

WMA 16 Priority Segment

Initial Segment of Interest: Cape May County Park (Lake) which discharges to Holmes Cove via Holmes Creek. This segment is located in Middle Township, Cape May County.

Plans for Initial Work: The initial funds will be utilized to develop and evaluate options concerning dredging of the Cape May County Park Lake as a component of an overall restoration plan. This will include:

1. Search historical records for information regarding the original design depth of the lake;
2. Perform a lake depth survey and establish dredging options and associated costs to include:
 - a). survey existing lake depth;
 - b). perform lake bottom core sampling to determine bottom sediment composition;
 - c). take sediment samples and have samples analyzed and evaluated regarding suitability for dredging;
 - d). determine amount of dredge material to be removed from the lake and associated costs;
 - e). establish disposal options and associated costs based on sediment analysis.

Potential Partners: Cape May County Planning Dept., Cape May County Health Dept.

Listed Impairment: Holmes Cove of Great Sound is seasonally restricted for Shellfish Harvesting.

Background: Freshwater Use Impairments based on bioassessment data has been invalidated by water quality sampling data initiated through the watershed process. The only remaining impairments for WMA 16 are closed and restricted shellfish waters and bathing beach closures. The Cape May County Park Lake is clearly degrading the water quality of Holmes Creek and ultimately Holmes Cove as supported by sampling performed by the Cape May County Health Department. The County Park Lake has no vegetation along the banks, has lost much of its depth to siltation and accumulated organic material, and has a large year round waterfowl population including resident geese. This funding will establish dredging feasibility which will be an important component of the overall restoration plan for the lake.