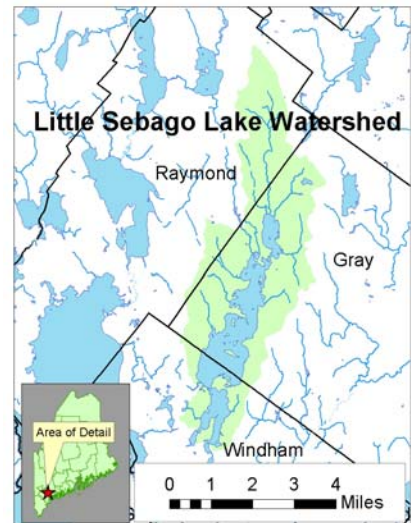


Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project: BMP Design & Implementation #2004R-24B - WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Little Sebago Lake
Location: Gray and Windham – Cumberland County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk
Project Sponsor: Cumberland County SWCD
Project Duration: October 2004 – November 2007
319 Grant Amount: \$7,500
Match: \$17,558 (local), \$2,500 (ME Dept. Ag.)



PROBLEM:

Little Sebago Lake has a surface area of 1,898 acres, numerous perennial tributaries and three distinct basins. Its watershed covers 13.3 square miles and is part of the larger Pleasant River and Presumpscot River Watersheds. The lake's shoreline is heavily developed with over 1200 seasonal camps and year-round homes and an extensive network of private roads. The lake also has a state-owned boat ramp, a private 43-site campground and Aimhi Lodge, a commercial operation with 23 rental units.

Lake monitoring data, collected since 1975, indicate that the lake has moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion in late summer. In 2002 and 2003, the Cumberland County SWCD, Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) and Maine DEP completed NPS surveys of the entire watershed and identified 327 erosion sites. The *Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project – Phase I* (#2004R-02) kicked off implementation efforts in 2004 by fixing 55 documented erosion problems.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to reduce soil erosion and polluted runoff to Little Sebago Lake. Conservation practices were installed to fix two high priority sites on private roads, and engineering designs were developed for one additional priority private road site. The project was administered in conjunction with another 319 project (#2004R-02), which also extended from 2004 – 2008.

The project had originally intended to fix two high priority sites on Brown Cove Road. Unfortunately, project staff were ultimately unable to help the landowners reach consensus about an acceptable design for the erosion problems on their road. After numerous site walks and facilitated meetings, the project steering committee decided to work on another site where the outlook for cooperation was more promising. It is hoped that the time invested in Brown Cove Road will eventually lead to improvements. Several neighbors have since resumed discussions and started brainstorming solutions.



New culverts on Ramsdell Road

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project fixed two significant erosion problems in the watershed. On Ramsdell Road, an undersized and eroding culvert was replaced with two 4-foot culverts, and the ends were stabilized with riprap. On Mountain View Road, severe erosion along the road shoulder and in the ditch was stabilized by repaving the road and reshaping and armoring the ditch.
- The project reduced pollutant loading to Little Sebago Lake by an estimated 3.4 tons of sediment and 2.9 pounds of phosphorus per year (EPA Region 5 Method).
- Site designs and landowner agreements were completed for one high priority site on Deer Acres Road. This site was then fixed under the *Little Sebago Lake Phase II* (#2006R-04) project with cost sharing funds from the 319 grant, Maine DEP stormwater compensation funds and cash match from the Lyons Point Road Association.
- The partnership forged with the Mountain View Road Association has set the stage for additional joint projects through the *Little Sebago Lake Phase II* project.



The ditch and road shoulder on Mountain View Road were severely eroded. The road shoulder was repaved, and the ditch was reshaped and stabilized with riprap.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Little Sebago Lake Association
Maine Department of Agriculture
Town of Gray
Town of Windham

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wendy Garland, DEP – (207) 822-6320, wendy.garland@maine.gov
Jami Fitch, Cumberland County SWCD – (207) 892-4700, jami@cumberlandswcd.org