

Nequasset Lake Watershed Survey

#2006P-13

Waterbody Name: Nequasset Lake

Location: Woolwich, Dresden and Wiscasset –
Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties

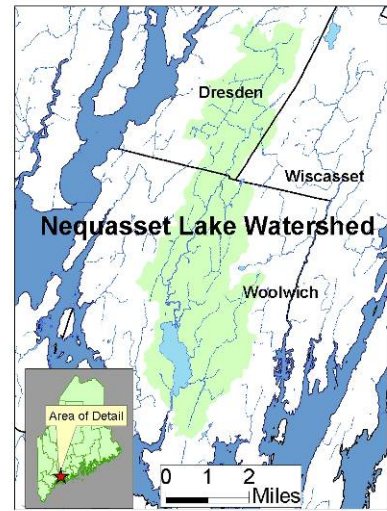
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Grantee: Androscoggin Valley SWCD

Project Duration: April, 2006 – May, 2007

604(b) Grant Amount: \$14,064

Local Match: \$15,368



PROBLEM:

Nequasset Lake has a surface area of 465 acres, a direct watershed of 20.4 square miles, and serves as the public water supply for over 15,000 people in Bath and the surrounding communities. Comparable high-yield, good quality surface water supplies are rare in coastal Maine. To protect the water supply, the Bath Water District (BWD) limits bodily contact in the lake and has purchased and protected 70% of the shoreline from development. Nevertheless, forested land in the watershed is quickly being developed for residential use.

For over 20 years, the DEP and BWD have monitored the lake's water quality. According to the DEP, water quality is below average and the lake's potential for nuisance algal blooms is high. Long term clarity measures about 4 meters, which is below the average for Maine lakes, and occasional algal blooms have reduced clarity to as low as 1.7 meters.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

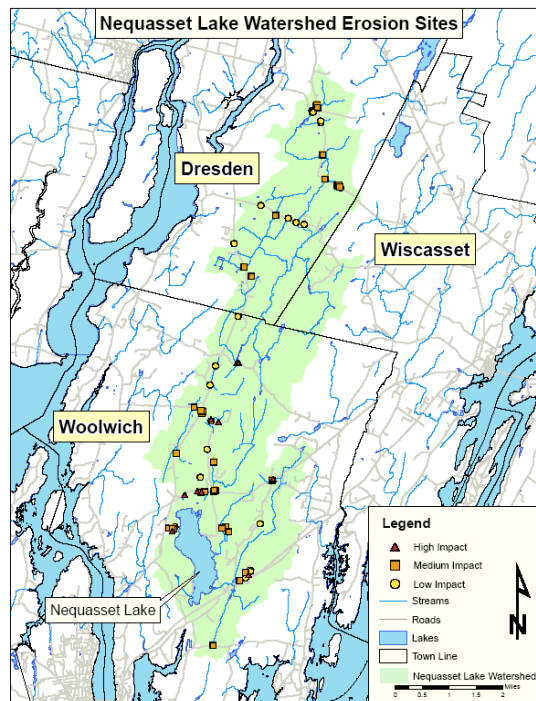
This purpose of the Nequasset Lake Watershed Survey was to identify and prioritize current threats to the lake's water quality. Specifically, the project documented and prioritized soil erosion and phosphorous pollution sites within the watershed, with a focus on culverts, roads, driveways and trails.

Volunteers were trained to conduct identify erosion sites, rate the relative impact of each site and develop recommendations for fixing these sites. Technical staff conducted follow up visits to sites not assessed during the training, and calculated pollutant loading of all medium and high impact sites. The findings from these surveys were summarized in the *Nequasset Lake Watershed Survey Report*, which was distributed to town officials and interested community members. Public awareness was also raised through community outreach and a public forum.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Volunteers and technical staff identified 66 sites in the Nequasset Lake Watershed that are impacting or have the potential to impact water quality. Fifty-eight sites were associated with town roads, private roads and driveways that tended to have greater impacts and higher cost to fix. The remaining 8 sites were associated with off-road vehicle trails, public access areas, residential land and a commercial road.
- Several private road sites have already been fixed by local residents, at large personal expense.
- The Steering Committee met more often than required and was very active in community outreach, education and volunteer recruitment. The committee continues to meet to work on watershed issues. Overall, the local match exceeded original expectations by more than \$5,000.
- The project laid a solid foundation for continued work in the watershed. Androscoggin Valley SWCD was awarded a 319 grant to begin implementation efforts in April 2008.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

City of Bath
Bath Water District
Town of Dresden
Maine Rural Water Association
Town of Wiscasset

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Donald Kale, DEP- (207) 822- 6319, Donald.Kale@maine.gov
Susan Gammon, Androscoggin Valley SWCD- (207) 753- 9400, susan.gammon@me.nacdnet.net

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