



**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT**

**SUMMARY OF 2008
ACCESS AREA PROGRAM**

MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION REPORT

Submitted to:
Vermont Legislature
House Fish, Wildlife, and Water Resource Committee

Submitted by:
Wayne A. Laroche, Commissioner
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
February 25, 2009

2008 VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC ACCESS
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REPORT

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (Department) maintains 174 developed fishing access areas. These sites provide public access to waters in Vermont for shore fishing opportunities and launching of water craft. The Department manages 136 access areas with concrete or gravel ramps for launching and retrieving of boats. Additionally, there are another 21 Department access areas where non-motorized vessels can easily be launched.

In the past few years there has been a steady rise in anglers interested in fishing Vermont waters. Fishing license sales have shown a marked increase: 2005 (118,867 licenses) 2006 (122,221 licenses), and 2007 (126,512 licenses). Including the incomplete sales numbers for 2008, fishing license sales have averaged approximately \$3,222,000 for each of the past 4 years. This growing interest in fishing in Vermont highlights the need for the Department Access Area Program as anglers are always in search of access for fishing opportunities.

The Department receives approximately \$388,000 from motorboat registration fees each year, which are dedicated to the Access Area Program. These funds are used to match Sportfish Restoration Federal Aid funds which have 15% of the annual allocation dedicated to access areas. In FY08 these federal funds directed approximately \$597,507 to the access area program from the federal excise tax on fishing tackle, boats, motors and marine fuels.

The development and maintenance costs for individual access areas range from several hundred to several hundred thousand dollars. Projects of substantial size are formally advertised for bid in accordance with state procedures. Projects of lesser size, involving minor maintenance, are completed by various local contractors; such as graveling and grading parking lots, brush removal, and erosion control. Eleven Community Restitution Crews provided by the Vermont Department of Corrections complete routine maintenance. In remote locations, where the number or concentration of access areas is not cost effective to have a Community Restitution Crew complete the work, local contractors are hired.

High-use access areas are provided with port-o-lets seasonally and on a year-round basis. The port-o-let contractors are responsible for providing and maintaining port-o-lets for sites they are awarded. During the winter months, 34 of the 62 snowplowed access areas retain port-o-lets for ice anglers. At access areas that have continual vandalism problems, where port-o-let facilities are necessary, manufactured steel port-o-lets are purchased and become a permanent part of the access area. Five steel port-o-lets, each costing over \$1,000 have been constructed and installed at five different access areas. Unfortunately, rising steel costs have more than tripled the cost to construct new steel port-o-let units, so this practice has been temporarily discontinued. This past year the Department increased the number of port-o-lets provided at access areas by approximately 20% during the summer (65) and winter (34) months.

The Department continues to take interest in joint venture projects with municipalities that allow for municipally owned access areas to be constructed or upgraded. The public benefits from these projects because towns receive improved launching and fishing facilities and in most cases the Department does not increase their annual maintenance cost.

The adopt-a-dock program continues to stay afloat, which allows the Department and local angler clubs to work together to maintain docks and reduce annual operating costs. Unfortunately not all the groups have continued with the installation and maintenance of docks, which has resulted in slowly rising costs to the Department. The annual cost to maintain these docks at access areas statewide typically runs between \$7,000 and \$10,000. In the coming year, the Department plans to create or renew relationships with local angler clubs in an effort to have clubs continue stewarding dock maintenance at local access areas. Two new docks were installed at the Malletts Bay Access Area this past May and the Department also has plans to install up to eight new docks statewide in 2009.

This past year, one new universal shore fishing platform was constructed. The Lake Paran Access Area in North Bennington now has an elevated fishing platform that will accommodate children and people with disabilities. There are a total of 16 shore fishing platform facilities statewide at Department maintained access areas. Additionally, Echo Lake and Pensioner Pond access areas were acquired in the town of Charleston. These sites had been leased for a number of years from Great Bay Hydro Corp., but the state now has a fee interest in both areas.

