

## Togus Watershed NPS Reduction Project, Phase II

### #2008RT03

Waterbody Name: Togus, Little Togus and Lower Togus Ponds

Location: Augusta and Windsor – Kennebec County

Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed

Project Grantee: City of Augusta

Project Duration: April 2008 – September 2010

319 Grant Amount: \$79,000

Local Match: \$66,200



**PROBLEM:**

The Togus Pond watershed covers 36 square miles and includes Togus Pond, Little Togus Pond, Lower Togus Pond and Togus Stream. Water quality monitoring data for Lower Togus Lake has been collected since 1989, and the water quality is considered to be below average based on measures of water clarity, total phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a. The potential for nuisance algal blooms on Lower Togus Lake is high. Water quality monitoring data for Togus Lake has been collected since 1976, and the lake has a history of blooms.

A 2003 NPS watershed survey identified over 100 problem pollution sites. Most sites were associated with roads and residential areas and some involved commercial businesses and town/state roads. Approximately half of the pollution sites identified during the survey were ranked as medium or high priority due to their impact or potential to impact water quality. In addition to soil erosion, the watershed’s TMDL Report (2005) suggests that 25% of the pond’s phosphorus load comes from septic systems. From 2004 – 2006, a Phase I project (#2004R-06) completed repair work on 36 problem sites, which reduced pollutant loading to the pond by an estimated 24 tons of sediment and 24 pounds of phosphorus per year.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

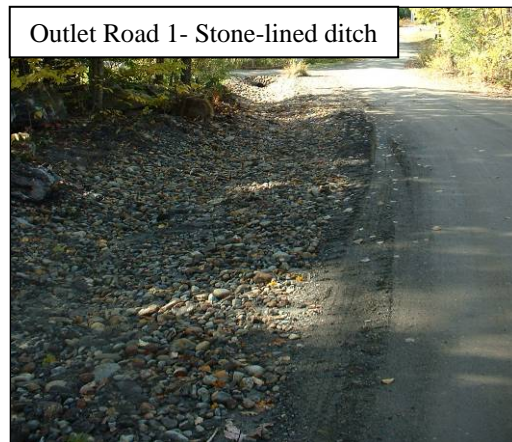
Phase II sought to repair 25 of the remaining higher priority pollution sites identified in the watershed survey and to provide technical assistance to fix another 5 lower priority sites. Primary field contacts and cost-sharing efforts with local landowners were overseen by members of the Worromontogus (Togus Pond) Lake Association (WLA), with technical assistance, technical designs and field support provided by the Kennebec County SWCD. The City of Augusta provided overall project administrative oversight. Pollutants targeted for reduction by this project were sediment and phosphorus.



Project activities were advertised through an initial letter to watershed landowners, press releases and postings in the new WLA website. Four workshops were also held to educate local residents about shoreline and road issues.

### PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- NPS problems on 31 high priority road-related sites were addressed by installing ditching, culverts, plunge pools, new surface material, drainage improvements and other BMPs.
- Buffers were planted on 5 sites, and shoreline stabilization projects were completed on 3 sites.
- A WLA website was created and had received 212,000 hits as of September, 2010. ([www.togusponds.org](http://www.togusponds.org))
- The project's BMP installations reduced pollutant loading to Togus Pond by an estimated 1.8 tons of sediment, 1 pound of phosphorus and 1.2 pounds of nitrogen per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Model).



### PROJECT PARTNERS:

Kennebec County SWCD  
Worromontogus Lake Association

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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