

# Hancock and Sand Ponds Watershed Survey

#2005P-08

Waterbody Name: Hancock Pond and Sand Pond

Location: Sebago and Denmark –  
Cumberland and Oxford Counties

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watersheds

Project Sponsor: Cumberland County SWCD

Project Duration: April 2005 – May 2006

319 Grant Amount: \$12,775

Local Match: \$9,106



## PROBLEM:

Hancock and Sand Ponds have a combined surface area of 1,114 acres and watershed area of 5.7 square miles. The ponds' are ringed with approximately 200 seasonal and year round camps, and Hancock Pond has two boat launches.

Local volunteers and Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) have monitored Hancock and Sand Ponds' water quality since 1975. Water quality is considered above average in both ponds; however, Hancock Pond has experienced moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters in late summer and is considered to have a moderate potential for algal blooms.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to identify, document and prioritize soil erosion sites in the Hancock and Sand Pond Watersheds and to recommend conservation practices for each of these sites.

Survey methods were based on those outlined in the DEP publication, *Citizen's Guide to Lake Watershed Surveys*. The volunteer training session was held on May 14, 2005 and included hands-on training in the field. The 19 volunteers were trained to identify erosion problems, rate water quality impact and develop recommendations. Volunteers completed the survey over the following month.

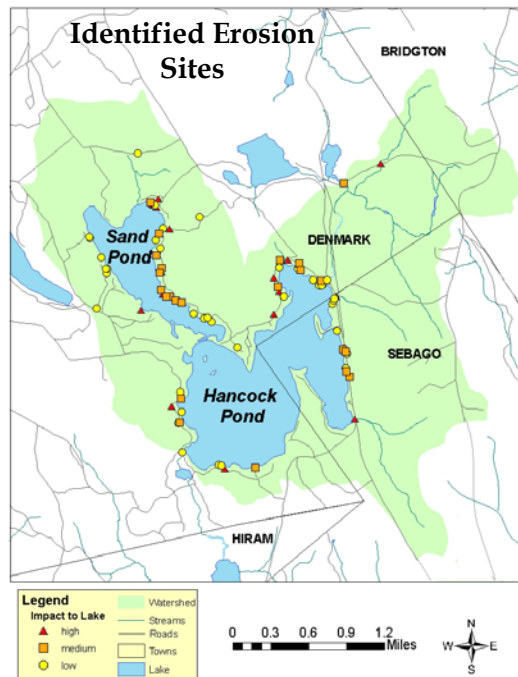


Volunteers document erosion site.

Technical staff compiled the survey data, developed maps and created the *Hancock and Sand Ponds Watershed Survey Report*. In total, 79 sites were identified that are impacting or have the potential to impact the ponds. Survey reports were distributed to municipal officials and the HSPA members. Presentations were delivered at HSPA annual meeting and the Denmark and Sebago Select Boards.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and volunteers surveyed all of the Hancock Pond and Sand Pond Watersheds and documented 79 erosion sites. They also developed preliminary recommendations for each site and rated the impact to the lake and cost and technical level required to fix each site.
- Project staff produced the *Hancock and Sand Ponds Watershed Survey Report* (April 2006), which summarizes watershed survey findings, lists specific information on each identified site and outlines next steps for watershed stewardship.
- The Hancock and Sand Ponds Association took the initiative to distribute copies of the full watershed survey report to all of their 60 members at its 2007 annual meeting.
- The project laid the foundation for mitigation efforts in the watershed. Cumberland County SWCD was awarded a 319 grant to begin the *Hancock and Sand Ponds Conservation Project – Phase I* in April 2007.



## PROJECT PARTNERS:

Lakes Environmental Association  
Hancock and Sand Ponds Association  
Town of Denmark  
Town of Sebago

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

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