

Press Release

Contact: Megan Wooster
Phone: 753-9400 x 403

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Success stories from the Nequasset Lake Watershed Improvement Project

Project collaboration not only protects the water quality of Nequasset Lake which is used for drinking water, but the town residents also benefit with nicer boat launch areas. The beginning of this success story starts with the Department Of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarding Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD) a Nonpoint Source Pollution grant. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the clean Water act, in part, provided funding for this project. Section 319 grants are administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA. AVSWCD is able to offer free technical assistance to the residents and towns in the Nequasset Lake watershed. Once the grant got underway, AVSWCD was able to collaborate with Jack A. Shaw & Sons, Inc., Bath Water District (BWD) who also represented the landowner, & the Town of Woolwich to fix a severely eroding boat launch area off Old Stage Road (as seen in photograph below).

This private property, whose owners generously allow public use, is widely used for launching boats. There were concerns about soil erosion and the resulting impact of phosphate entering the water due to the spots popularity.



The above mentioned worked together to complete this project. The Town of Woolwich's road commissioner, Jack A. Shaw & Sons, Inc. completed all the work portion of the project within the town's road right of way. BWD and Jack A. Shaw & Sons, Inc. completed all the work on the private property portion (as seen in photo below). This grant works on a cost share basis where AVSWCD, on behalf of the Nequasset Lake Watershed Improvement Committee, pays (using grant funds) up to 50% of the project costs based on designs created from a technical assistance visit. The town of Woolwich covered 50% for their portion. Because this was one of the top sites for impacting a drinking water source that is used by the general public, BWD covered the 50% cost share for the private property portion of the project. A selectman for the Town of Woolwich,

Bath Water District, and Jack A. Shaw & Sons, Inc. all signed a 10 year maintenance agreement for the projects along Old Stage Road.



AVSWCD continued their work with the Town of Woolwich's road commissioner and completed a project across the street from the boat launch area on Old Stage Road. There are several spots being used as put-ins for canoes and kayaks and one that is used in winter by snowmobiles. The Town stabilized the backings without disturbing too much of the natural vegetation. The paths were made user friendly to encourage folks

to use them rather than cutting new path through the vegetation, which is critical for bank stabilization.

There's still time for residents in the Nequasset Lake Watershed to participate in the grants technical assistance and cost share program. This is a great opportunity to get conservation work done on a property at a reduced cost. To make an appointment or to have questions answered contact Megan Wooster, at 753-9400 x403. AVSWCD is an equal opportunity employer and provider.