

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE  
DEPARTMENT**

**SUMMARY OF 2009  
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 22, 2010



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## BACKGROUND

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 watercraft. 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 rise in anglers interested in fishing Vermont waters. Fishing license sales have been increasing, with one small decline in 2008: 2005 (118,867 licenses) 2006 (122,221 licenses), 2007 (127,103 licenses), and 2008 (122,642 licenses). Fishing license sales have averaged approximately \$3,000,000 for each of the past 4 years. This strong interest in fishing in Vermont highlights the need for the Department Access Area Program as anglers are always in search of access for fishing and boating opportunities.

The Department has received an average of \$384,000 in motorboat registration fees over the past 5 years, which are dedicated to the access area program. These funds are used to match Federal Sportfish Restoration funds which require 15% of the annual allocation to be dedicated to boat access. The federal aid funds are generated from the federal excise tax on fishing tackle, boats, motors, and marine fuels and are directed to the access area program. The initial apportionment for fiscal year 2010 federal funds is approximately \$379,922. A final apportionment will be given to the Department later this year and typically there is a significant increase in the total amount of available federal funds. The final federal fund apportionments from FY 04 through FY 09 have averaged over \$521,000.

## MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The development and maintenance costs for individual access areas range from several hundred to several hundred thousand dollars. Projects of substantial size and cost are formally advertised for bid in accordance with state procurement procedures. Projects of lesser size, involving minor maintenance, are completed by various local contractors; such as graveling and grading parking lots, erosion control, tree removal, and snow removal. 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 or on a year-round basis. Port-o-let contractors are responsible for providing and maintaining port-o-lets for sites they are awarded. During the winter months, 35 of the 62 snowplowed access areas retain port-o-lets for ice anglers. The Department currently provides port-o-lets at approximately 43% of the access areas during the summer (76) and 57% of the areas maintained by plowing during the winter (35).

Over the past few years the Department has been working to provide improved dock services at popular access areas to increase accessibility and boater safety. This year dock vendors

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were hired to maintain and repair docks along Lakes Champlain, Bomoseen, and St. Catherine. The cost to the Department was just over \$18,000 and included the installation and removal of all docks, rebuilding of 2 docks, numerous minor repairs, and monthly adjustments to Lake Champlain docks as water levels fluctuated. There are seven docks in the Northeast Kingdom that were maintained by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Conservation Group at no charge. Six new accessible docks were also designed and constructed as part of a United States Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety grant passed through the Vermont State Police to the Department. Due to the late construction completion date, the docks will not be installed until spring 2010. New dock locations include: Magoon Access (Lake Dunmore), Big Salem Lake, Maidstone Lake, Holcomb Bay, West Swanton, and Hoyt's Landing. Additionally, in the spring of 2010 the Department plans on constructing docks for Larabee's Point and St. Albans Bay Access Areas.

This past summer one major ramp improvement was completed. Two other projects were designed and contracts awarded. The Kent Pond boat ramp was dredged and the concrete ramp planks realigned, making it once again possible for small boats to launch. Next spring the Lake St. Catherine access will receive an upgrade by adding an additional 12 feet to the end of the ramp and removing the underwater berm that has been created by propeller wash. Woodward Reservoir will receive a new universal shore fishing platform and a number of maintenance improvements including new erosion controls and ramp improvements. Additional projects are still in the planning and design stages for the summer of 2010.

The Department continues to take an 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 costs.

#### LAND ACQUISITION

One small access area property was donated to the Department by Shirley Kingsley in October. This land was part of the recently conserved Kingsley Farm in Pittsford and is approximately 1 acre +/- . The lot is located along the bank of the Otter Creek and should provide sufficient access for shore fishing and carry-on boats.

#### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department was able to fund two non-motorized access projects made possible by House Bill H.832, passed in March 2000. Lyman Point Park in White River Junction created a formal access at the mouth of the White River. The park had served as an informal take-out point for many years, but safety was a big concern for the town as the confluence with the Connecticut River lays just 150 feet downstream. The Friends of Zach Woods and Morrisville Water and Light teamed up to formalize access by creating parking spaces and taking steps to control erosion at both Zach Woods and Mud Ponds. Both waterbodies are within the town of Hyde Park, but owned by the town of Morrisville. The Department is looking forward to 2010 and the completion of at least one more non-motorized access project in Swanton on the Missisquoi River. The Department will continue to work with

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municipalities, river commissions, and interested groups to add to the list of non-motorized access sites.

In June, the Department completed the development of its access area website ([http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish\\_accessareas.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/fish_accessareas.cfm)). The site allows users to search for an access area by using a map to pin point a specific location in Vermont or by selecting specific criteria associated with each access area (e.g. target fish species, ramp type, winter accessibility, etc). The different searches allow users maximum flexibility when trying to locate an access area. Users can also map out directions from their departure point to any access area in the state.

The Department completed a five year plan for access area infrastructure development and upgrades (Attachment A). New docks and universal shore fishing platforms are planned to expand the usability of specific sites. Improvements will consist of predominantly ramp repairs and erosion controls to allow areas to continue functioning properly and allow for safe boating and fishing. Based on recent cost estimates, the plan averages approximately \$380,000 per year.

