



KENNEBEC LAND TRUST



NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION
Conserving Forests for Future Generations

For Immediate Release

Date: 6/21/2012

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**Recreational Trails Program Grant Award
for**

Shedd Pond Trails Improvement Project: Correcting severe trail erosion in Gannett Woods and Allen-Whitney Forest to protect water quality and improve usability

MANCHESTER- The Manchester Conservation Commission in partnership with the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) and New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) received over \$18,000 in support from the Maine Department of Conservation Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for a project that remediates severe trail erosion in KLT's Gannett Woods and NEFF's Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest, the conservation areas around Shedd Pond in Manchester.

The Shedd Pond area is identified as a Critical Natural Resource and High Value Natural Area in Manchester's draft Comprehensive Plan Update 2011 (Comp Plan). It is managed for its valuable wildlife habitat for ducks and wading birds. Hikers, bikers, cross country skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers in the winter, enjoy this outdoor recreation area. Martha Nielsen, Manchester Select Board Person, said "The Town of Manchester passed its updated Comprehensive Plan at Town meeting in June. The Shedd Pond Trails Improvement Project is a good example of how we will achieve the goals in the plan."

Manchester's Comprehensive Plan and KLT's Strategic Conservation Plan note the importance of community conservation partnerships. The Manchester Conservation Commission Chair is the volunteer steward of Gannett Woods and the Vice Chair is the volunteer steward at Allen Whitney Forest. Their observations of trail conditions and the identification of the Shedd Pond watershed as a Critical Natural Resource and High Value Natural Area in the Comp Plan formed the basis of the project.

This conservation project protects water quality and improves usability. The project objectives are to improve the drainage in the old logging roads in the Allen-Whitney Forest and the footpath in Gannett Woods, and to install a kiosk with access and educational materials at the trail head on Scribner Hill Road. Theresa Kerchner, Executive Director of KLT, noted, "This erosion control project will benefit the wildlife habitat of Shedd pond by protecting water quality, and will improve almost two miles of popular hiking trails."

People with mobility issues will be able to travel the old logging road to the pond.