

Sabattus Pond Watershed Project Phase II

#2006R-19 – WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Sabattus Pond
Location: Greene, Sabattus, Wales – Androscoggin County
Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk
Project Grantee: Androscoggin Valley SWCD
Project Duration: January 2007 – September 2009
319 Grant Amount: \$30,000
Match: \$30,027 (local) \$20,000 (ME Dept. of Ag.)



PROBLEM:

Sabattus Pond is a shallow 2,036-acre waterbody with a direct watershed of 25.3 square miles. Sabbatus Pond has a high recreational value since it is managed as a warm water fishery, hosts more than a dozen types of fish and has public access. Agricultural use in the watershed has declined in the last 20 years, and there has been a large increase in conversions of summer camps to year-round residences and general development.

Sabattus Pond has experienced algal blooms for more than 20 years and does not meet state water quality standards. Over the last 20 years, the water quality of the pond has shown some improvement, but it continues to bloom annually. In 2004, a Phosphorus Control Action Plan (TMDL Assessment) was prepared and approved. Watershed surveys identified erosion and sediment problems on developed areas, roads and agricultural lands. *Phase 1* of 319-funded watershed work was completed in 2006. BMPs were constructed at 19 sites, including riparian buffers, private and town road improvements, driveway stabilization and shoreline stabilization. Technical assistance also prompted landowners to adopt BMPs at many other sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to reduce the magnitude and duration of algae blooms in Sabbatus Pond by installing conservation practices to help control phosphorus and sediment loading. The goal was to address erosion problems at priority sites, provide technical assistance to property owners, and to continue outreach to foster long-term stewardship.



Twelve sites were stabilized, including seven sites on two private roads, two shoreline stabilization sites, and three other private projects. Outreach activities included a well-attended public meeting, four articles in the SPWP newsletter, website postings and press releases. The SPWP actively promoted the grant, provided cash match to two projects and mailed packets of seeds to their membership to encourage planting of vegetation.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Conservation practices were installed at 12 sites in the watershed. Projects included redirecting road and driveway runoff to buffers, installing and armoring culverts, creating and stabilizing ditches, installing infiltration steps and trenches, planting vegetation, and stabilizing eroding shoreline.
- Pollutant loading to Sabattus Pond was reduced by an estimated 69 tons of sediment and 63 pounds of phosphorus per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Model). New buffers were established along 291 linear feet of shoreline.
- Technical assistance was provided at 22 different sites, almost double the number of visits required by the grant work plan.



Digging a trench for a new culvert installation.



Multiple homeowner conservation practices: infiltration steps, bank stabilization and vegetation, creation and mulching of path.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership
Town of Sabattus
Town of Greene
Town of Wales
Maine Department of Transportation

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Suggested Citation:

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