

Shutesbury Stormwater Task Force General Conclusions, September 2025

1. Stormwater and **sediment heads to the lake from uphill locations from both town-owned, paved and dirt roads (Locks Pond & Wendell Roads), privately-owned uphill properties, Lake Wyola Association-owned dirt roads as well as directly from lowland private properties.**
2. To reduce the discharge of sediment, **it is necessary to slow the flow of water from uphill locations and to trace the water flow to various discharge points.**
3. To date **there has not been a coordinated approach to bring the relevant parties together** for assessment, planning and implementation purposes.

Many property owners, seeking to reduce stormwater flow—whether onto, near to, over, in front of, or behind their properties—have taken matters into their own hands with a **variety of DIY fixes. However, there isn't adequate understanding about how protecting one property might impact other private and public properties as well as worsen sedimentation into the lake.**

4. **The Lake Wyola Association has commented that it has limited financial ability** to address all the issues, which have become more complex with more year-round residents, more traffic on roads and more intense storms. The LWA is committed to working with the Town and it has, since 2020, **made significant capital improvements totaling \$55,220.**
5. Other than this temporary Task Force working group, **there is no centralized mechanism with the responsibility to coordinate efforts of all parties** (including the ConCom, LWAC, Community Preservation Committee, LWA and the Highway Department).
6. The FRCOG WBP identifies the **need for additional research about the impact of off-shore activities on sedimentation, lake depths, and vegetation growth.**