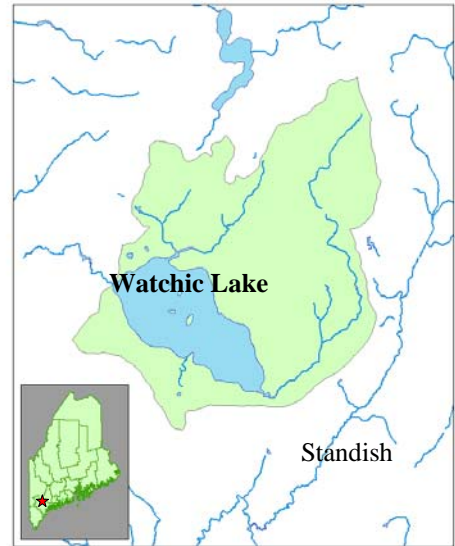


Watchic Lake Demonstration Project

#2000-18

Waterbody Name: Watchic Lake
Location: Standish, Cumberland County
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most At Risk
Project Grantee: Cumberland County SWCD
Project Duration: April 2000 – June 2004
319 Grant Amount: \$62,130
Local Match: \$46,955



PROBLEM:

Watchic Lake is a 448-acre lake located in the Town of Standish. The shoreline is developed with about 250 camps and year-round homes, and the pond receives a significant amount of recreational use from the popular Kiwanis Beach facility. Watchic Lake’s watershed covers 3.5 square miles and is part of the larger Saco River Watershed.

The pond has been monitored since 1974, and the data indicates that the pond has significant depletion of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion in late summer. There is also a moderate to high risk of nuisance algal blooms or internal phosphorus recycling problems. As a result, Watchic Lake is listed on the NPS Priority Watersheds list and list of lakes “Most at Risk from New Development” under the Maine Stormwater Law. The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Watchic Lake Association (WLA) started lake protection efforts in 1998 when they conducted a watershed survey of the lake with a 319 grant.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the project was to protect and improve Watchic Lake’s water quality by reducing sources of polluted runoff in the watershed, providing one-on-one technical assistance to landowners, raising awareness about watershed problems and promoting local stewardship.

Project staff and volunteers provided technical assistance to 12 landowners and installed a variety of conservation practices at 13 demonstration sites—including a large-scale mitigation project on Watchic Terrace Road and a highly visible project at Kiwanis Beach. Outreach was carried out through presentations at WLA, Standish Planning Board and Town Council meetings and to Bonny Eagle High School classes. Numerous articles were also printed in the WLA newsletter; watershed boundary signs and demonstration signs were posted; and nine hands-on workshops were held.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- A variety of conservation practices were installed at 12 erosion sites including one commercial beach, two driveways, six residential areas, one boat launch, one state road and two private roads.
- The highest impact erosion problem on the lake, Watchic Terrace Road, was successfully repaired by installing several catch basins, curbing and a settling pool and paving the entire road. This complex project was made possible through leadership by the WLA and significant cash match by landowners and the WLA. Estimated soil loss avoidance on this site alone totaled 22 tons/year.
- The project's total estimated pollutant load reduction was 38 tons of sediment per year (US EPA, Region 5 Method and WEPP:Road model).
- The project accomplished work through a variety of innovative partnerships and funding sources. The state road site was fixed by DOT's SWQPP grant program. One residential site was fixed by Bonny Eagle students through a DEP Watershed Stewardship grant. The Kiwanis Beach project was funded in part by a grant from the National Federation of Garden Clubs and installed with volunteer labor from a local garden club, Kiwanis, and employees of a local business, Utilities Inc.



Kiwanis Beach – 38 volunteers from local businesses, garden clubs, Kiwanis and the WLA chipped in to plant shrubs, build infiltration steps, repair failed retaining walls, and install a drywell.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Watchic Lake Association
Town of Standish
Kiwanis Club of Standish
Maine Department of Transportation
Utilities, Inc.
Wildridge and Grandiflora Garden Clubs
Bonny Eagle High School
Shell Oil Company



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