

Parker, David, and Tilton Ponds Watershed Survey

#2011RR08

Waterbody Name: Parker, David, and Tilton Ponds

Location: Chesterville, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Vienna – Franklin & Kennebec Counties

Waterbody Status: Parker - NPS Priority Watershed

Project Grantee: 30 Mile River Watershed Association

Project Duration: February 2011 – July 2012

319 Grant Amount: \$17,238

Local Match: \$12,066



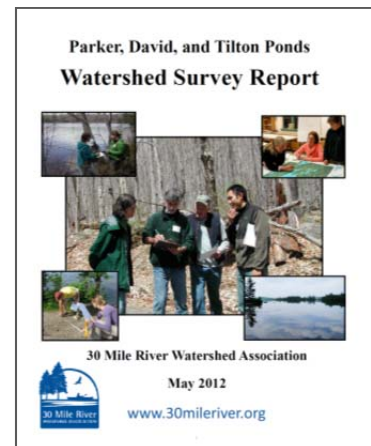
PROBLEM:

Parker, David, and Tilton Ponds form one of the northern branches of the “30 Mile River,” a connected chain of lakes in central Maine. Parker Pond is the largest of the three ponds, and has a surface area of 1524 acres, a direct watershed of 6.3 square miles, and an average depth of 31 feet. The ponds are a valuable resource for the public with excellent bass, salmon, and brook trout fisheries; state-owned islands; and public boat and hiking access. Water quality monitors have noticed significant declines in water clarity in recent years. Shoreland development and the resulting non-point source pollution are among the biggest threats to these ponds. Most of the development on the ponds occurred before current shoreland zoning laws were in place. There are also many private camp roads throughout all three watersheds, most located very near the waterbodies. It is suspected that many of these roads are major sources of phosphorus.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to identify, document, and prioritize soil erosion and phosphorus pollution sites in the watersheds of Parker, David, and Tilton Ponds, to raise public awareness, and to encourage active stewardship. The long-term goal is to reduce watershed pollutant loading to improve and protect the water quality of the ponds.

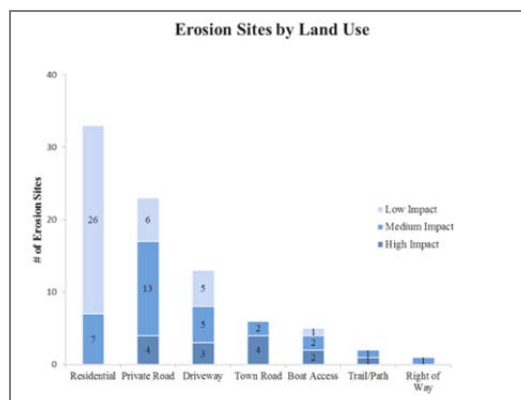
Planning for the watershed survey began in early 2011 using a steering committee composed of representatives from all partner groups. All landowners within the three watersheds were contacted to inform them of the survey and give them the opportunity to opt-out. In the spring and summer of 2011, all developed portions of the watersheds were surveyed for sources of NPS pollution by 27 trained volunteers and 10 technical staff. After survey results were compiled, an educational summary and a full report were produced. The full report was distributed throughout the four communities and included summaries of data, photos of erosion problems, maps of the site locations, and recommendations for next steps. In May 2012, all landowners who participated in the survey received either a postcard thanking them for their participation



and a link to the survey report; or if their property had issues impacting water quality, a personalized letter describing what was found on their property, the general survey results, and information on how they could take advantage of the 30 Mile River Watershed Association Youth Conservation Corps to help with corrective action.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Survey of the Parker, David, and Tilton Ponds Watershed, documenting 83 erosion sites – see the figure below for breakdown of site land use and impact rating. Site information was managed using the NPS Site Tracker excel spreadsheet and Google Earth mapping.
- Completion of the *Parker, David, and Tilton Ponds Watershed Survey Report* (May 2012) summarizes survey findings and lists specific descriptions and recommendations for identified sites. Survey results provided a starting point for beginning to work with the largest road association on Parker Pond, located in the part of Parker Pond with the highest concentration (70%) of sites.
- Project built awareness of NPS pollution and stewardship throughout the communities and strengthened collaboration with new and existing partners for future work addressing NPS pollution.
- An estimated reduction of 47 pounds of phosphorus loading from the high and medium impact sites (WEPP Road Model and Region 5 Method) and development of BMP designs for eight high impact sites.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Basin-David-Tilton Ponds Association Kennebec County
SWCD

30 Mile River Watershed Association Parker Pond Association
Town of Chesterville Town of Fayette
Town of Mount Vernon Town of Vienna

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Volunteers & technical staff at
the April 2011 training

Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2013) "Nonpoint Source Management Program 2012 Annual Report," Document # DEPLW-1245. Augusta: MDEP.