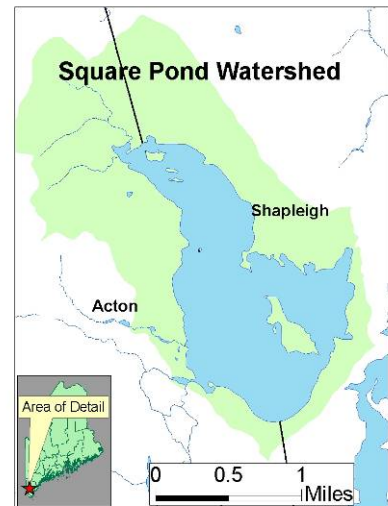


Square Pond NPS Watershed Protection Project, Phase II

#2011RR01

Waterbody Name: Square Pond
Location: Acton and Shapleigh – York County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed
Project Grantee: York County SWCD
Project Duration: February 2011 – December 2013
319 Grant Amount: \$54,853
Local Match: \$85,067



PROBLEM:

Square Pond is a 910 acre lake with a direct watershed of 4.3 square miles. Square Pond flows into Goose Pond and then Mousam Lake, which was removed from the state's impaired waters list in 2006. The pond is highly developed with over 500 seasonal camps and year-round homes, a state-owned boat launch, and a town-owned beach. About 80 seasonal homes are located on Treasure Island. The residents operate their own ferry service to the island, which does not have formal roads or automobiles.

The Square Pond Improvement Association (SPIA) and Maine DEP have monitored the pond's water quality since 1977. Data indicate that the lake currently has above average water quality. However, the pond is at risk due to its high density shoreline development and moderate oxygen depletion in one of the two basins. York County SWCD led a 2006 watershed survey (#2006P-12), which identified 207 NPS sites including a mix of residential areas- 67%, beaches- 10%, driveways- 8%, and private and town roads- 8%. A Phase I project (#2008RR11) fixed 21 priority NPS sites through cost-sharing grants and 16 NPS sites through the Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC) program. Six septic socials were conducted to raise awareness about septic system maintenance, and 20 landowners received technical assistance.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project goal was to address priority NPS sites from the watershed survey and continue to strengthen relationships with landowners and project partners. Cost-sharing assistance to address 22 large-scale NPS sites was provided to towns, road associations, and private landowners. The ASYCC also provided labor to install conservation practices at 34 residential sites. Technical assistance was provided to 32 landowners, and five septic socials were conducted. Project outreach included four project newsletters that were mailed to 500 landowners, installation of signs at six road projects, and presentations at SPIA meetings. Refrigerator magnets listing lake protection tips were also created and provided to rental units on the lake.



Landowners install a rubber razor to divert driveway runoff into a buffer.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed erosion problems at 24 NPS sites (exceeding the goal of 22 sites). As a result, pollutant loading to Square Pond was reduced by an estimated 12.4 tons of sediment and 10.2 pounds of phosphorus per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Model). Of the 17 high-impact sites identified in the 2006 watershed survey, to date 15 have been fixed and another site is in the process of being addressed by the landowner.
- The Acton Shapleigh YCC completed 34 projects (far exceeding the goal of 12 sites). York County SWCD and YCC staff completed 32 technical assistance visits. Nearly 80% of the landowners that received technical assistance from York County SWCD went on to complete some or all of the recommended conservation practices.
- 38 people attended five septic socials, which were hosted by local residents, the Treasure Island Landowners Association (TILOA) and SPIA Board members. The socials provided a relaxed setting for participants to learn about septic system function and maintenance.
- The Towns of Acton and Shapleigh and local organizations have continued to demonstrate strong commitment to lake protection. This is exemplified by the strong local match on the project (nearly \$28,000 more than planned) and ongoing annual contributions to the Acton Shapleigh YCC program. The 2013 annual golf tournament alone secured over \$20,000 for the YCC program.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps
Town of Acton
Treasure Island Landowners Association

Square Pond Improvement Association
Town of Shapleigh

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