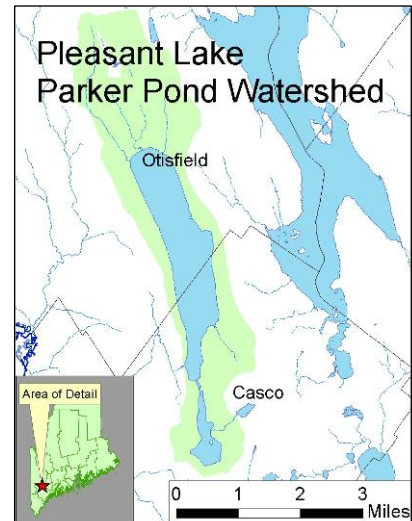


# Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Watershed Survey

#2007PP-11

Waterbody Name: Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond  
Location: Casco, Otisfield – Cumberland and Oxford Counties  
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watersheds, Most at Risk (Parker Pond)  
Project Grantee: Pleasant Lake / Parker Pond Association  
Project Duration: March 2007 – March 2008  
319 Grant Amount: \$11,514  
Local Match: \$10,343



## PROBLEM:

Pleasant Lake (1,077 acres) and Parker Pond (166 acres) are located in Casco and Otisfield and have a combined watershed area of 6.7 square miles. The ponds, which are connected by Lilly Brook, drain into Sebago Lake via the Crooked River. The ponds' shoreline is developed with 150 homes, four summer camps (including the well known Seeds of Peace Camp) and a public boat launch. The ponds are also located adjacent to the village of Casco, which includes numerous businesses and municipal buildings.

The Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association (PL/PPA) formed in 1966 and has been monitoring water quality of both ponds since 1977 and 1978, respectively. Water quality of both lakes is considered to be above average; however, Pleasant Lake is beginning to show signs of oxygen depletion in deeper areas. Pleasant Lake's low flushing rate of 0.2 times per year (statewide average of 1-1.5 times per year) makes the pond more sensitive to increases in phosphorus. In addition to water quality concerns, there is also an infestation of variable-leaf milfoil in Lilly Brook. Since 2001 the PL/PPA has been working to control the milfoil using benthic barriers and screens to prevent the spread into downstream Pleasant Lake.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to identify, document, and prioritize soil erosion and phosphorous pollution sites in the Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond watersheds and to recommend conservation practices that could mitigate the problems at the documented sites.

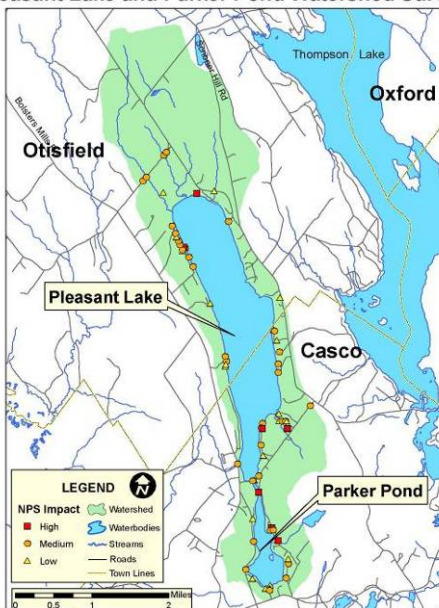
Project staff and planning board members reviewed tax maps and mailed roughly 490 letters notifying watershed landowners about the upcoming survey. On June 9, 2007, 19 volunteers and seven technical leaders attended the survey training and started fieldwork, which was completed by mid-June of that year. A total of 64 erosion sites were identified by volunteers with oversight from technical staff from Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and DEP. Cumberland County SWCD staff estimated pollutant loading for all high and medium impact sites. A survey report and two-page summary of survey findings was completed and distributed to watershed landowners and town officials.



## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and 19 volunteers surveyed the entire Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond watersheds. In total, 64 erosion sites were identified. 25% of sites were associated with residential activities, 15% were related to private roads, and 17% were driveways.
- The *Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Watershed Survey Report* (June 2007) summarizes survey findings and lists specific descriptions and recommendations for identified sites.
- Cumberland County SWCD staff estimated pollutant loading associated with the 43 high and medium impact sites as 189 tons of sediment/year and 160 pounds of phosphorous/year (EPA Region 5 Method).
- The project steering committee distributed a two-page summary of the survey findings to all watershed landowners. Landowners whose properties were identified as having some type of erosion problem received a complete copy of the survey report. Additional copies of the complete report were distributed to town officials and Maine DOT.

Pleasant Lake and Parker Pond Watershed Survey



## PROJECT PARTNERS:

Town of Casco  
Town of Otisfield  
Cumberland County SWCD  
Portland Water District

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2009) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2008 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-0973 2009. Augusta: MDEP.