

POND ROAD EROSION PROJECT

Plymouth nabs \$100K grant

DPW will make sure town meets June deadline

PLYMOUTH - Chalk up another winning grant application for the town's Division of Environmental Management.

The state has announced a new series of grants under the Coastal Pollution Remediation (CPR) Program and, near the top of the money list, with a grant of just less than \$104,000, is Plymouth's poetically named "Pond Road Stormwater Drainage Implementation Project."

Pond Road is an unpaved road in the south end of Plymouth characterized by steep sections that consistently suffer significant erosion during rainstorms, resulting in sediment and pollutants being carried into Great Herring Pond.

According to the grant announcement, Great Herring Pond has a direct connection to the Cape Cod Canal and provides important habitat for two species of herring - blueback and alewife - both of which are listed as federal species of concern.

The town of Plymouth received a CPR grant last year to design this system, and this year's grant, along with nearly \$100,000 in matching funds and in-kind services provided by the Plymouth Department of Public Works, should ensure the completion of the project by June.

"The residents of that area are ecstatic," Plymouth Environmental Technician Kim Tower told the *Old Colony*.

"It's been an ongoing issue for over a decade, discharging untreated water and sediment into the water there, and affecting the herring run."

Once completed, Tower said, the town expects the erosion to be dramatically reduced, the runoff nearly eliminated and, perhaps most importantly, the pollutants that were making their way into the pond water practically eliminated.

That will be accomplished, Tower explained, with a variety of systems, including oil separators, bio-retention areas and a kind of rain garden (similar to the one at Nelson Park).

The work should begin in March and in order to be able to utilize state funds it has to be completed by June.

"Great Herring Pond is one of the largest ponds in Southeastern Massachusetts and I want to thank Secretary Sullivan (Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs) and the town of Plymouth for recognizing the importance of maintaining and improving the overall health of the pond and its unique marine life," Senate President Therese Murray said. "There is a direct relationship between the environment and our quality of life. And I will continue to advocate for the protection of the environment and our coastal waters on the South Shore and Cape Cod."

A total of \$400,000 in grants was awarded through the Coastal Pollution Remediation (CPR) Program for five projects designed to protect Massachusetts coastal waters.

The projects receiving funding include efforts to design and implement controls for runoff pollution from roadways and parking areas and the installation of a boat pump-out facility for both commercial and recreational vessels.

Along with Plymouth, the recipients of CPR funding included the communities of Duxbury, Hingham, Ipswich and Marshfield.

Municipal sources in these communities are expected to match the grants with an additional \$247,000, either in money or in-kind services, thereby extending the power of the grant program.

The mission of the CPR grant program, which is administered by the EEA's Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), is to improve coastal water quality by reducing or eliminating what is known as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

The leading cause of water pollution in the nation, NPS pollution is caused by contaminants that are swept along by rainwater and snowmelt, transported by runoff or through manmade drainage systems, and deposited into the nearest water of body of water.

"We are particularly excited about this year's batch of awards, which will lead to immediate improvements in local coastal water," CZM Director Bruce Carlisle said. "Through the CPR grants program, CZM is able to directly support the efforts of coastal communities to open shellfish beds, improve water quality at public beaches and protect important coastal habitats."