

Middle Range Pond Improvement Project, Phase I Implementation

#2003R-17A - WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Middle Range Pond

Location: Poland – Androscoggin County

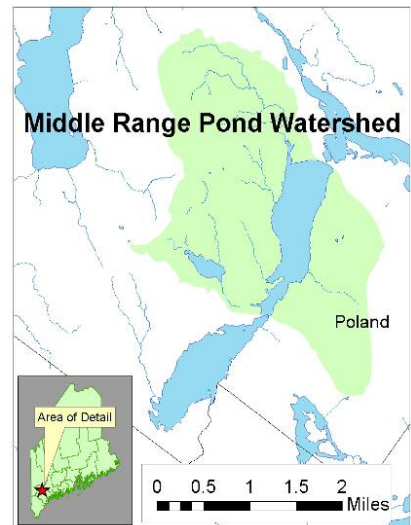
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Sponsor: Androscoggin Valley SWCD

Project Duration: January 2004 – July 2007

319 Grant Amount: \$54,000

Match: \$118,751 (local), \$16,000 (ME Dept. Ag.)



PROBLEM:

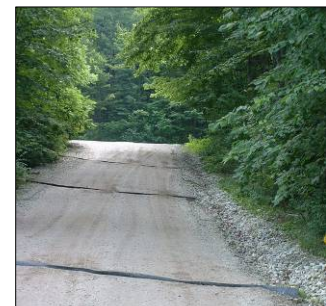
Middle Range Pond is part of a chain of three ponds that flow into the Little Androscoggin River. The ponds are known as a top fishing spot with stocked brown, brook and rainbow trout. The public boat launch and State Park on Lower Range Pond also attract recreational use to the ponds. Middle Range Pond has a surface area of 382 acres and a direct watershed area of 5 square miles. A restaurant, summer camp and several informal, popular fishing and swimming spots are also located on the shores of Middle Range Pond. Monitoring data indicates that all three ponds are above average based on clarity, total phosphorus and chlorophyll. There is, however, low to moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in deep parts of all three ponds during late summer months.

In 1993 the Androscoggin Valley SWCD and Range Pond Environmental Association (RPEA) conducted a cursory survey of the entire Range Ponds Watershed. From 1995-1998, a 319 grant project fixed erosion problems on 15 sites and helped raise awareness and stewardship. A comprehensive watershed survey was conducted in 2003. During this project, 70 erosion sites were identified in the watershed, and preliminary designs were drafted for seven priority sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to significantly reduce pollutant loading and improve the water quality of Middle Range Pond. Staff and volunteers coordinated and installed conservation practices at 29 priority road and residential sites and provided technical assistance to 34 landowners. 12 buffer projects were also installed with the help of small matching grants for participating landowners.

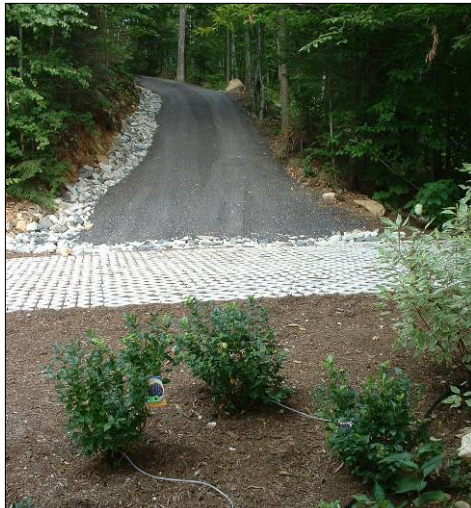
Project activities were advertised through the RPEA newsletter, press releases, and RPEA annual meetings. All Birch Drive residents were sent mailings about the project, and staff organized two public meetings with residents and town officials to discuss construction plans associated with the eight sites along Birch Drive.



Rubber razors and ditch installed on steep, eroding lake access road.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Conservation practices were installed on 29 priority sites including 21 town roads (primarily on Birch and Schellinger Drive), 3 private roads, 2 residential areas, 2 commercial areas and 1 driveway. The Town of Poland contributed over \$84,000 in cash match and labor towards the numerous town sites.
- The project reduced annual pollutant loading to Middle Range Pond by an estimated 28 tons of sediment and 24 pounds of phosphorus (US EPA Region 5 Method).
- Twelve buffer plantings – along 375 feet of lake and 160 feet of stream – were installed through the project. Local residents, students from a Poland High School environmental class and youth from a local summer camp volunteered to plant four of the buffers.
- Project staff provided technical assistance to 34 landowners during the project period – far exceeding the goal of 20 written into the original workplan. Staff made follow-up visits to half of the sites to further assist landowners with their erosion problems.
- A roads maintenance plan was developed by project staff and formally accepted by the Town of Poland. The plan outlines schedules for street sweeping, catch basin cleanout and other activities for town roads in the watershed. Implementation of this five-year plan will further reduce pollutant loading to Middle Range Pond.



Severe erosion on this steep driveway was remedied by resurfacing with reclaimed asphalt, installing porous pavers on the parking area and planting a buffer next to the lake.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Range Pond Environmental Association
Town of Poland
Maine Department of Agriculture

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation: Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2008) "Nonpoint Source Management Program 2007 Annual Report," Document# DEPLW-0913 2008. Augusta: MDEP.