

**VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE  
DEPARTMENT**

**ACCESS AREA PROGRAM  
2010 MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION REPORT**

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

Submitted by:  
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Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
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## BACKGROUND

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (Department) maintains 172 developed fishing access areas. These sites provide public access to waters in Vermont for shore fishing opportunities and launching of watercraft. The Department manages 134 access areas with concrete or gravel ramps for launching and retrieving of boats. Additionally, there are another 18 Department access areas where non-motorized vessels can easily be launched without a ramp.

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. 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 receives approximately \$406,000 in 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 require 15% of the annual allocation to be dedicated to access areas. In fiscal year 2011 the preliminary apportionment for these federal funds is approximately \$372,000 to the access area program from the federal excise tax on fishing tackle, boats, motors, and marine fuels.

## MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

This past year the Access Area Program spent nearly \$825,000 on basic maintenance and services and major infrastructure projects (Table 2). Expenditures ranged from \$860 for trash disposal to \$225,000 for statewide ramp and parking area maintenance. Six infrastructure projects were completed during 2010 construction season totaling \$236,225.

Over the past two years the Department has been working to provide improved courtesy dock services at popular access areas to increase accessibility and boater safety. During this time, the Department has designed and constructed 10 new handicap accessible docks at an average cost of \$21,650 per dock. Six of the docks were paid for last fall and placed throughout the state this spring; sites included Magoon Access (Lake Dunmore), Big Salem Lake, Maidstone Lake, Holcomb Bay, West Swanton, and Hoyt's Landing. These docks were funded with a grant from the United States Coast Guard as part of a pass-through grant from the Vermont State Police. Similarly, a United States Fish and Wildlife grant was obtained to construct and place one dock Larabee's Point Access Area and two docks at the St. Albans Bay Access Area. The Department also assisted in the design and partial funding of a dock at Lake Iroquois which was part of a Boy Scout's Eagle Scout project.

This past summer two major ramp improvements were completed as well as a design for another. The Lake St. Catherine access received an upgrade by adding an additional 12 feet of concrete to the end of the ramp and removing the underwater silt mound that had been created by propeller washes. The Lake Iroquois concrete plank ramp was removed as the planks had deteriorated so severely that the ramp was unusable. A silt mound was also removed from this site. The plank ramp was replaced with a gravel ramp. The Chittenden

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Reservoir access ramp re-design was completed and the contract awarded this fall. Work will begin next spring to replace and extend the ramp.

Three new universal shore fishing platforms were designed and constructed this past construction season. The Woodward Reservoir access received a fishing platform and a number of maintenance improvements including new erosion controls and ramp improvements. In August, construction was completed on a fishing platform at the North Thetford access on the Connecticut River. The Gale Meadows access fishing platform is approximately 85% completed; cold weather caused the final concrete pour and ramp repairs to be delayed until next spring.

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. An agreement was made with the Town of Bristol this past summer to cooperatively design and construct a shore fishing platform on the New Haven River. This project will provide spring trout fishing opportunities in an area that was historically difficult and sometimes dangerous to access. Projects such as this are the ideal as the public benefits from the improved fishing facilities, the town does not incur large construction costs, and the Department does not increase their annual maintenance outlay.

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Table 2. Summary of expenditures for Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Access Area Program, 2010.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Major Infrastructure Improvements (Appendix A)	\$ 236,225.10
Itemized Site Work Projects (Appendix B)	\$ 225,247.61
Dock Maintenance	\$ 22,994.00
Department of Corrections Community Restitution Crews	\$ 98,024.35
Miscellaneous Lawn and Maintenance Services	\$ 4,455.00
Portable Toilet Rentals	\$ 76,041.68
Snow Removal	\$ 26,507.00
Building materials, rentals, roadway supplies, equipment rentals, vehicles, and other purchased services	\$ 2,271.03
PILOT Payments	\$ 45,080.00
Payments for Public Access to Private Lands	\$ 9,404.77
Engineering – permitting, design, and construction oversight	\$ 56,910.77
Utilities	\$ 6,713.20
Surveys and Appraisals	\$ 6,544.00
Trash Disposal	\$ 860.05
Signage	\$ 2,141.36
Town of Colchester – Harbor Master	\$ 2,500.00
Professional Memberships & Meetings	\$ 2,405.09
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 824,325.01</b>

#### LAND ACQUISITION

This past year, the Department has not acquired any lands that will provide additional recreational access to the water. However, there are a number of acquisitions being pursued. One acquisition includes two parcels of land along the Batten Kill, which will help protect riparian habitat and provide angler access. The other is the Maidstone Lake Access Area and dam, which is currently leased and managed as an access area. Both acquisitions will be donations to the Department. Acquiring land on Lake Champlain is also a top priority as it will allow the Department to provide a large protected water access for anglers and boaters and provide a venue for hosting large fishing tournaments.

#### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department was able to fund one non-motorized access project made possible by House Bill H.832, passed in March 2000. The Village of Swanton upgraded an informal canoe launch on the Missisquoi River in the town of Highgate by upgrading the parking area and launch. The Department will continue to work with municipalities, river commissions, and interested groups to add to the list of non-motorized access sites.