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

Mike Wichrowski  
Fish and Wildlife Lands and Facilities Administrator  
Fish and Wildlife Department  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury , VT 05671- 0501  
(802) 241-3447  
mike.wichrowski@state.vt.us

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MINOR MAINTENANCE PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>ACCESS NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Allen Point	South Hero	Road & parking lot maintenance	\$ 4,344.06
Amherst Lake	Plymouth	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 342.50
Baker Pond	Brookfield	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,568.49
Big Salem Lake	Derby	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,016.34
Bristol Pond	Bristol	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 829.16
Brownington Pond	Brownington	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,136.43
Burr Pond	Sudbury	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,239.06
C.C.C. Pond	Sharon	Removal of hazard trees	\$ 1,380.00
Charcoal Creek	Swanton	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 782.80
Chimney Point	Addison	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,175.92
Chittenden Reservoir	Chittenden	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 7,294.54
Clyde River	Charleston	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 225.00
Colchester Point	Colchester	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,350.00
Converse Bay	Charlotte	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 2,190.34
Crystal Lake	Barton	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 670.47
Derby Pond	Derby	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 596.63
Dillenbeck Bay	Alburg	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,350.00
Dufresne Dam	Manchester	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 598.20
Dummerston	Putney	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 474.38
Echo Lake	Plymouth	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 536.25
Echo Lake	Charlestown	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 777.56
Ed Kehoe	Castleton	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 7,667.52
Ed Weed	Grand Isle	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 284.44
Evanoika (Float Bridge)	Castleton	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 995.34
Ewell Pond	Peacham	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 980.00
Fairfield Swamp	Fairfield	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,115.52
Fort Cassin	Ferrisburg	Parking lot maintenance & expansion	\$13,131.50
Fosters Pond	Peacham	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 440.00
Foxstand	Royalton	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 260.00
Gale Meadows Pond	Windhall	Driveway, parking lot, & dam maintenance	\$ 8,846.45
Great Averill Pond	Averill	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 1,140.17
Greenwood Lake	Woodbury	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 305.00
Haverill Bridge	Newbury	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; silt removal from ramp	\$ 1,782.22
Holland Pond	Holland	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; ramp repairs	\$ 2,312.68
Hortonia Lake	Sudbury	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 507.25

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<b>ACCESS NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
John's River	Derby	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 558.78
Keeler Bay	South Hero	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; concrete ramp removal	\$ 3,640.00
Kelly Bay	Alburg	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,148.80
Lake Elmore	Elmore	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 280.00
Lake Fairlee	West Fairlee	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 2,753.32
Lake Iroquois	Williston	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 3,492.71
Lake Morey	Fairlee	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,513.62
Lake Rescue	Ludlow	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 707.50
Lake Saint Catherine	Wells	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 595.00
Lake Willoughby	Westmore	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 506.00
Lamoille River	Milton	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 6,698.25
Laphams Bay	Shoreham	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 492.25
Larrabees Point	Shoreham	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; lot expansion	\$ 6,782.52
Leon Babbie	Highgate	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 702.50
Lewis Creek	Ferrisburg	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 2,224.45
Long Pond (Westmore)	Westmore	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 621.72
Lower Symes Pond	Ryegate	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 998.47
Malletts Bay	Colchester	Parking lot & walkway maintenance	\$ 3,136.03
Marshfield Dam	Cabot	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,040.00
May Pond	Barton	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 3,116.49
McCuen Slang	Addison	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 559.50
McIntosh Pond	Royalton	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; ramp repairs	\$ 3,760.16
Mettawee River	Rupert	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,168.10
Miller Pond	Strafford	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,275.59
Mud Creek	Alburg	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 380.00
Neal Pond	Lunenburg	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 280.00
Newark Pond	Newark	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 520.00
North Montpelier Pond	E. Montpelier	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 560.00
North Thetford	Thetford	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 873.96
Old Ferry Road	Brattleboro	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; silt removal from ramp	\$ 1,199.00
Otter Creek Rte 73	Sudbury	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs; hazard tree removal	\$ 1,481.29
Peacham Pond	Peacham	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 340.00
Pensioner Pond	Charleston	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 398.78

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<b>ACCESS NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Putney Landing	Putney	Driveway & parking lot maintenance; silt removal from ramp	\$ 474.38
Richville	Shoreham	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 2,622.40
Rood Pond	Williamstown	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,302.32
Sand Bar WMA	Milton	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,778.70
Seymour Lake	Morgan	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 361.50
Shadow Lake	Glover	Parking lot maintenance; hazard tree removal; silt removal from ramp	\$ 2,085.69
Shadow Lake	Concord	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 440.00
Shelburne Bay	Shelburne	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,428.22
Shelburne Pond	Shelburne	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 4,035.70
Singing Cedars (George Davis)	Orwell	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 459.50
South Stream	Pownal	Driveway, parking lot, & dam maintenance	\$ 1,017.50
Spectacle Pond	Brighton	Parking lot maintenance & ramp repairs	\$ 811.28
Tabor Point	Swanton	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 805.00
Van Everest	Milton	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 2,798.44
Vantines	Grand Isle	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,029.88
Vernon Hatchery Pond	Vernon	Parking lot & dam maintenance	\$ 950.00
Wagon Wheel	Arlington	Parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,934.10
Wallace Pond	Canaan	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,327.67
Wells River	Newbury	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 766.00
Whipple Point (Strawberry Acres)	Newport Town	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,686.45
Wolcott Pond	Wolcott	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 255.00
Woodard Reservoir	Plymouth	Driveway & parking lot maintenance	\$ 1,657.40

