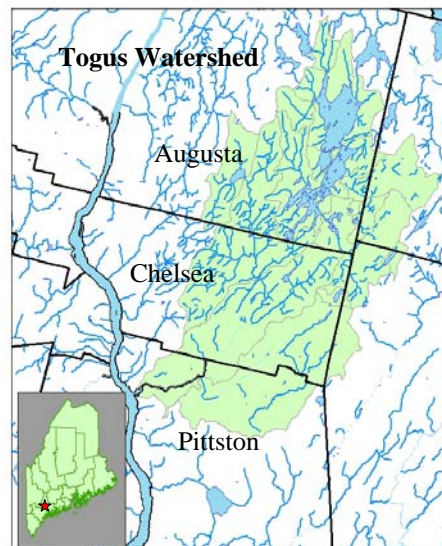


## Togus Watershed Survey Project

#2002R-23B

Waterbody Name:	Togus Pond, Little Togus Pond, Lower Togus Pond, and Togus Stream
Location:	Augusta, Chelsea, Randolph, Pittston, Windsor and Whitefield – Kennebec County
Waterbody Status:	Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed
Project Sponsor:	Kennebec County SWCD
Project Duration:	January 2003 – March 2004
319 Grant Amount:	\$10,000
Local Match:	\$5,000



### PROBLEM:

The Togus watershed consists of Togus Pond (660 acres), Little Togus Pond (93 acres), Lower Togus Pond (230 acres), and Togus Stream (7.4 miles). In total, the entire watershed covers 36.25 square miles and is part of the larger Kennebec River watershed. Water quality monitoring data since 1976 indicates that Togus Pond has a history of nuisance algal blooms, and the pond is characterized by heavy shoreline development. Lower Togus Pond has been monitored since 1989 with data indicating a high potential for nuisance algal blooms due to generally shallow depths. Additionally, Togus stream, which flows into the Kennebec River, does not attain dissolved oxygen standards and has high temperatures. The combination of these problems has resulted in the Togus Watershed being placed on the TMDL and Non-Point Source Priority Watersheds Lists.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

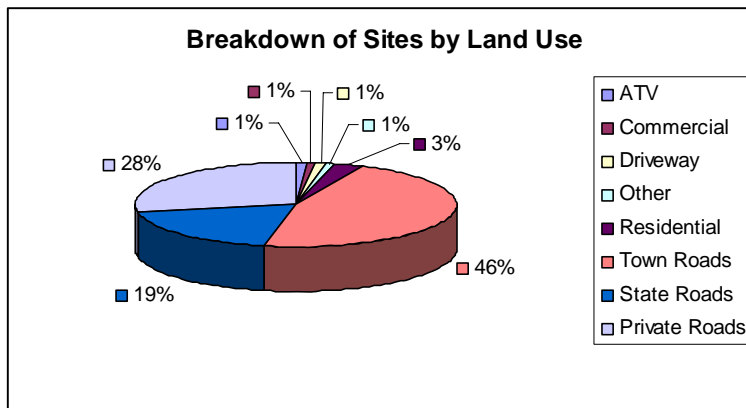
The primary purpose of this project was to identify, characterize, and prioritize nonpoint source pollution sites within the watershed, and recommend conservation measures for each of these sites. A secondary objective was to raise public awareness throughout the watershed regarding stormwater runoff and the effects of runoff on water quality.

On Saturday March 29, 2003, a team of 17 volunteers participated in a one-day training session covering lake ecology, nonpoint source pollution, identification, and documentation of erosion sites in the field. The volunteers conducted the survey in groups of two during April, May and June of 2003. All of the sites were revisited by staff from the Kennebec County SWCD during the summer of 2003. Technical staff compiled the survey data, developed maps, and created the *Togus Watershed Survey Report*. In total, there were 144 NPS sites identified. Of these, 56 were rated with a high impact to the lake, 39 were rated as medium impact, and 34 were rated as low impact. The results of the survey report were reported in a press release that was sent to the local news sources.



## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and volunteers surveyed the entire Togus Watershed and documented 144 NPS sites (Priority: 56 High, 39 Medium, and 34 Low). They also developed preliminary recommendations for each site and rated the impact to the lake, cost, and technical level required to fix each site.
- Community cooperation and response to this project was excellent. Representatives from the Town of Chelsea and the City of Augusta, the Togus Pond Association, Trout Unlimited, Friends of Kennebec Salmon, Togus Veterans Affairs, Maine Association of Conservation Districts and DEP were all actively involved in various stages of the project.
- Project staff produced the *Togus Watershed Survey Report* (March 2004), which summarizes watershed survey findings, and outlines next steps for watershed stewardship. This information was passed on to local news sources, and a public meeting is scheduled for May when the implementation phase begins.
- The Kennebec SWCD received a grant to begin NPS pollution remediation in the watershed. The project will begin in May 2004. Through the project, at least 30 sites in the watershed will be fixed. The project will provide cost share funding to towns, road associations and landowners to remediate sites throughout the watershed. There is \$53,000 available to cost share practices through the grant.



## PROJECT PARTNERS:

City of Augusta  
Town of Chelsea  
Togus Pond Association  
Trout Unlimited  
Friends of Kennebec Salmon  
Togus Veterans Affairs  
Maine Association of Conservation Districts

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

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