

Long Pond Watershed NPS Remediation Project - Phase I

#2003R-09

Waterbody Name: Long Pond
Location: Rome, Belgrade, and Mount Vernon –
Kennebec County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed
Project Sponsor: Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance
Project Duration: May 2003 – August 2006
319 Grant Amount: \$50,357
Local Match: \$48,902



PROBLEM:

Long Pond is a 2,668-acre lake located in the towns of Rome, Belgrade, and Mount Vernon and has a watershed of 22.3 square miles. Although Long Pond's water clarity is considered average, it has low levels of oxygen in the bottom waters during the summer months, particularly in the pond's North Basin. These low levels threaten the habitat of cold water fish species and could trigger internal phosphorus loading. Along with the increased human activity in the watershed, phosphorus levels in Long Pond have been gradually increasing and clarity has been decreasing in the North Basin over the past thirty years.

Concern over threats to water quality throughout the Belgrade Lakes spurred the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) to apply for a nonpoint source grant in 1998. Since that time, the watersheds of each lake in the Belgrade chain have been surveyed. This information will contribute to the Great Pond Management Plan and future management efforts throughout the watershed. The Long Pond Watershed Survey, which was completed in 2002, identified 211 erosion sites of varying severity.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to reduce soil erosion and polluted runoff by installing best management practices on sites contributing NPS pollution to Long Lake. Over 2.5 miles of camp roads were fixed and one long driveway was rebuilt, which inspired another homeowner to improve his own driveway without grant assistance. The summer conservation corps also planted 18,200 square feet of buffers, and technical assistance occurred with 66 property owners and five camp road associations.

The project also helped raise awareness about the issues threatening Long Pond. Letters were sent to 167 property owners with problems identified in the watershed survey, and weekly articles were posted in the local free paper. BRCA worked with other local organizations to produce a buffer planting booklet, organize a watershed stewards program, and hold a camp road association training.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed erosion sites on 2.7 miles of camp roads. Work included crowning, creating ditches with turnouts, and stabilizing culvert inlets and outlets.
- The Belgrade Regional Conservation Corps planted 33 vegetated buffers on lake shore properties and produced the *Planting Buffer Gardens* booklet as an outreach and education tool.
- Project staff provided technical assistance to 66 property owners and five camp road associations.
- Remediation work reduced annual pollutant loading to Long Pond by an estimated 15.4 tons of sediment and 2.5 pounds of phosphorus. These estimates were calculated from the camp road sites and driveways using the US Forest Service WEPP method for estimating pollutant load reduction from roads. One buffer site was included in the estimate and the Colby method was used.
- 167 property owners were informed of issues of erosion or lack of buffers on their properties and readers of the local free paper were treated to weekly “Watershed Wisdom” topics.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

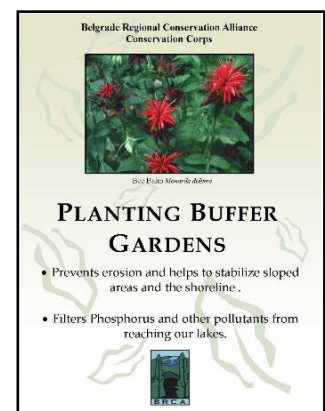
Belgrade Regional Conservation Corps

Belgrade Lakes Association

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2007) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2006 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW0836 2007. Augusta: MDEP.