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MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

<u>Access Area Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kent Pond	Killington	Ramp dredging and realignment of concrete ramp	\$ 44,602.67
West Swanton Holcomb Bay	Swanton Derby	US Coast Guard Grant for Boating Safety –	
Magoon (Lake Dumore)	Salisbury	\$106,208 – docks	\$ 117,458.00
Hoyt's Landing	Springfield	\$ 11,250 – design	
Maidstone Lake	Maidstone		
Big Salem Lake	Isle La Motte		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 162,060.67</b>

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JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2009  
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Major Projects (summarized above)	\$ 162,060.67
Minor Maintenance Projects (summarized above)	\$ 153,478.13
Dock Maintenance	\$ 18,004.78
Department of Corrections Community Restitution Crews	\$ 107,564.67
Miscellaneous Lawn and Maintenance Services	\$ 3,979.25
Portable Toilet Rentals	\$ 92,423.50
Snow Removal	\$ 45,740.00
Building materials, rentals, roadway supplies, equipment rentals, vehicles, and other purchased services	\$ 3,017.98
PILOT Payments	\$ 45,174.00
Payments for Public Access to Private Lands	\$ 10,276.35
Engineering – permitting, design, and construction oversight	\$ 34,295.66
Utilities	\$ 7,094.08
Trash Removal	\$ 1,030.37
Signage	\$ 943.69
Town of Colchester – Harbor Master	\$ 2,500.00
States Organization of Boating Access	\$ 600.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 688,183.13</b>

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APPENDIX A

SITE NAME	TOWN	FISCAL YEAR	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT COST
Kent Pond	Killington	2010	Reset concrete planks and dredge ramp	\$40,000.00
Lake Iroquois	Williston	2010	Remove concrete plank ramp and propeller wash berm	\$15,000.00
Lake St. Catherine	Wells	2010	Remove prop wash berm and extend concrete ramp	\$50,000.00
Larabees Point	Shoreham	2010	New dock installation	\$55,000.00
St. Albans Bay	St. Albans	2010	New dock installation	\$55,000.00
West Shore Access	Newport	2010	Construct boat ramp and parking area	\$80,000.00
Woodward Reservoir	Plymouth	2010	Universal shore fishing platform; parking area upgrade and shoreline stabilization	\$55,000.00
Chittenden Reservoir	Chittenden	2011	Construct new concrete ramp, shoreline stabilization and parking area upgrade	\$50,000.00
Lamoille River	Milton	2011	Dock and bank stabilization	\$35,000.00
Gale Meadows	Londonderry	2011	Construct universal shore fishing platform	\$65,000.00
Lamoille River (Sears)	Milton	2011	Bank stabilization	\$35,000.00
Chimney Point	Addison	2012	Construct universal shore fishing platform, boat ramp, and dock	\$125,000.00
Dummerston	Dummerston	2012	Bank stabilization and ramp dredging	\$55,000.00
Island Pond	Island Pond	2012	Ramp improvements and repairs	\$40,000.00
Bald Hill Pond	Newark	2012	Universal shore fishing platform; parking area upgrade and shoreline stabilization	\$40,000.00
Tabor Point	Alburgh	2013	Ramp reconstruction, dock, and parking area upgrades	\$200,000.00

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<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PROJECT COST</b>
Larabees Point	Shoreham	2013	Re-construct south ramp and construct universal shore fishing platform	\$110,000.00
Hammond Cove	Hartland	2013	Access road and parking area upgrades	\$55,000.00
North Thetford	Thetford	2013	New universal shore fishing platform	\$75,000.00
Sunset Lake	Benson	2013	Upgrade road, construct access road and carry-on ramp	\$50,000.00
Waterbury Dam	Waterbury	2013	Upgrade parking lot and ramp	\$50,000.00
Echo Lake	Plymouth	2014	Ramp reconstruction, dock, and parking area upgrades	\$110,000.00
Kehoe Access	Castleton	2014	Ramp Repairs	\$40,000.00
Lake Hortonia Dam	Hubbardton	2015	Construct new retaining wall	\$25,000.00
Lake Willoughby	Westmore	2015	Land Acquisition (if possible) and new two-lane concrete ramp construction	\$250,000.00
Fagon/Winter on White River	Stockbridge	2015	Parking area and streambank/fishing area upgrades	\$35,000.00
Glen Lake	Castleton	2015	New universal shore fishing platform	\$60,000.00