The Department continues to develop web-based resources allowing the public to find opportunities for fishing and boating throughout Vermont. An online survey is nearly complete, which will allow public and private entities to provide the Department with details

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on their fishing and boating resources. This information will then be managed by staff and displayed on the Department website.

CONTACTS

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

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APPENDIX A

Major Infrastructure Improvements

<b>Access Area Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Larabee's Point St. Albans Bay	Shoreham St. Albans	Design and purchase of three docks; one in Shoreham, two in St. Albans	\$66,472.00
Lake Iroquois	Williston/Hinesburg	Removal of old concrete ramp and sediment, installation of gravel ramp	\$15,000.00
Lake St. Catherine	Wells	Stabilization of lake bottom and ramp extension	\$43,020.00
North Thetford	Thetford	Constructed fishing platform	\$42,494.58
Gale Meadows	Windhall	Constructed fishing platform (partial completion)	\$23,498.72
Woodward Reservoir	Killington	Constructed fishing platform	\$45,740.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$236,225.10</b>

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APPENDIX B

Itemized Site Work Projects

<b>ACCESS NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>COMPLETED WORK</b>	<b>COST</b>
Allen Point	South Hero	Gravel, grading, and re-ditching	\$9,358.29
Baker Pond	Brookfield	Gravel & grading	\$1,706.87
Bald Hill Pond	Westmore	Grade & erosion control	\$487.50
Barton River	Glover	Grading	\$385.00
Benson Landing	Benson	Gravel & grading	\$3,677.43
Big Salem Lake	Derby	Gravel & grading	\$1,641.29
Bristol Pond	Bristol	Gravel & grading	\$2,206.42
Brownington Pond	Brownington	Gravel & grading access road and parking area	\$3,057.14
Buck Lake (GMCC)	Woodbury	Improvements to foot access to the water	\$3,010.00
Burr Pond	Sudbury	Grading	\$2,017.20
C.C.C. Pond	Sharon	Gravel & grading	\$1,328.61
Center Pond	Newark	Gravel & grading access road and parking area	\$2,104.44
Charcoal Creek	Swanton	Gravel & grading	\$959.94
Chittenden Reservoir	Chittenden	Major improvements to access road, gravel & grading parking area	\$7,643.34
Clark's Pond	Glover	Gravel & grading	\$1,005.48
Clyde River	Charleston	Removed boulders pushed into the river and replaced in parking area	\$592.50
Clyde River	Brighton	Grading	\$519.07
Colby Pond	Plymouth	Grading	\$860.50
Colchester Point	Colchester	Grading	\$2,235.00
Colton Pond	Killington	Grading	\$2,816.32
Converse Bay	Charlotte	Gravel & grading	\$3,199.43
Coventry Station	Coventry	Grading	\$1,007.98
Curtis Pond	Calais	Gravel & grading	\$639.44
Daniels Pond	Glover	Remove tree, re-grade, gravel & grade overflow parking	\$3,884.88
Dead Creek	Addison	Gravel & grading	\$1,060.95
Derby Pond	Derby	Gravel & grading	\$1,596.98
Dillenbeck Bay	Alburt	Grading	\$1,559.32
Dummerston (Putney)	Putney	Gravel & grading; dredged ramp	\$2,575.00
Echo Lake	Charlestown	Gravel & grading	\$870.65
Echo Lake	Plymouth	Reset ramp planks and removed silt at the end of the ramp	\$2,090.00
Ed Weed	Grand Isle	Fixed kiosk	\$90.00
Ewell Pond	Peacham	Removed large frost heave at entrance; gravel & grading	\$701.39
Fairfield Swamp	Fairfield	Grading	\$1,029.10
Fort Cassin	Ferrisburg	Gravel & grading	\$1,028.21
Fosters Pond	Peacham	Grading	\$290.00
Foxstand	Royalton	Gravel & grading	\$1,395.67
Gale Meadows Pond	Winhall	Grading	\$107.50
Grady (Float) Bridge	Castleton	Graded parking lot and repaved entrance road down to ramp	\$7,459.29
Great Averill Pond	Averill	Grading	\$162.50

