BMPs
 - Long Pond: 2 projects, 4 BMPs
 - East Pond: 5 projects, 6 BMPs



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ROI: Erosion control

\$793,151 in Clean Water Act grants 2009-2021

- Matched with \$1.58M from road associations, towns, landowners
- **Total of \$2.38M invested in Long, Great, East, North & McGrath ponds, Salmon Lake**



Funded under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act



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Return: Erosion control

Grant funding in 2022:

- Great Pond – \$109,430
- North Pond – \$104,950
- McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake – \$94,270
- Total improvements = 7 miles of gravel roads and driveways + ditches, culverts, bridge

Infrastructure investment = \$600K in construction spending, including matching funds, when completed



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Marsh Lane bridge (during)





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Marsh Lane bridge (after)





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ROI: Water sampling

- **Long – 285 samples collected**
- **Messalonskee – 258**
- **Great – 211**
- **East – 135**
- **North – 128**
- **Salmon – 114**
- **McGrath – 102**

Total – 1,233 (as of Oct. 18)

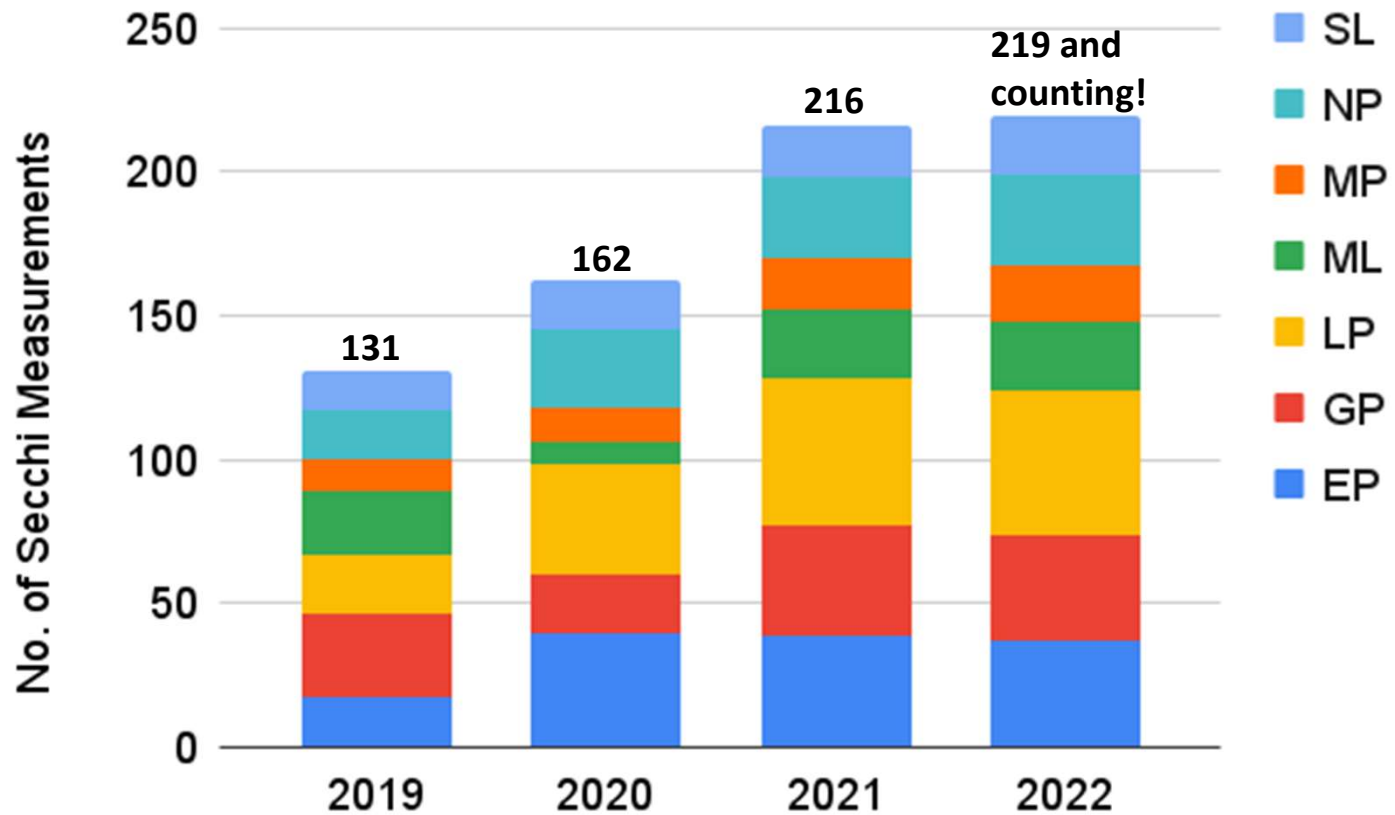
Tested for phosphorus, aluminum, iron, algae, toxic cyanobacteria

“We can’t manage what we don’t understand.” – Dr. Whitney King, Colby professor, 7 Lakes board member



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ROI: Water quality





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Rome

- **\$36,000 total**
 - \$24,000 to Belgrade Lakes Association (milfoil mitigation, courtesy boat inspections, “other water quality issues”)
 - \$8,000 to 7 Lakes Alliance (Youth Conservation Corps on North, Great and Long ponds, “other water quality issues”)
 - \$4,000 to North Pond Association (courtesy boat inspections, “other water quality issues”)



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Town contributions

- Belgrade – \$40,000 in 2022 → \$60,000 in 2023
- Rome – \$36,000 → \$36,000
- Oakland – \$15,500 → \$18,000
- Smithfield – \$11,000 → \$13,500
- Sidney – \$7,200 → \$8,500
- Mount Vernon -- \$0 → TBD

Contributions are to 7 Lakes and lake associations for invasive aquatics, Youth Conservation Corps, water quality activities.



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Looking ahead to 2023

- **\$224,434 in erosion control grants**, including \$112,550 on Long Pond. Will yield \$500K investment in erosion-control infrastructure with leveraged funds
- **More YCC projects** across the watershed
- **More invasive plant and CBI trainings**, more plant paddles, extending CBIs to mid-October, continued vigilance with milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed
- Continued vigilance in **water sampling, testing and analysis**



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Takeaway: 7 Lakes yields **great return, healthier lakes** for \$8K investment

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7 Lakes Alliance





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ARPA

- ARPA funds **CANNOT** be matched with Clean Water Act grants. However ...
- Rome could leverage CWA funds by using ARPA on road projects away from lakes and using funds normally devoted to road maintenance around lakes.
- 7 Lakes still has 2022 Great Pond funds available. Applying for more in 2023 to spend in 2024.



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ARPA

Potential projects include:

- Improvements at **Town beach + road** to beach. Est. \$5K total cost.
- **Foss Hill Rd.** 7LA could contribute half of est. \$20K cost.
- **Nickerson Ln.** 7LA could contribute half of est. \$10K cost.
- **Oak Hill Rd.** Est. \$30K cost. (impacts North Pond)
- **Crystal Spring Rd.** Est. \$10K cost.
- Turnaround at **sand/salt shed.** Est. \$10K cost.

7 Lakes willing to work with Town to prioritize projects, coordinate budgets to maximize available dollars.