

Pleasant Pond NPS Abatement Project, Phase II

#2008RT06

Waterbody Name: Pleasant Pond

Location: Litchfield and Richmond – Kennebec County

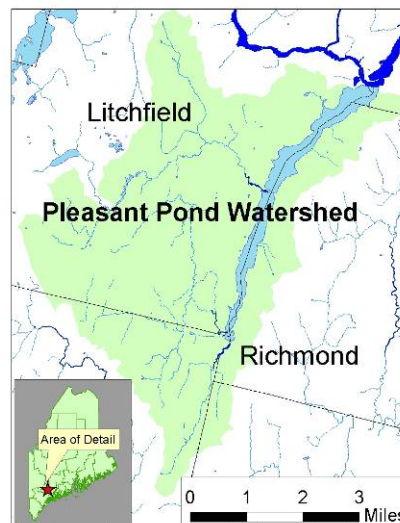
Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Grantee: Kennebec County SWCD

Project Duration: March 2008 – September 2010

319 Grant Amount: \$64,160

Local Match: \$50,555



PROBLEM:

Pleasant Pond is a shallow, five-mile-long pond with a 23.4 square mile watershed. While the portion of the watershed that is developed is relatively small, the development is concentrated on the shoreline. The pond does not meet state water quality standards due to high concentrations of phosphorus, recurring algal blooms for the past 20 years, and low transparency readings. The pond's TMDL report (2004) indicated that agriculture accounted for 39%, public and private roads for 15%, and residential sites and septic systems for 7% of the phosphorus load. The number of active farms has decreased in recent years and NRCS has been actively addressing agricultural runoff in the watershed.

A shoreline survey was conducted by the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) in 2000, and a road and ditch erosion survey was conducted by Kennebec County SWCD in 2005. These surveys resulted in a list of over 180 sites with NPS problems. From 2006 to 2008, the first phase of the Pleasant Pond NPS Abatement Project (#2006R-05) resulted in the implementation of 18 road BMPs, installation of nine residential conservation projects by the Friends Youth Conservation Corps, presentation of two educational BMP workshops, and completion of two seasons of water quality monitoring by CWD.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project goal was to continue restoring Pleasant Pond's water quality by complementing ongoing NRCS work in agricultural lands with NPS erosion abatement work on gravel roads and eroding shorelines. The gravel road work included installation of broad-based dips, waterbars, ditches and plunge pools; road rebuilding and reshaping; culvert replacement and armoring; and work with MDOT on public roads. Project staff also provided technical assistance to an additional 10 property owners, and the Friends provided 16 landowners with 'LakeSmart-Start!' visits.



Outreach for the project included two mailings to all watershed landowners, articles in local papers and newsletters, a buffer workshop, and a gravel roads workshop for town staff. The Four Towns Watershed Association provided a forum for educational opportunities and guidance on public outreach methods. CWD continued to monitor water quality each month and provided summary reports for 2008 and 2009.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project installed 23 gravel road and shoreline conservation practices at 12 public and private sites to reduce polluted runoff into Pleasant Pond. A significant part of the work was on gravel roads. Work was also completed at the NPS site at Peacock Beach State Park – including a buffer planting, installation of infiltration steps, and stabilization with erosion control mulch.
- Pollutant loading to Pleasant Pond was reduced by an estimated 14.7 tons of sediment, 12.5 pounds of phosphorus, and 25 pounds of nitrogen per year entering the pond (WEPP Model and Region 5 Method). Approximately 716 linear feet of shoreline was stabilized through plantings, erosion control mulch, and/or rip-rap.
- The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed’s YCC installed conservation practices at another 8 sites. Projects included buffer plantings, installation of erosion control mulch, and stabilization of eroding shorelines.
- Project staff provided technical assistance at 26 additional sites.



Gravel road work



Buffer work

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Youth Conservation Corps
Cobbossee Watershed District
Four Towns Watershed Association
Maine Department of Transportation

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2011) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2010 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-1205 2011. Augusta: MDEP.