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<b>ACCESS NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>COMPLETED WORK</b>	<b>COST</b>
Green Dump (Kehoe)	Castleton	Added significant amounts of gravel and grading	\$6,105.88
Greenwood Lake	Woodbury	Gravel & grading	\$321.04
Haverill Bridge	Newbury	Gravel & grading; cleaned silt off ramp	\$2,033.13
Holland Pond	Holland	Gravel & grading	\$1,726.30
Horse Pond	Greensboro	Gravel & grading	\$680.24
Hortonia Lake	Sudbury	Gravel & grading	\$3,751.35
Hortonia Lake Dam	Hubbardton	Grading	\$880.69
Hoyt's Landing	Springfield	Hazard tree removal	\$805.09
John's River	Derby	Removed large stones in driveway and graded	\$1,427.97
Keeler Bay	South Hero	Gravel & grading	\$2,652.75
Keiser Pond	Peacham	Removed beaver debris from dam, adjacent to ramp	\$290.00
Kelly Bay	Alburg	Gravel & grading	\$1,099.40
Kent Pond	Killington	Grading	\$3,053.46
Knapp Pond #1	Cavendish	Gravel & grading	\$1,388.00
Knapp Pond #2	Cavendish	Grading	\$1,143.50
Lake Eden	Eden	Grading	\$479.30
Lake Elmore	Elmore	Gravel & grading	\$331.52
Lake Fairlee	West Fairlee	Repaved parking area and ramp approach	\$15,413.81
Lake Iroquois	Williston	Gavel & grading	\$4,577.30
Lake Morey	Fairlee	Gavel & grading	\$815.02
Lake Ninevah	Mount Holly	Gravel & grading	\$1,248.08
Lake Parker	Glover	Gravel & grading	\$1,906.17
Lake Raponda	Wilmington	Gavel & grading	\$795.33
Lake Rescue	Ludlow	Gavel & grading	\$839.00
Lake Willoughby	Westmore	Gravel & grading	\$1,138.60
Lamoille River	Milton	Gravel & grading	\$2,983.58
Lapham Bay	Shoreham	Grading	\$1,463.23
Larrabees Point	Shoreham	Gravel & grading	\$593.75
Leon Babbie	Highgate	Gravel & grading	\$617.50
Lewis Creek	Ferrisburg	Gravel & grading	\$9,408.92
Long Pond	Westmore	Gravel & grading	\$410.00
Lower Symes Pond	Ryegate	Graded road/driveway	\$799.17
Maidstone Lake	Maidstone	Improved handicap approach to the new dock, placed down surpac and cleared vegetation	\$799.61
Malletts Bay	Colchester	Graded upper lot	\$1,050.00
Marshfield Dam	Cabot	Gravel & grading	\$624.27
Martins Pond	Peacham	Gravel & grading	\$1,142.98
May Pond	Barton	Gravel & graded driveway; reset ramp planks	\$3,271.27
McCuen Slang	Addison	Grading	\$1,095.81
McIntosh Pond	Royalton	Gravel & grading	\$1,730.09
Mettawee River	Rupert	Grading	\$177.50
Miles Pond	Concord	Grading	\$240.00
Miller Pond	Strafford	Gravel & graded driveway; reset ramp planks	\$1,348.98
Monkton Pond	Monkton	Gravel & graded driveway and parking area	\$3,732.72
Mud Creek	Alburg	Grading	\$405.00
Nelson Pond	Woodbury	Grading	\$240.00
Newark Pond	Newark	Removed some large stones in middle of ramp and graded parking area	\$1,612.22



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<b>ACCESS NAME</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>COMPLETED WORK</b>	<b>COST</b>
North Montpelier Pond	E. Montpelier	Grading	\$428.34
North Thetford	Thetford	Reset ramp planks	\$775.14
Norton Pond	Warrens Gore	Gravel & grading	\$1,367.22
Old Ferry Road	Brattleboro	Gravel & grading; dredged ramp	\$807.50
Otter Creek Rte 73	Sudbury	Gravel & grading; dredged ramp	\$2,128.08
Putney Landing	Putney	Removed numerous hazard trees and dredged ramp	\$7,715.00
Richville	Shoreham	Gravel & grading	\$2,040.51
Rood Pond	Williamstown	Gravel & grading	\$2,144.19
Rotary	Morristown	Grading	\$499.15
Sand Bar (Refuge)	Milton	Gravel & grading	\$240.00
Sand Bar WMA	Milton	Major gravel & grading; removed large debris pile at end of parking area	\$3,663.29
Seymour Lake	Morgan	Grading & silt removal from the end of the ramp	\$2,706.30
Shadow Lake	Glover	Gravel & grading; clean silt off ramp	\$812.50
Shadow Lake	Concord	Grading	\$240.00
Shelburne Bay	Shelburne	Gravel & grading	\$2,057.16
Shelburne Pond	Shelburne	Gravel & grading	\$4,789.05
South Bay	Newport City	Gravel & grading	\$1,219.57
South Pond	Marlboro	Repaired eroded area near ramp	\$858.75
South Stream WMA	Pownal	Removed beaver debris from dam	\$362.50
Spectacle Pond	Brighton	Repaired eroded area near ramp and reset ramp planks	\$630.69
Tabor Point	Swanton	Gravel & grading	\$1,049.38
Van Everest	Milton	Grading	\$1,300.00
Vantines	Grand Isle	Grading	\$445.00
Vernon Hatchery Pond	Vernon	Grading	\$421.25
Wagon Wheel	Arlington	Grading	\$597.50
Wallace Pond	Canaan	Cleaned silt off ramp	\$1,025.00
Ward	Moretown	Gravel & grading	\$1,432.80
Weatherhead Hollow Pond	Guilford	Grading	\$487.50
West Hill Pond	Cabot	Installed a formal parking area and access down to the pond; removal hazard trees and poison parsnip	\$11,241.40
Whipple Point	Newport Town	Gravel, grading & removed frost heave at top of ramp	\$4,752.68