

Sabattus Pond Watershed Project Phase III

#2010RT06

Waterbody Name: Sabattus Pond

Location: Greene, Sabattus, Wales – Androscoggin County

Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed

Project Grantee: Androscoggin Valley SWCD

Project Duration: January 2010 – September 2012

319 Grant Amount: \$77,066

Local Match: \$99,069



PROBLEM:

Sabattus Pond is a shallow 2,036-acre waterbody with a direct watershed of 25.3 square miles. Sabattus Pond has a high recreational value since it is managed as a warm water fishery, hosts more than a dozen types of fish, and has public access. Agricultural use in the watershed has declined in the last 20 years, and there has been a large increase in conversions of summer camps to year-round residences, and general development.

Sabattus Pond has experienced algal blooms for more than 40 years and does not meet state water quality standards. Over the last 20 years, the water quality of the pond has shown some improvement, but it continues to bloom annually. In 2004, a Phosphorus Control Action Plan (TMDL Assessment) was prepared and approved. Watershed surveys identified erosion and sedimentation problems on developed areas, roads and agricultural lands. *Phase 1* of 319-funded watershed work was completed in 2006, and *Phase 2* was completed in 2009. Between the two projects, BMPs were constructed at 31 sites, including riparian buffers, private and town road improvements, driveway stabilization, private road work, and shoreline stabilization. Technical assistance also prompted landowners to adopt BMPs at many other sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading in accordance with the 2007 Sabattus Pond Watershed Based Plan by installing BMPs and buffer plantings. The overall goal was to reduce phosphorus to reduce the magnitude and duration of algae blooms and improve the water quality.

Seventeen sites were stabilized, including 14 construction sites and three shoreline buffer sites. Members of the SPWP supported the grant by donating their time to help plant 150 feet of buffer for landowners with health problems, publishing seven related articles in the SPWP newsletter, and meeting



Shoreline stabilization project

with the Sabattus Pond Dam Commission to discuss other methods of reducing phosphorus and future collaboration.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Conservation practices were installed at 17 sites in the watershed, including several high impact road sites and three buffer sites. Projects included redirecting road and driveway runoff to buffers, installing and armoring culverts, creating and stabilizing ditches, planting vegetation, and stabilizing eroding shoreline.
- Pollutant loading to Sabattus Pond was reduced by an estimated 50 tons of sediment and 45 pounds of phosphorus per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Model). New buffers were established along 330 linear feet of shoreline.
- Completion of 24 technical assistance visits to evaluate sites and recommend BMPs, surpassing the number of visits required by the grant work plan.

Work in this roadway included ditch installation, riprapping, and installation of turnouts and sediment pools



Redirected runoff & stabilized eroded boat ramp

Before – Boat ramp erosion



After – culvert outlet armored, road runoff redirected through super elevation, and stabilization of ramp with cement planks



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership Town of Greene
Town of Sabattus Town of Wales

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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