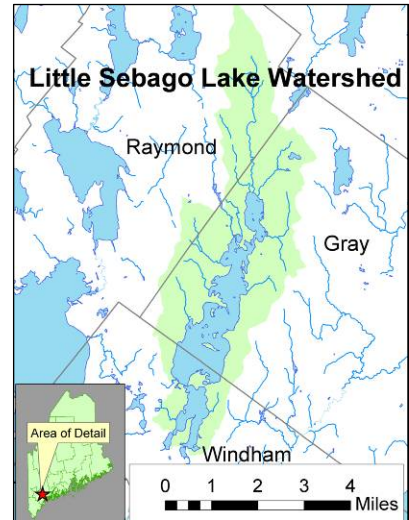


Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project: Phase II

#2006R-04

Waterbody Name: Little Sebago Lake
Location: Gray and Windham – Cumberland County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk
Project Sponsor: Cumberland County SWCD
Project Duration: March 2006 – March 2009
319 Grant Amount: \$79,854
Match: \$117,284



PROBLEM:

Little Sebago Lake has a surface area of 1898 acres, numerous perennial tributaries and three distinct basins. Its watershed covers 13.3 square miles and is part of the larger Pleasant River and Presumpscot River watersheds. The lake's shoreline is heavily developed with over 1200 seasonal camps and year-round homes and an extensive network of private roads. The lake also has a state-owned boat ramp, a private 43-site campground and Aimhi Lodge, a commercial operation with 23 rental units.

The pond has been monitored since 1975, and the data indicates that the lake has moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion in late summer. In 2002 and 2003, Cumberland County SWCD, Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) and Maine DEP completed NPS surveys of the entire watershed and identified 327 erosion sites. The *Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project – Phase I* (#2004R-02) kicked off implementation efforts in 2004 by fixing 55 documented erosion problems and starting a summer Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). A smaller grant project (#2004R-24B) concurrently fixed another two high impact watershed sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to reduce polluted runoff to Little Sebago Lake. Conservation practices were installed at 10 high priority sites on private roads. The Little Sebago YCC provided landowners with labor to fix another 54 sites. Technical assistance was provided to 44 landowners.

Project articles appeared in the local newspapers, Portland Press Herald and the LSLA newsletter. A postcard with information about project opportunities was sent to all landowners with sites identified in the watershed surveys. A final project brochure and annual YCC summary reports were provided to the Gray and Windham town councils, steering committee members and LSLA board members. Project updates were also presented to the town councils and at the LSLA annual meeting.

Youth corps comes to the aid of Little Sebago Lake

DON PERKINS

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection...
"The driveway always washed down during the spring rains," he said. "There'd be piles of dirt down in the hollow, and I'd track it back up the hill, load after load."
The Little Sebago Lake Youth Conservation Corps remediated the slope by installing a rubber mat that diverts water to the edge of the driveway to carry it down to an existing catch basin and prevent it from washing down the dirt road.
The conservation corps changed the low catch basin and placed a new gutter in its path to collect and divert the runoff.
"The 'new' stone driveway is much more than slick rubber matting," Perkins said, adding that the rubber matting had been installed by the landowner.
"We've been working to the best of our ability to fix erosion sites and provide technical assistance to other property owners in the watershed," Perkins said. "The rubber matting above the gutter by itself is not the answer, while the gutter helps divert the runoff from the driveway and prevent problems impacting Little Sebago."
The Corps labor is free to the landowner and includes everything from rubber matting to the gutter and stone, as well as the labor to install them.
"There's been a huge response from the watershed," he said. "We're working hard to get the word out."
If you'd like your Little Sebago Lake property to be a conservation site, contact the Little Sebago Lake Youth Conservation Corps project director, Christine Perry, at 800-678 or perry2@maine.gov.

Portland Press Herald, August 26, 2006

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed erosion problems at 10 priority watershed sites. This work prevented an estimated 26.4 tons of sediment and 22.5 pounds of phosphorus from reaching the lake each year (Region 5 Method).
- 54 additional sites were addressed by the summer Youth Conservation Corps in 2006 and 2008. (The 2007 season was paid for with funds remaining in the Phase I budget). The YCC planted 713 plants, spread 91 cubic yards of erosion control mulch, stenciled 112 stormdrains, installed 18 runoff diverters and stabilized over a mile of ditches. Although the LSLA cannot afford to continue its own YCC, they pledged \$5,000 towards a regional YCC that will continue to do work around the lake.
- Local match contributed to the project totaled \$117,284, which far exceeded the original project goal of \$73,386. In addition to landowner contributions, match sources included a \$5,003 grant from the DEP's Stormwater Compensation Fund to help fund the Deer Acres Road project; \$10,000 in cash match from the LSLA; \$3,000 in YCC payroll services from the Town of Windham; and \$77,666 from the Town of Gray to design and construct the Westwood Road project.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Little Sebago Lake Association
Town of Gray
Town of Windham

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wendy Garland, DEP – (207) 822-6320, wendy.garland@maine.gov
Jami Fitch, Cumberland County SWCD – (207) 892-4700, jami@cumberlandswcd.org

Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2010) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2009 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-1159 2010. Augusta: MDEP.