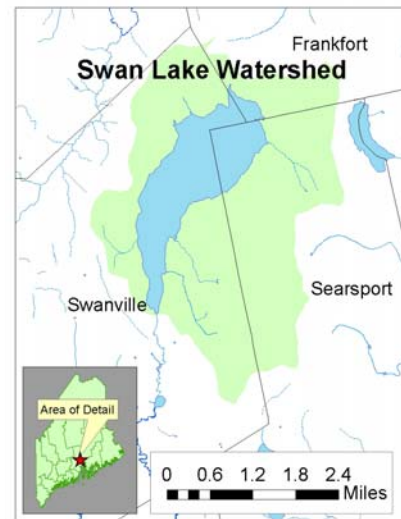


Swan Lake Demonstration Project

#2000-19

Waterbody Name: Swan Lake
Location: Swanville, Searsport, Frankfort - Waldo County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed,
Project Sponsor: Waldo County SWCD
Project Duration: April 2000 – April 2004
319 Grant Amount: \$12,578
Local Match: \$10,050



PROBLEM:

The Swan Lake watershed covers approximately 9 square miles (5700 acres) and not considered a large watershed. Swan Lake itself has a high percentage of shoreline development and an ever-increasing number of private roads. Development pressure is also on the increase with the better employment opportunities that now exist in the Belfast area. There is also a large conversion of seasonal to year-round homes. 54% of the watershed is in Swanville, 38% is in Searsport, and 8% is in Frankfort.

In 1997, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Swan Lake Association conducted a Watershed Stewards program to educate the community about water quality issues. This led to a watershed survey in 1998, which was conducted with technical assistance from the Maine DEP. Volunteers and technical staff identified a total of 140 sites as having a detrimental effect on the water quality of Swan Lake. The majority of these sites represent typical erosion problems associated with poor design, location or maintenance of roads, residential lots and driveways. The Swan Lake Association then organized and completed three demonstration projects in 1999.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

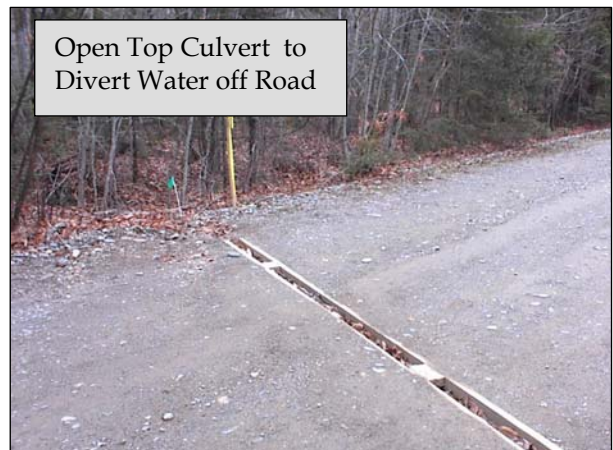
The purpose of this project was to introduce and demonstrate best management practices (BMPs) to property owners in the Swan Lake watershed and to help reduce NPS pollution entering the lake. The project also aimed to educate municipal officials and local contractors about road construction repair and maintenance.

BMPs were installed at 5 sites in the watershed. The sites demonstrated a variety of erosion control methods ranging from extensive buffers to simple riprap. The Waldo SWCD conducted more than 20 technical assistance visits with watershed landowners. Project outreach included press releases, presentations and newsletters that were sent to all lakefront owners.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed erosion problems at 5 sites in the watershed.
- Although pollutant load reductions were not estimated for these sites, it is clear that these BMP projects have prevented a significant amount of soil from reaching Swan Lake.
- These sites serve as demonstration areas to local residents and showcase a variety of erosion control methods ranging from extensive buffers to simple riprap.
- The Waldo SWCD conducted more than 20 technical assistance visits with watershed landowners. Many of these landowners then took the initiative to install the recommended erosion control measures.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Waldo County SWCD

Town of Swanville

Swan Lake Association

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