Thomas Pond Conservation Project – Phase II
#2006RR-06

Waterbody Name:	Thomas Pond
Location:	Raymond and Casco – Cumberland County
Waterbody Status:	NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk
Project Sponsor:	Cumberland County SWCD
Project Duration:	April 2006 – March 2009
319 Grant Amount:	$64,939
Local Match:	$71,002

Thomas Pond Watershed

Casco

Raymond

Area of Detail

0   0.5   1   1.5
Miles
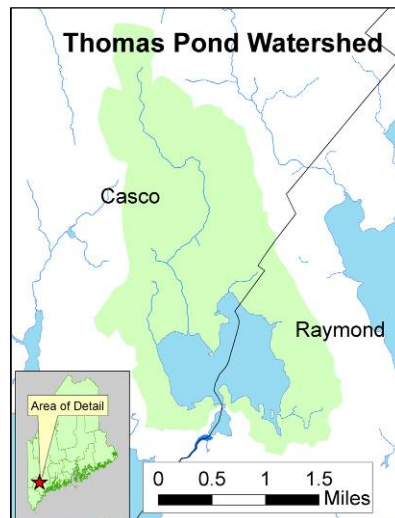
PROBLEM:

Thomas Pond is a 497-acre lake located in the Towns of Raymond and Casco. Its watershed covers 4.5 square miles and is part of the larger Sebago Lake watershed, which serves as a drinking water source for over 200,000 people in Southern Maine. Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA) and the DEP have monitored Thomas Pond since 1976. According to the monitoring data, the pond is considered to be average based on measures of Secchi disk transparency, total phosphorus and chlorophyll a. However, there is high depletion of dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters of the lake in late summer and the threat of internal phosphorus loading is also high.

In 2000 the Thomas Pond Improvement Association (TPIA), DEP and Cumberland County SWCD identified 125 erosion sites in an independently-funded watershed survey. From 2003 to 2005, the Thomas Pond *Phase I* project fixed 15 high priority sites in the watershed, planted over 300 buffer plants through a small matching grants program and provided technical assistance to 32 landowners.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The primary purpose of the project was to significantly reduce erosion and the export of phosphorus into Thomas Pond. The project also aimed to raise awareness about watershed problems and foster long-term watershed stewardship.   Conservation practices were installed on a total of 10 large abatement sites and another 25 smaller sites through small matching grants.

The project partnered with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to conduct a Watershed Stewards Program. Extension provided eight free workshops on lake topics to over 20 residents. In return for this opportunity, the participants volunteered their time on lake protection projects. The project also coordinated the Casco and Raymond Community Watershed Forum on June 2, 2007. Over 50 local residents attended the half-day event and discussed water quality issues and action items in break-out groups and as a whole. Other outreach included an initial project fact sheet, press releases, a final project brochure and presentations to the towns, TPIA and RWPA.

Volunteers install a dripline trench

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed 10 high and medium priority erosion problems, thereby reducing pollutant loading to Thomas Pond by an estimated 46 tons of sediment per year (Region 5 Method). Another 25 sites were improved through residential matching grants.

- Local match contributed to the project totaled $71,002, which far exceeded the original project goal of $50,120. One of the sites on Thomas Pond Terrace was funded with a $9,400 grant from the DEP's Stormwater Compensation Fund. Another site on Libby Road was fully funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (estimated value of $45,639).

- The project helped increase stewardship efforts on Thomas Pond as well as neighboring lakes. Several participants in the project's Watershed Stewards Program volunteered for the Panther Pond and Raymond Pond 319 projects. The Raymond Casco Lakes Forum generated significant interest in the DEP's LakeSmart program, and the newly-formed Crescent Lake Watershed Association was accepted into the program in 2009.

Culvert inlet-before-early spring

Culvert Inlet and plunge pool-after

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Thomas Pond Improvement Association
Town of Casco
Town of Raymond
Portland Water District
Raymond Waterways Protective Association
University of Maine Cooperative Extension

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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