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In the fall the Department began to develop an access area website. Our plan is that by spring trout season, anglers will be able to search the site to find access areas around the state and determine what fish species may be caught near each site. Additionally, users will be able to search for facilities that will best suit their needs, such as ramp size, location, and dock availability.

The Department is looking forward to 2009 and the completion of two more non-motorized access projects (White River Junction and Swanton) made possible by House Bill H.832, passed in March, 2000. The Department will continue to work with municipalities, river commissions, and interested groups to add to the list of non-motorized access sites.

Any questions or comments regarding the access maintenance and construction program should be directed to:

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MINOR PROJECT SUMMARY

Access Area Name	Town	Activity	Amount
Amherst Lake	Plymouth	Gravel & Grading	\$ 835.00
Ansel Pond	Bethel	Grading	\$ 145.00
Big Salem Lake	Derby	Gravel & Grading	\$ 952.00
Bristol Pond	Bristol	Gravel & Grading	\$ 787.00
Brownington Pond	Brownington	Gravel & Grading	\$ 1,270.00
Buck Lake	Woodbury	Road & Dock Maintenance	\$ 770.00
Burr Pond	Sudbury	Gravel & Grading	\$ 375.00
Chimney Point	Addison	Gravel & Grading	\$ 3,436.00
Chittenden Reservoir	Chittenden	Gravel & Grading	\$ 390.00
Coits Pond	Cabot	Install parking area & kiosk	\$ 1,056.00
Colby Pond	Plymouth	Gravel, Grading, & Dam Maintenance	\$ 2,591.00
Colchester Point	Colchester	Gravel, Grading, & Dock Maintenance	\$ 4,923.00
Colton Pond	Killington	Grading	\$ 145.00
Converse Bay	Charlotte	Dock Maintenance	\$ 525.00
Crystal Lake	Barton	Dock Maintenance	\$ 434.00
Curtis Pond	Calais	Gravel & Grading	\$ 250.00
Derby Pond	Derby	Gravel & Grading	\$ 963.00
Dummerston	Putney	Gravel, Grading, & Ramp Maintenance	\$ 1,802.00
Echo Lake	Charleston	Gravel & Grading	\$ 669.00
Echo Lake	Tyson	Gravel & Grading	\$ 375.00
Ewell Pond	Peacham	Gravel & Grading	\$ 150.00
Fosters Pond	Peacham	Gravel & Grading	\$ 250.00
Foxstand	Royalton	Gravel & Grading	\$ 276.00
Gale Meadows Pond	Winhall	Gravel, Grading, & Site Maintenance	\$ 3,381.00
Haverill Bridge	Newbury	Ramp Maintenance	\$ 1,747.00
Holland Pond	Holland	Gravel & Grading	\$ 1,624.00
Hoyt's Landing	Springfield	Moving power pole & Site clean-up	\$ 2,494.67
Indian Point	Orleans	Gravel & Grading	\$ 170.00
John's River	Derby	Gravel & Grading	\$ 935.00
Keeler Bay	South Hero	Gravel, Grading, & Dock Maintenance	\$ 2,791.00
Kehoe (Green Dump)	Castleton	Dock Maintenance	\$ 356.00
Kent Pond	Killington	Gravel & Grading	\$ 299.00
Keiser Pond	Peacham	Gravel & Grading	\$ 100.00
Knapp Pond #1	Cavendish	Gravel & Grading	\$ 735.00

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MINOR MAINTENANCE SUMMARY CONTINUED

