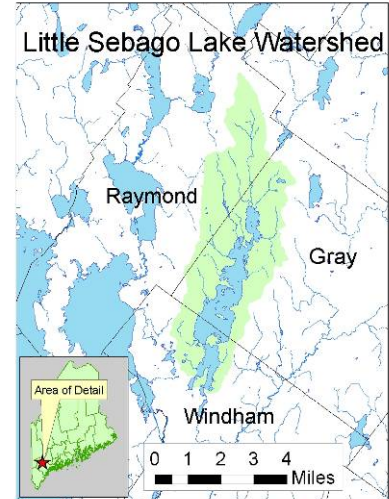


Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project: Phase III

#2010RR02

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: January 2010 – September 2012
319 Grant Amount: \$79,854
Local Match: \$86,731



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 has a state-owned boat ramp and an infestation of invasive variable-leaf milfoil, which is being actively managed by the Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA).

The lake has been monitored since 1975, and the data indicate that the lake has moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion in late summer. In 2002 and 2003, the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), LSLA, and Maine DEP completed NPS surveys of the entire watershed and identified 327 erosion sites. A *Phase I* grant project (#2004R-02) fixed 55 documented erosion problems and started a summer Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). A smaller grant project (#2004R-24B) concurrently fixed another two high-impact watershed sites. Most recently, a *Phase II* project (#2006R-04) fixed 10 priority NPS sites, and the YCC installed conservation practices at 54 residential sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the *Phase III* project was to significantly reduce soil erosion and polluted runoff to Little Sebago Lake. Also, this project provided technical assistance to landowners and road associations, raise awareness about watershed problems, and foster long-term watershed stewardship.

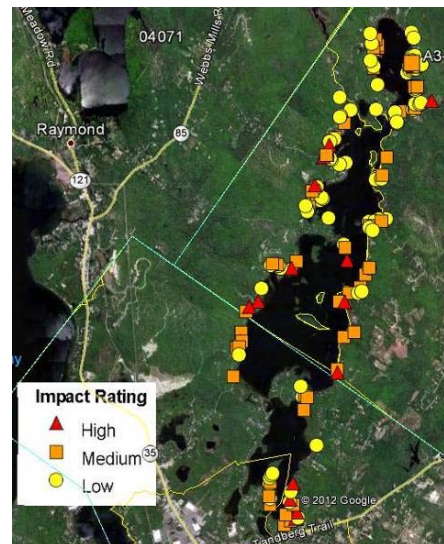
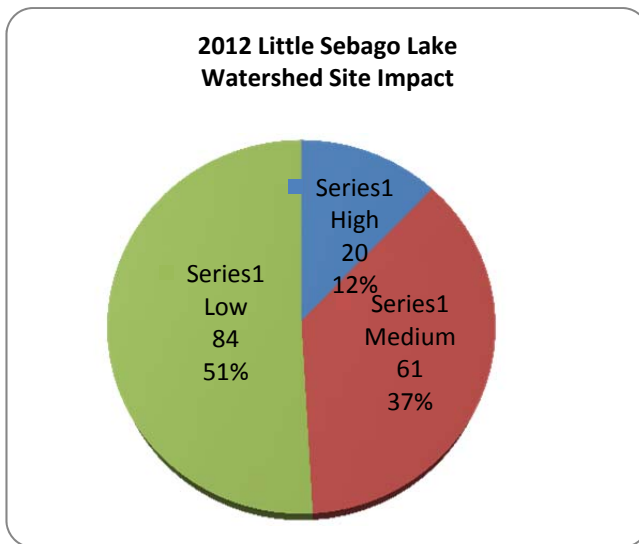
Conservation practices were installed to fix 10 high priority sites on private roads. The Casco Bay YCC provided landowners with labor to install 100 conservation practices such as buffers and infiltration steps at 18 residential sites. Project staff provided technical assistance to 71 landowners, presented at LSLA annual meetings and created a brochure to highlight project outcomes. A follow-up survey was also conducted in 2012 to evaluate conditions at sites identified in the 2002 and 2003 watershed surveys.



YCC installs infiltration steps at a lakefront property.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed erosion problems at 10 priority watershed sites. This work prevented an estimated 47.9 tons of sediment and 40.7 pounds of phosphorus from entering Little Sebago Lake each year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Road Model).
- The Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps installed over 100 conservation practices at 18 residential properties during the summer of 2010 and 2011. Conservation practices installed included water diverters, roof drip-line trenches, dry wells, infiltration steps, mulched pathways and recreation areas, shoreline buffers, riprap turnouts, sediment basins/plunge pools, and infiltration trenches.
- During the summer of 2012, technical staff and volunteers reviewed sites identified in the 2002 and 2003 watershed surveys. Surveyors found that 146 sites had been 'fixed' while 164 sites continue to be problems. Also, although most of the priority sites have been fixed over the past 10 years, there are 20 high impact and 61 medium impact sites remaining. (See figure and map below).
- All existing and fixed sites were incorporated into a Watershed Sites Tracker tool (including Excel spreadsheet and Google maps). A LSLA subcommittee is working to develop next steps to continue targeting existing problems and prompt ongoing maintenance at fixed sites.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps
Little Sebago Lake Association

Town of Gray
Town of Windham

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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