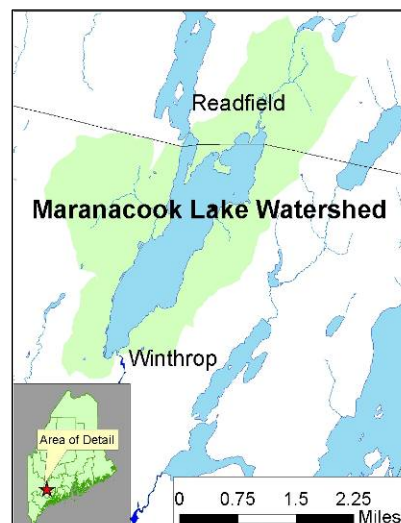


Maranacook Lake Watershed Management Plan Development

#2004P-08

Waterbody Name: Maranacook Lake
Location: Readfield, Winthrop – Kennebec County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk
Project Grantee: Cobbossee Watershed District
Project Duration: May 2004 – March 2008
319 Grant Amount: \$24,826
Local Match: \$27,826



PROBLEM:

Maranacook Lake has a surface area of 1,762 acres and direct watershed area of 21.51 square miles. The lake has two distinct basins. The north basin is in Readfield and the south basin is primarily in Winthrop. Water quality of the two basins has been monitored since the mid-1970s. The south basin has above average water quality and maintains adequate dissolved oxygen concentrations to support a cold-water fishery. The water quality of the north basin is considered to be slightly below average, and dissolved oxygen becomes depleted in the deeper water by mid-summer.

The primary threat to water quality is phosphorus loading from land use activities as well as potential internal recycling of phosphorus in the north basin. Land use in the watershed consists of forested land (70%), agriculture (12%), development (12%) and other (roads, wetlands) (6%). In 2000, the Town of Readfield received 319 funds to conduct a camp road survey in the north basin watershed and a BMP demonstration project. In this study, 108 NPS problems were identified on 24 roads.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

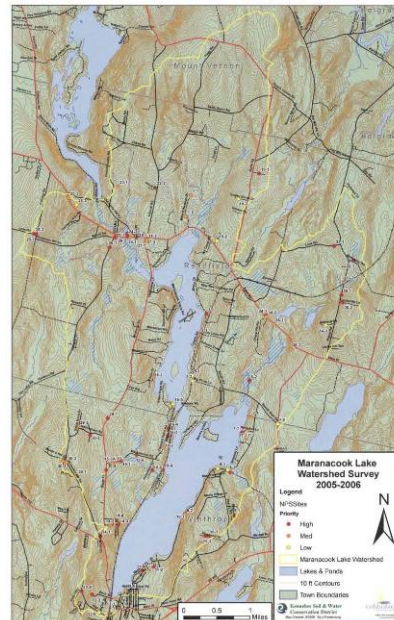
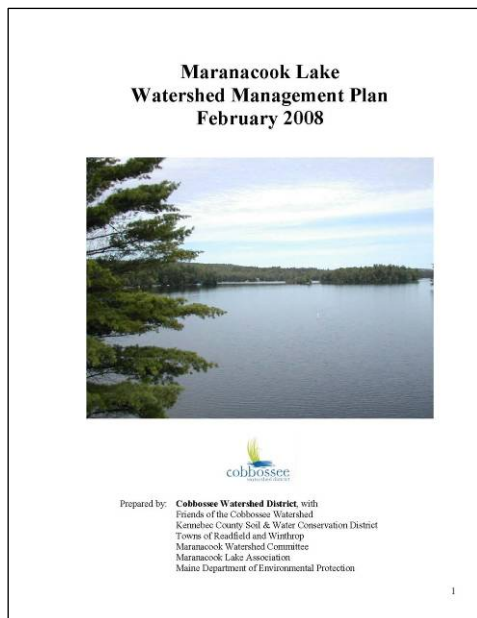
The primary purpose of the project was to develop a watershed management plan. The project began with an extensive outreach and education campaign. A mailing was sent to all watershed residents to inform them about the project and invite participation in reforming the lake association. The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed staff spent two weeks (in 2004 and 2005) on the lake disseminating outreach materials from the OTTER II, their educational boat. In addition, two public meetings were held with more than 60 people attending each meeting.

In early 2005, a watershed committee consisting of project partners and ten citizen volunteers was formed to guide development of the plan. The committee met nine times to establish goals, objectives and activities for the plan. A training session was held in May 2005 to train volunteers to conduct an NPS watershed survey. Due to low participation, the majority of the survey was carried out by the Cobbossee Watershed District through the summer (2005) and spring (2006). Finally, a survey questionnaire about the lake was made available to the public. After compilation of NPS survey results, watershed information and committee input, the draft watershed plan was developed and made available to the public. A final public forum was held in February 2008 to present the plan and solicit final input.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The *Maranacook Lake Watershed Management Plan* was completed in February 2008. Available at http://www.state.me.us/spo/landuse/compplans/plans/readfield/MLWM_PLAN_FINAL_0227086.pdf
- An NPS survey was completed for about three-quarters of the watershed. The survey identified 82 NPS sites, and 34 of the sites were determined to be high priority. The identified sites will be the focus of future implementation efforts.
- The Maranacook Lake Association, which had been dissolved since the mid 1970s, was reformed. By the end of the project, the lake association had close to 150 members.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed
Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District
Town of Readfield
Town of Winthrop
Maranacook Lake Association

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mary Ellen Dennis, DEP - (207) 287-7729, mary-ellen.c.dennis@maine.gov

William J. Monagle, CWD - (207) 377-2234, wmonagle@roadrunner.com

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