Access Area Name	Town	Activity	Amount
Knapp Pond #2	Cavendish	Gravel & Grading	\$ 515.00
Lake Hortonia	Sudbury	Gravel & Grading	\$ 1,160.00
Lake Hortonia Dam	Hubbardton	Gravel & Grading	\$ 1,117.00
Lake Ninevah	Mount Holly	Gravel & Grading	\$ 960.00
Lake Raponda	Wilmington	Grading	\$ 246.00
Lake Rescue	Ludlow	Gravel & Grading	\$ 355.00
Lamoille River	Milton	Gravel & Grading	\$ 2,184.00
Lewis Creek	Ferrisburg	Gravel & Grading	\$ 1,752.00
Little Salem Lake	Derby	Gravel & Grading	\$ 295.00
McIntosh Pond	Royalton	Gravel & Grading	\$ 470.00
Malletts Bay	Colchester	Dock Repairs	\$ 4,479.00
Marshfield Dam	Cabot	Gravel & Grading	\$ 350.00
Martin's Pond	Peacham	Gravel & Grading	\$ 250.00
McCuen's Slang	Addison	Gravel & Grading	\$ 2,940.00
Mirror Lake	Calais	Gravel & Grading	\$ 150.00
Monkton Pond	Monkton	Gravel & Grading	\$ 1,859.00
Nelson Pond	Woodbury	Gravel & Grading	\$ 150.00
North Thetford	Thetford	Gravel & Grading	\$ 885.00
Old Ferry Road	Brattleboro	Gravel, Grading, & Ramp Maintenance	\$ 2,472.00
Ompompanoosuc River	Norwich	Gravel & Grading	\$ 520.00
Pensioner Pond	Charleston	Gravel & Grading	\$ 657.00
Putney Landing	Putney	Gravel, Grading, & Ramp Maintenance	\$ 869.00
Richville	Shoreham	Gravel & Grading	\$ 528.00
Sandbar	Milton	Tree Removal, Gravel & Grading (2 sites)	\$ 4,660.00
Shelburne Bay	Shelburne	Dock Maintenance	\$ 850.00
Shelburne Pond	Shelburne	Dock & Ramp Maintenance	\$ 299.50
South Bay	Newport	Gravel, Grading, & Dock Maintenance	\$ 1,289.00
South Pond	Marlboro	Site Clean-up & Grading	\$ 693.00
Van Everest	Milton	Gravel & Grading	\$ 3,392.00
Weatherhead Hollow Pond	Guilford	Gravel & Grading	\$ 236.00
Whipple Point	Newport	Gravel, Grading, & Dock Maintenance	\$ 2,131.00
TOTAL			\$ 75,880.00

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MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

Access Area Name	Town	Activity	Amount
Malletts Bay	Colchester	Two new docks	\$ 90,492.40
Lake Paran	North Bennington	Universal Shorefishing Platform	\$ 38,245.00
Allen Point	South Hero	Road reconstruction following washout	\$ 13,300.92
TOTAL			\$ 142,038.30

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JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2008
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Category	Amount
Major Projects (summarized above)	\$ 142,038.30
Minor Projects (summarized above)	\$ 75,880.00
- Gravel, Grading, & Tree Removal	- \$ 68,691.75
- Dock Maintenance	- \$ 7,188.25
Miscellaneous Lawn and Maintenance Services	\$ 7,707.25
Building materials, rentals, roadway supplies, equipment rentals, vehicles, and other purchased services	\$ 33,533.29
Portable Toilet Rentals	\$ 58,143.68
Snow Removal	\$ 51,563.70
Department of Corrections Community Restitution Crews	\$ 98,702.00
Engineering – permitting, design, and construction	\$ 34,325.02
Signage	\$ 1,495.09
Payments for Public Access to Private Lands	\$ 8,595.98
Land Acquisition – Pensioner Pond & Echo Lake accesses and Clyde River riparian lands	\$ 202,900.00
– Motorboat Registration dollars only, total acquisition price was \$480,000	
Utilities	\$ 7,266.68
Town of Colchester – Harbor Master	\$ 2,500.00
Trash Removal	\$ 1,563.62
States Organization of Boating Access	\$ 600.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$726,814.61