

FRAGILE SHORELINE REPORT - 2026 ANNUAL MEETING - LLSPA

Riparian Buffer near the Colby Point Association entrance

Due to the dry weather during the 2025 summer, volunteers continued to water the plants, bushes, and trees for over three months. Some plants were stressed. However, the rains returned and the watering project slowed a bit.

In the spring of 2026 LLSPA received permission from the landowners to continue to embellish our work on these areas abutting the driveway into Colby Point. There is evidence that further planting is needed in areas of extreme run off. We hope to add some native plants to fill in the weaker areas sometime in the early fall.

The **Wallula Shoreline Buffer Restoration Project [parts 1 &2]** are now complete. Along with help from LSPA, Amy Bucklin and a team of five volunteers from the Wallula association worked on the second phase in September 2025 in an effort to divert some of the runoff from Route 114 into the lake. More volunteers helped to water and weed the plantings after they were in the ground.

In June 2026, Amy planted five blueberry bushes and plugs of common wood sedge at the bottom of a steep sloped area. Geoff Lizotte [LSPA] helped her to add two burlap socks at the top of the area to slow the erosion there.

Many thanks to our Wallula volunteers for a job well done!

The **High Pine Lane Association [HPLA] Project** was initiated by the members of the High Pine Lane Association concerned about erosion caused by rain water run off flowing from their beach path towards the lake. Since last summer [2025] Mary Ropka and HPLA worked with LSPA on a rain water runoff/beach erosion mitigation project at the HPLA beach. Geoff Lizotte helped the association to come up with a mitigation plan for different problem areas on the HPLA beach and submit an application for a Shoreland permit.

Three days of digging and planting the **High Pine Beach Path Project began** on June 2, 2026. Five volunteers from LLSPA helped the team of six residents from that area stabilize the path to alleviate water run off into the lake along with Mary. A team of three experts from LSPA oversaw the preparation, digging, and planting by these hard-working volunteers. The end result is an outstanding success and we hope to see positive data in the future that will substantiate the reduction of storm run off into the water.

Bucklin Beach Rain Garden and Buffer

The gardens are growing well after the initial plantings back in 2024 at Bucklin Beach. Plus, the Town of New London has stopped depositing cut grass and leaves to curtail run off where water flows from the parking lot into the lake.

Two LLSPA volunteers have stepped up this season to weed the gardens when necessary. Thank you, Volunteers!!

Hannaford Catch Basin and Crescenti Bog

LSPA and LLSPA has been working on this pollution issue with the Town of New London, Cross Point, DOT, and other stakeholders for many years. Mike Morgan [LSPA / LLSPA] has been our contact with the progress in cleaning up the catch basin and surrounding area which flows down into Crescenti Bog. This polluted run off then heads toward Murray Pond and the lake.

Our Loons and Loon Nests

In the summer of 2025, Jack Sheehan, who has been overseeing the floating loon nest for decades, replaced the netting over the nest, addressed the camo cover, and replaced an anchoring line. A second nest was found on the shore near the channel between the two basins. Many of us watched our loon chick [the sole survivor of the eggs from that nest] grow into a healthy juvenile without incident. We believe this juvenile loon is back on the lake this season.

This year a team from LPC removed the floating nest for repairs early in the spring. Once replaced, a goose chose to nest there, so we had quite a wait until her chick hatched and she vacated the nest. Although a loon pair did settle in, their eggs never hatched. Happily, a second nest was constructed on the east basin shore where two beautiful loonlets were born in late June 2026. The situation changes on a daily basis so more to come on the loon chicks in a later report. Many thanks to our photo chroniclers for keeping us updated. Thank you to those volunteers: Peter Bloch, Peter Jacoby, and Roger Bloch.

The Fragile Shoreline Committee is indebted to the many volunteers from LLSPA who have worked countless hours to realize our projects. THANK YOU ALL!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Girald