

# Sabattus Pond Watershed Project – Phase 1

#2002R-01

Waterbody Name: Sabattus Pond  
Location: Sabattus, Greene, Wales – Androscoggin County  
Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed  
Project Sponsor: Androscoggin Valley SWCD  
Project Duration: April 2002 – April 2006  
319 Grant Amount: \$100,000  
Local Match: \$115,436



## PROBLEM:

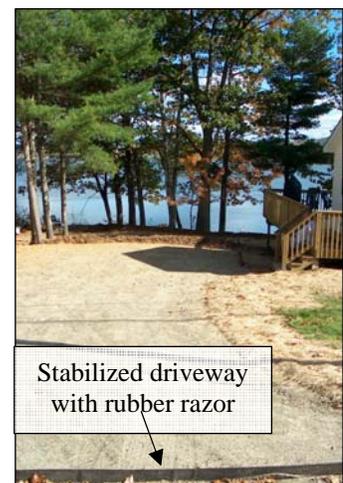
Sabattus Pond is a shallow 2036 acre waterbody with a direct watershed of 25.3 square miles. The pond is managed as a warm water fishery, hosts more than a dozen types of fish, and has a high recreational value. While agricultural use in the watershed has declined in the last 15 years, there has been a large increase in conversions of summer camps to year-round residences and a 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. Average transparency has increased, and nuisance blooms appear later in the season and last for shorter periods of time. Enhanced seasonal flushing of the pond via dam management from 1981 to 1999 and conservation practices on agricultural lands helped improve water quality. However, surveys indicate erosion and sediment from developed areas, roads, agriculture and other areas continue to be sources of phosphorus. In 2004, a Phosphorus Control Action Plan (TMDL Assessment) was prepared and approved.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to reduce sediment loading, reduce the magnitude and duration of algal blooms, and to improve or maintain the water quality of the lake by providing technical assistance to towns and property owners, installing conservation practices, and holding education workshops and public activities.

Nineteen sites were stabilized, including town roads, private gravel roads, driveways, and stream and lake shorelines. Shoreline buffers were also installed and technical assistance was provided to property owners and municipalities at 74 sites. Outreach included a public meeting, workshops, newsletters, press releases, and high school water quality monitoring projects. Several of the school projects were continued over multiple years, and one student competed at the national level with her findings. The workshops included one about homeowner conservation practices, a camp road association roundtable, and a planning board workshop. Three camp road associations were formed as a result of the workshop and attendees of the conservation practices workshop found the “hands-on” event very informative.



## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Best management practices (BMPs) were constructed at 19 NPS sites. Projects that reduced sediment and nutrient loading to the pond were wide-ranging in scope and setting, including: streamside and lakeside buffers, gravel road improvements, town road improvements, driveway stabilization, and shoreline stabilization.
- Pollutant loading to the lake was reduced by an estimated 28 tons of sediment per year from six of the sites (USEPA Region 5 Method and WEPP: Road model).
- Technical assistance was provided to property owners and municipalities at 74 NPS sites, more than double the number anticipated. Property owners installed recommended BMPs at many of these sites.
- Watershed education occurred through landowner contacts, workshops, public meetings, newsletters, press releases, and high school student projects. Three road associations were formed as a result of the camp road association workshop.
- The Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership, formed in 2000, advanced its leadership by strongly supporting the NPS project, expanding stewardship activities, and increasing membership.



Stabilized access path with crushed stone and pavers



Graded and resurfaced private road – culvert and outlet pool not visible

## PROJECT PARTNERS:

Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership

Sabattus Lake Association

Citizens of the Towns of Greene, Sabattus, and Wales

Lake & Watershed Resource Management Associates

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

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