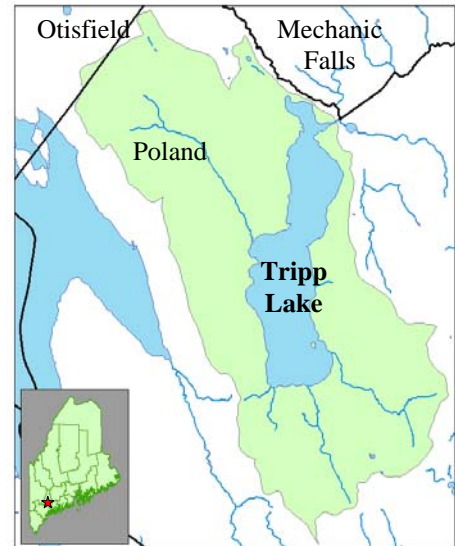


Tripp Lake Watershed Management Plan Development

#2002-14

Waterbody Name: Tripp Lake
Location: Poland, Androscoggin County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watersheds
Project Grantee: Androscoggin Valley SWCD
Project Duration: April 2002 – November 2004
319 Grant Amount: \$21,645
Local Match: \$16,043



PROBLEM:

Situated within commuting distance of the cities of Lewiston-Auburn, Portland, and Augusta, the Town of Poland is growing, with new homes and seasonal conversions added annually to each of its lake watersheds. The Tripp Lake watershed has large areas of shoreline residential development, and supports a summer youth camp and two commercial campgrounds. The town beach is intensively used, and a public boat dock provides access to the pond for the regional population.

A nonpoint source pollution survey of the watershed conducted in 1996 identified 87 residential and road erosion sites. A successful watershed demonstration project was completed in December 2000, and the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments has been working with the Town of Poland on their comprehensive plan, ordinances and planning for infrastructure improvements. Momentum has been growing among watershed citizens and municipal officers for protecting Poland's water resources.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to develop a locally generated management plan for long-term water quality protection of Tripp Lake, through interactive public meetings, surveys, and education. The planning procedure was open and inclusive. A survey was sent to watershed property owners describing the purpose of the plan and seeking feedback on knowledge of watersheds, use of the lake and watershed, what factors might contribute to a decline in water quality and suggestions for lake protection. An action plan was created incorporating the survey and public meeting responses, which was then sent into the community for comment along with a questionnaire.

Poland's Code Enforcement Officer provided a significant amount of material on current land use and development, current zoning laws and the rate of development within the town as a whole. A phosphorus build-out scenario was done, and maps of zoning districts were created.



Painting of Tripp Lake Island by Jason W. Izumi

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The *Tripp Lake Watershed Management Plan* was completed. It is a beautifully written document that reflects the area's history and culture, as well as the watershed's unique physical and ecological characteristics. The plan will provide a basis for future steps and informed decision making in the Tripp Lake Watershed.
- Computerized maps in the Watershed Management Plan include the following:
 - Zoning Districts Overlay with Tax Map Lots
 - An elevation projection and watershed slopes using 3-D modeling
- Key findings of the watershed growth indicators and the phosphorus build-out scenario include:
 - Total housing units in Poland went up 22.2% in the ten years from 1990-2000.
 - Year-round residential growth from 1980-2000 went up 36%.
 - Adding just a little over 30 lbs. of phosphorus could increase the lake phosphorus level by about 10%, enough to trigger an algal bloom and stress fish habitat.
 - It would only take 138 new "dwelling units" in the Tripp Lake watershed to yield 30 lbs. of phosphorus. Between 1990 & 2000, 421 new houses were constructed.
- The Action Plan includes 11 categories of issues and concerns with 92 Actions to address those concerns.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Town of Poland

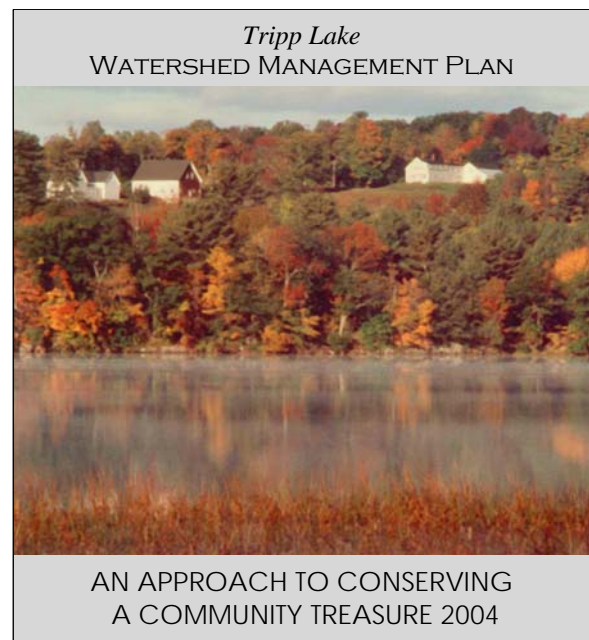
Tripp Lake Improvement Association

Androscoggin Valley SWCD

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Poland Historical Society

Land and Watershed Resource Management Associates



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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2005) "Nonpoint Source Management Program Annual Report 2004," Document# DEPLW0701 2005. Augusta: MDEP.