



## Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

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### Gray Town Council 8/2/11

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### Pleasant River Watershed Restoration Project, Phase I

- 29 square mile watershed located in the Towns of Gray and Windham
- Flows into the Presumpscot River
- Highly prized fly-fishing river
- Water quality testing done by the Presumpscot River Watch
- Currently does not attain Class B water quality standards due to excessive levels of bacteria and low dissolved oxygen and is thus currently listed as an impaired stream by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP)
- Also listed on MDEP's *Nonpoint Source Priority Watershed* list due to high bacteria counts, its support of a cold-water fishery, and its proximity to a densely populated area.
- Polluted runoff is likely the greatest source of water quality impairment, particularly soil erosion which is the largest source of pollution to surface waters in the State of Maine
- In 2008, watershed survey conducted: identified 95 sites mostly associated with town roads (35%), private roads (15%), and residential areas (13%). Other sites included state roads, agriculture sites, businesses/commercial properties, trails/paths or boat access, and construction sites.
- Based on the findings of the survey, CCSWCD applied for a grant to address the highest priority impact sites: the *Pleasant River Watershed Restoration Project, Phase I*
  - Will take place over the next two years
  - \$60,032 in federal funds requiring community match
  - Federal funding comes from the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, which is administered by MDEP through a competitive grant process
  - Project overseen by a steering committee
  - Will offer free technical assistance
  - Will address at least 14 of the highest priority sites, providing 50% cost sharing

Assist and educate the public to promote stewardship of soil and water resources.



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- Pleasant River Watershed Management Plan compiled in June 2011: gives background information and lists action items to help the river attain Class B water quality standards.

### **Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project, Phase III**

- 13 square mile watershed located in the Towns of Gray, Windham, and Raymond
- Has four basins which flow into Collins Pond, then Ditch Brook, and then the Pleasant River
- Listed on Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (MDEP) *Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds* list and the list of *Lakes Most at Risk from New Development* under the Maine Stormwater Law.
- Has a heavily developed shoreline with over 1,200 seasonal camps and year-round homes and an extensive network of private roads.
- Working with the Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) and MDEP, CCSWCD has been addressing soil erosion throughout the watershed since 2002:
  - Watershed surveys conducted in 2002 and 2003 for upper and lower portions of the watershed which identified over 300 water quality impact sites
  - The *Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project: BMP Design and Implementation* was completed in November 2007, *Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project – Phase I* was completed in January 2008, and *Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project – Phase II* was completed in March of 2009. These projects addressed 137 road and residential sites preventing nearly 56 tons of sediment (28 lbs of phosphorus) from entering the lake each year.
  - Little Sebago Lake Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) was established under Phase II of the Conservation Project.
- MDEP staff and lake volunteer monitors have been testing Little Sebago Lake's water quality for over 30 years. Recent data indicated that the lake has average water quality, which appears to be stabilizing and possibly improving, yet soil erosion and phosphorus loading of the lake are still a concern.
- The *Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project, Phase III* (\$95,391 federal dollars) is continuing the water quality improvement and protection efforts. Goals include:
  - Addressing a minimum of 43 priority impact sites: 13 through 50% cost sharing and 30 through free labor provided by the Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps
  - Providing free technical assistance

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- Developing an action plan for LSLA to continue water quality improvement efforts as this is likely the final phase of 319 grant funding for this lake

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