

Thompson Lake Watershed Improvement Project – Phase III, Otisfield #2010RR08

Waterbody Name: Thompson Lake

Location: Casco, Poland, Oxford, Norway and Otisfield –
Cumberland, Androscoggin and Oxford Counties

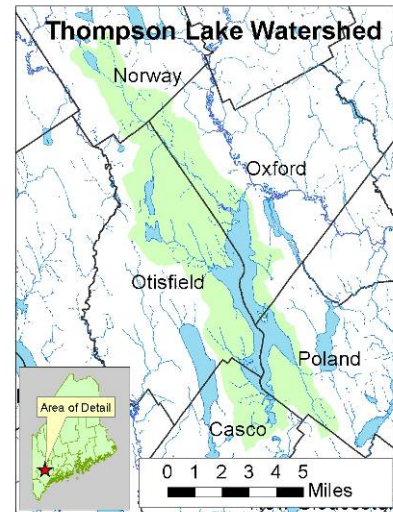
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed

Project Grantee: Thompson Lake Environmental Association

Project Duration: January 2010 – September 2012

319 Grant Amount: \$61,189

Local Match: \$56,704



PROBLEM:

Thompson Lake is a large, high quality lake that covers 4,225 acres. The lake is a regional attraction with two public launches, a private marina, public beach, and three summer youth camps. The watershed covers 35 square miles and includes 1,200 seasonal and year-round residences. The lake's water quality, which has been monitored since 1977, is considered to be excellent with average water clarity of 8.8 meters and little dissolved oxygen depletion. However, there are concerns about NPS pollution from shoreline development and the watershed's extensive network of town and private gravel roads.

In addition to its monitoring and invasive plant programs, Thompson Lake Environmental Association (TLEA) has focused efforts on watershed stewardship for many years. They conducted partial watershed surveys in 1995 and 1999, partnered on 319 grants, and started a summer Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) in 2002. In 2008, TLEA took the initiative to fund and complete a survey of the Otisfield section of the watershed, and they completed survey updates for the rest of the watershed in 2009 and 2010 with a Maine DEP grant (#2009RR08).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

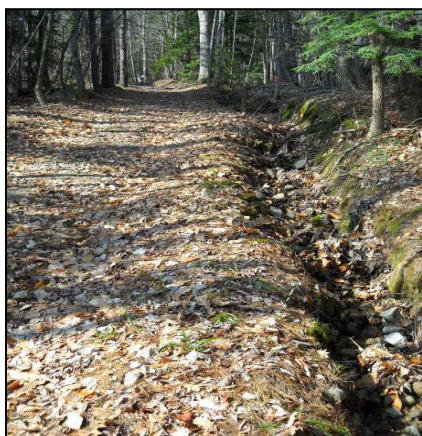
The purpose of the Phase III project was to significantly reduce pollutant loading associated with erosion sites identified in the 2008 Otisfield watershed survey. 18 town and private roads were targeted for abatement projects since these land uses were identified as the biggest problems. Ten *Residential Matching Grants* and 25 technical assistance visits were provided for residential property owners. TLEA's YCC Program also provided labor and technical assistance on several of the abatement and matching grant projects. Project outreach included two workshops, two house meetings, public presentations, press releases, and a final project brochure.



10 people attended a buffer workshop, led by a horticulturist. This spurred installation of several buffer plantings in the Silvaqua neighborhood.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- 18 NPS Abatement Projects were completed including eight town road sites, seven private road sites, two beach access sites, and one town road/construction site. Estimated pollutant load reductions associated with these projects totaled 76.5 tons of sediment and 65 pounds of phosphorus per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Road Model).
- Project staff provided “Thompson Lake Tune-Ups” (technical assistance) to 25 watershed residents. The project completed 10 Residential Matching Grants, and several of these projects were installed with help from the Thompson Lake Youth Conservation Corps.
- Numerous news articles, press releases, and web postings were published about the project, and presentations were delivered at two TLEA annual meetings and two Otisfield Select Board meetings. In addition, two workshops and two “house meetings” covered a range of topics including buffers, gravel road maintenance and Otisfield shoreland zoning regulations.



Before – This unpaved road was identified as a high impact problem. Erosion from the road surface and ditch washed directly into Thompson Lake.



After –The road was crowned and a rubber razor was installed to shed water to the ditch. The ditch was reshaped and stabilized with angular rocks.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Cobbs Cove Road Association
Jillson Camp Road Association
Oxford County SWCD
Silvaqua Owners Association
Town of Otisfield

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

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