

Megunticook Watershed: NPS Watershed Survey

#2005P-05

Waterbody Name(s): Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond

Location: Hope and Camden – Knox County
Lincolntonville – Waldo County

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Sponsor: Megunticook Watershed Association

Project Duration: April 2005 – October 2007

604(b) Grant Amount: \$12,786

Local Match: \$16,408



PROBLEM:

The Megunticook watershed, which includes the watersheds of Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond, encompasses 32 square miles and includes residential, commercial and agricultural uses. Norton's Pond enters the north end of Megunticook Lake and then Megunticook Lake empties into Camden Harbor via the Megunticook River. Water quality has been monitored for Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond since 1975, with ratings of "somewhat average" and "average", respectively. Both waters have moderate potential for nuisance algal blooms, show moderate to high dissolved oxygen depletion in deep areas, and have experienced small areas of filamentous algae over the past five summers. Megunticook Lake is one of the state's test waters for the expansion of its rainbow trout program.

Both Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond have experienced a sharp increase in conversions of seasonal camps to year-round homes in recent years. Major state roads run along the shores of both these lakes, causing concern about the inputs of road sand, salt, and other pollutants into the lakes. The rural towns of Lincolntonville and Hope have seen double-digit growth in recent years, which has resulted in the construction of dirt roads and driveways.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

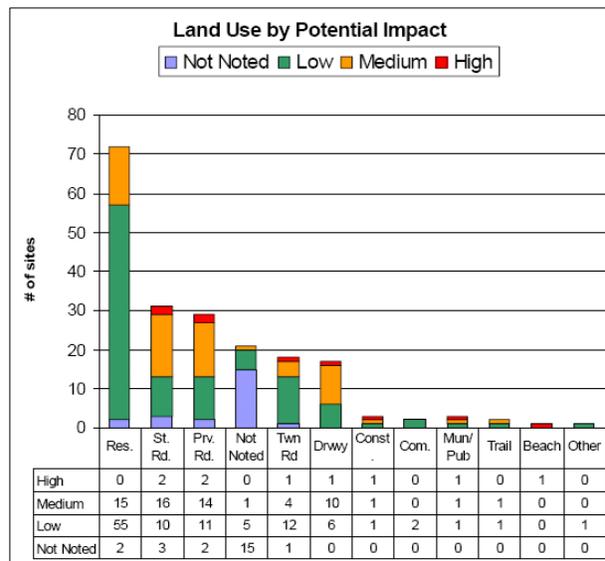
The primary purpose of this project was to identify and document NPS sites in the Megunticook watershed. Due to the size of the watershed, the survey effort was focused around the two major waterbodies – Megunticook Lake and Norton's Pond. A Steering Committee guided the project, and outreach included mailings to watershed landowners, articles in local newspapers and websites, and public meetings.

The survey took place in the spring of 2005, and 20 volunteers attended the training and completed the field work. 216 erosion sites were identified. Common problems identified were lack of shoreline buffers, shoreline erosion, unstable culverts, and eroding ditches. The data were compiled and the watershed survey report was completed in November 2006.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Project staff and 20 volunteers completed a watershed survey of the area surrounding Megunticook Lake and Norton’s Pond and identified 216 erosion sites.
- The *Megunticook Watershed Survey Report* was completed in November 2006.
- The project produced preliminary BMP designs for four high priority municipal sites.
- A sub-committee formed during the survey - the LakeWise Committee – remains active and continues to conduct outreach and meet with landowners.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Knox-Lincoln SWCD
 Waldo County SWCD
 Moody Mountain Environmental
 Aqua Maine Inc.
 Town of Camden
 Town of Lincolnville

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kristin Feindel, DEP – (207) 287-5586, kristin.b.feindel@maine.gov
 Ken Bailey, Megunticook Watershed Association – (207) 446-4243, ken@megunticook.org

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 Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2008) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2007 Annual Report,”
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