

Woodard & Curran Led Capisic Pond Project Wins ACEC ME Award

Portland, ME -- Woodard & Curran's work with the City of Portland, Maine to restore Capisic Pond has received an Engineering Excellence Award from the Maine chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies.

The City of Portland was facing pressure from its residents to bring open water back to Capisic Pond, the City's largest freshwater body, which was shrinking due to sedimentation and cattail growth. When the debate began about how to improve the pond, there were two opposing sides—bring back open water for recreation and preserve habitat for water fowl and other species. Through Woodard & Curran's scientific study and public outreach, it became clear that these two solutions could go hand in hand.

The firm's review of the management, hydrology, and ecology of the pond showed that the pond's open water was in fact receding due to the steady growth of cattails and that if left unmanaged, this growth would continue to cause open water to shrink. It also showed that, due the wetland's classification as an Inland Waterfowl & Wading Bird Habitat, the ecological value of the wetland would also decrease if open water wasn't protected and restored. Instead of transporting dredged sediment, Woodard & Curran used the sediments to enhance the open water habitat by recreate wetland areas and benches. This technique cut project costs by a third, saving the City \$1 million, while adding wetland diversity and improving the overall value of the ecosystem.

As the state's largest city, Portland faces many competing funding needs which causes many important restoration efforts like Capisic Pond to take a backseat to major infrastructure projects. Woodard & Curran's ability to engage the public and create a cost-effective solution allowed this important project to be funded and to bring back this urban gem all Portland residents can be proud of.

Woodard & Curran is an integrated engineering, science, and operations company. Privately held and steadily growing, the firm serves public and private clients locally and nationwide. For more information, visit the firm's website at www.woodardcurran.com.